

The Liberating Secret Newsletter

December 2008

Volume 48

Called to bring:
The Whole Gospel, to the Whole man, to the Whole World.
(All of Christ, in and manifesting as, all of redeemed humanity)



The Glory of the Unlikely

Perhaps the great glory of Christmas is that in the birth of His only Begotten, the Lord revealed to us that He is the God of the "unlikely"...For how unlikely it is that the King of the universe should be born in a stable normally reserved for the animals which children's tales tell us were the only witnesses to His arrival. How unlikely that nation which had so long awaited her Messiah should completely miss the fulfillment of her dreams and reject her only salvation. How unlikely that this Messiah should live the great majority of His life in obscurity without the pomp and circumstance befitting Royalty, and indeed without "form nor comeliness that we should desire him". And perhaps most of all, how unlikely that such a One should die in shame and degradation, apparently discarded upon the trash-heap of history as just another well-intentioned zealot without the means to accomplish His desired end.

This is the glory of Christmas, a glory which fills the present as well as the past. For how unlikely that the humiliated is now the Glorified, and the possessor of that Name at which one day all will bow. How unlikely that the Satan who apparently destroyed Him as and is the unwitting servant of the God who "works ALL things after the counsel of His own will". How unlikely indeed that tragedy should eternally breed triumph in the purposes of that One in whom all wisdom resides. And perhaps most of all, how incredibly unlikely that Wisdom Herself should deign to fill the seemingly marred, broken and useless vessels that we appear to be that He might live His perfect, complete and loving life in and

as us. How unlikely and how unspeakably wonderful that in our weakness, His strength is made perfect and that He actually *NEEDS* us to be *AS WE ARE* that the glory of His Person alone might be revealed by us.

He is the God of the unlikely, the God who requires stables in which to birth His beloved rather than the pristine palaces we might anticipate. So let us expect to find Him there, in the stables of our lives and worlds - the circumstances, situations and people where we least expect Him to be. Indeed, let us see that the glory of His presence is most often in direct proportion to the appearance of His absence, and let us rejoice that Christmas above all proclaims that we have found the King of the universe in the most unlikely place of all..

"It pleased God... to reveal His son in you "

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
All our love and Blessings,*

Christ, Our Life Ministries--08

Live Internet Sunday School: Sign up now!

Global Sunday School This study now in progress is a verse by verse study of Galatians **live with Brian Coatney**. The method will be texting style participation for those who sign up and receive a logon. This is a discussion class for people I don't already know, where I will guide with comments on Galatians, and class members can share insights all throughout the 75 minute class that will take place from 2:00-3:15 GMT each Sunday. Your assigned logon will ensure privacy, and classes will not be archived for public access. This is a live class for enjoying a time of fellowship and insight in the moment. Later, we can add in audio or video components, but the idea now is to get going. When class size reaches 10-12, class members will talk about how to divide into two classes. Watch the web site for details on when we will be set up to go. For more information please contact Brian Coatney at: coatneys@newwavecomm.net

It would be great if any of our old timers would help to encourage new folks to join this class, since the class is only designed to facilitate new people.

~~~~~

Would you like **radio in your area?** Please contact **Margaret Lester** at [marlester@comcast.net](mailto:marlester@comcast.net) for more information.

Please send me the news in your area to be posted in this Newsletter.  
[sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org](mailto:sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org)

## Quotes

"The Religious Spirit is always fighting something"...Steve Pettit

The definition of "REST" is simply "CESSATION OF WAR"....Faith wins by not fighting.

"I AM AFRAID THAT ALL THE GRACE I HAVE GOT OUT OF MY COMFORTABLE AND EASY TIMES AND HAPPY HOURS MIGHT ALMOST LIE ON A PENNY. BUT THE GOOD I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MY SORROWS AND PAINS AND GRIEFS IS ALTOGETHER INCALCULABLE. WHAT DO I NOT OWE TO THE HAMMER AND THE ANVIL, THE FIRE AND THE FILE!!!! AFFLICTION IS THE BEST BIT OF FURNITURE IN MY HOUSE." Spurgeon, Charles

"Life shouldn't be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather, to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly shouting, "Wow! **What a ride!** Thank You, Lord!" Beth Moore

"People who have come to know the joy of God do not deny the darkness, but they choose not to live in it. They claim that the light that shines in the darkness can be trusted more than the darkness itself, and that a little bit of light can dispel a lot of darkness."  
-- Henri Nouwen

**On Christian Unity**---Christian unity is not something that can be organized; it comes naturally among those who share a common love for Christ. The false ecumenical/interfaith unity being promoted today by the World Council of Churches — an organization that is strongly influenced by Freemasonry — is nothing new. It has been used for centuries to try to further the cause of world government. As long as Christians do NOT unite with the peoples of other religions, there can be no world government. This unwillingness of Christians to compromise their faith has been the chief obstacle for the conspirators. Scott Bailey

The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead as being the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 1<sup>st</sup> fruits, and the pioneer of life. He has forced open the door that has been locked since the death of the 1<sup>st</sup> man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because he has done so. This is the beginning of the New Creation: A new chapter in cosmic history has opened. From: A year With **C.S. Lewis**—Daily Reading ISBN # 0-06-056616-7

**What you fight, fights you back, and what you bless, blesses you back!**

**How do we fight lies?** Speak the truth and the lie will untangle itself, but if you try to untangle the lie, you will get tangled up yourself. The truth swallows up the lie. Sylvia Pearce

Freedom contains double possibilities. Life can go downward into lack and destruction, or upward into fullness and completion. We liberate mere possibility into manifested reality—

How?--By the spoken word of faith, we bring mere possibility out of freedom unto actualized manifested reality. Sylvia Pearce

William Blake who said "without contraries nothing exists..."

St. John of the Cross says: "This wound is delectable." John of the Cross goes on to say: "After the dark and painful night of the spirit there is...a divine awakening...the soul uses a similitude (i.e. an example) of one that awakens from his sleep, and says, 'how gentle and loving is...thine awakening, O Word and Spouse, in the center and depth of my soul...wherein alone, secretly and in silence, Thou dwellest as it's Lord. This divine awakening is an inspiration of the Word manifesting His dominion, His glory and His intimate sweetness."

The sin and pride of the world is: "I am sufficiently able, so I really don't need God." While the sin and pride of the Christian is: "I'll give Christ permission to help me be sufficiently good enough, and advance His kingdom by my own efforts." Sylvia Pearce

**It does seem that man with his limited wisdom is intent upon filling the world with his thoughts on divine things.** All this knowledge is a tower of Babel, that seems 'to hide its head in the clouds, but as to its reaching of heaven, it is no nearer to that, than the earth on which it stands. It is thus with all the buildings of man's wisdom and natural abilities in the things of salvation; he may take the logic of Aristotle, add to that the rhetoric of Tully, and then ascend as high as he can on the ladder of poetic imagination, yet no more is done to the reviving the lost life of God in his soul, than by a tower of brick and mortar to reach heaven' (William Law).

"Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet offers the heel that crushes it."

**Kierkegaard** talks of being a Knight of resignation as opposed to a Knight of faith. To all appearances, the Knight of resignation looks like the ideal Christian (and, in fact, is in a valid first step) by his acceptance of the situation "as is." But the Knight of faith can rise up and receive back his Isaac even as he is offering him up. It is that unique sense of expectancy (though paradoxically thrown into an absurdity of faith which follows the path of loss, yet knowing it will never extinguish our real heart's desire) that keeps the man of God *proving* the heart of God, and not merely being loyal to it. Soren Kierkegaard

"The **adventure of adversity** when seen in its true perspective, it is found to be the doorway into God's most transcendent secret--that adversities and sufferings, which in their origin are the effects of sin and instruments of the devil, in the grasp of faith become REDEMPTIVE. They are transfigured from the realm of merely something to be endured as an opposition of Satan, to something to be used to conquer their author and redeem his victims. Faith in times of adversity makes the serpent swallow itself! Once again the supreme proof of this is that when Satan made his fiercest attack in history on the person of Christ, God used that attack through the faith and endurance of the Sufferer, to bring about the world's salvation. God uses evil to bring about good." Norman P. Grubb

## **THE ABIDING PRESENCE**

By: James M. Campbell

"I will not leave you orphans, I will come unto you." Why should the church keep mourning the absence of her Lord when she has the assurance of His abiding presence? Why should the spouse of the Ever-Living Christ sit down in the dust, clad in the weeds of widowhood, bewailing the loss of her Lord when He is really present with her? Why should believers in a risen Christ dolefully sing "Down life's dark vale we wander till Jesus comes," when they ought rapturously to sing, "Joy to the world the Lord is come?"

Brief was the interval between His departure and His return. He came again speedily, just as He had promised. After His resurrection His disciples saw Him and their hearts were flooded with a newfound joy that no one could take away from them. After His ascension He was restored to them fully, dwelling in their hearts by the power of His Spirit. And thus in their experience were the words fulfilled, 'Verily I say unto you, there be some of them that stand here who shall in no wise taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His kingdom.'

The promise given to the early Christians was "the promise of His presence." (11 Peter 3:4) In the midst of the fiery trials by which they were beset they were enjoined "to be patient until the presence of the Lord." (Jas. 5:7) They were to abound in self-denying service knowing that the presence of the Lord was at hand. (Jas. 5:8). Their hearts were to be strengthened and comforted by the assurance of "the power and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ." (11 Peter 1:16) They were constantly to strive that "spirit and soul and body" might be "preserved entire, without blame at the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thess. 5:23) They were to abide in Christ that when He was made manifest they might "have boldness and not be ashamed before Him at His presence." (I Jn. 2:28) The object upon which their interest centered was the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and their gathering together unto Him. (11 Thess. 2:1)

**The presence of Christ, once a hope, is now a blessed reality.**

**"The Coming One," has come.**

The presence is an experience, the manifestation of the presence is a hope; in the presence we are to rejoice, for the manifestation of the presence we are to wait; the presence is something which is now being realized inwardly to the believer, the manifestation of the presence is something which is to take place outwardly at the end of this world-age.

From: *The Presence*. New York: Eaton & Mains. 1911.

## **The Secret of the Cross**

Norman Grubb

"life only flows out from the Cross. But the Cross is where Jesus died for me, the Just for the unjust, and where He now united me with Himself, in His death, over and over again for others. "I," the sensitive, earnest, serving, sacrificing "I," must die, that He may live in and through me. People try me, fail me, drain me, spoil my work with their carelessness, frustrate me with their stubbornness, hurt me with their thanklessness, misrepresent me in their

blindness, and my only answer is to be the Cross--to die, to die, to die. I kick against such a spineless way, a thousand times, but a thousand times I have to come back to it; it is the only way. It is the meekness that inherits the earth. It is the weakness in which strength is made perfect. It is the nothingness that possess all things, the poverty that makes many rich. It is the foolishness of God which is wiser than men. For what it does is simple. It puts my little "I," out, crucified with Him; it gives His might "I," all-wise, all-meek, all-loving, right of way through me; for the reverse side of the Cross in action is always the resurrection in equal action. Blessed Cross, where I die daily. Blessed resurrection, by which Christ the Conqueror goes out through me to His inevitable conquests over Satan in others lives. All the strain goes out of life, as I learn the daily secret of this brokenness in Calvary, for no longer do I put my wits, my energies, my impotent striving against the contradictions and frustrations of life; I have leaned where little "I" belongs, even in the tomb of Christ, that His big "I" may multiply His grace through me, as the five loaves to the five thousand. What a revelation and release. But the discovery can only be made in the valley of humiliation, the place of self-revelation, and self-despair." Norman Grubb

## **THIS IS CRITICAL AND THE FOUNDATION OF A TRUE BELIEVER!**

By Nancy Gilmore

Jesus himself asked 'who do men say that I am'? This is critical because He is still asking this question of us today. Jesus gives us the answer; Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. Jesus explains that He IS eternal life: 'This is eternal life that you KNOW HIM- the one whom sent me- (because)-this eternal life is in His SON and he who has the SON has eternal life, and he who has NOT the Son does not have eternal life'--SO...Eternal life is having, and knowing you have, this Person. And 'knowing' is being a participant with Him, in His death, and in His resurrection all though and by His Holy Spirit indwelling us; and causing us to KNOW Jesus, in us, and causing us to know His Faith, as ours.

This is different than just having a mental concept of a historical Jesus that you believe in. We're talking about being born-again by Christ's Spirit living in us, and we knowing Him as our life. You can't know anything apart from yourself. If I truly know something it's because it has taken me over. It's dangerous to be a person and not know what it is to be a person. This is the significant of Jesus asking, who do men say that I am? Jesus starts with Himself. He explains that He is a person containing a Person, His Father, God. I find people can't truly believe until they know what to believe and well as who to believe. Jesus revealed Himself to us that He is God in the flesh. Now the question we ask ourselves is He God in our flesh? Now we get into what interest us. Not some religiosity, but who am I?

Now don't be fooled by those who call themselves 'Christians' but do not have The Son. That would be no different than saying; I'm a Democrat, or saying, I'm a Republican, it would mean nothing to God! God is only impressed with His Son, responsive only to His Son and to

those who confess being a part of HIS Son. This is the narrow way! Jesus the one and only way through which the Holy Spirit in us makes us partakers of the Lord...joins us to the Lord...causes us to be one spirit with the Lord.

Jesus is the one, the ONLY one, who represented us while He was hanging on that Cross. He is the only one who died for you and for me. Don't kid yourself. God takes His death seriously! Jesus was dying- there on that Cross- as our only Substitute, and He was hanging there as God's ONLY Substitute for us. There is NO other way. Eternal life is this Person, now resurrected from the dead, living IN us by His Life Giving Spirit! He takes us over, transforms us into His likeness, and is formed in us who believe on Him. He gained us in His death and resurrection as His inheritance to indwell and to reproduce His own life AS us. This is what it is to be a Christian. He now looks like you and me in this world. I know It's radical, but it's not new. The Apostle Paul said, 'for me to live is Christ, and to die, is gain. And the Apostle John said, 'as he was in this world NOW so are we'. Being a Christian is knowing Christ is living His Life as us.

So we are not afraid of ourselves, nor think of ourselves as independents any more than Jesus did. Jesus knew He was God in the flesh and He said so. He also said He would come and live in us, and make His abode in us. An abode is a dwelling place. So this life is about Jesus, and not about us. And we locate Him in us. Without Him we will never know who we are, or what it is to be a person. Jesus is raised in us as a life giving spirit for us to know Him. He desires for us to be "knower's" of Him' in, and as us. And we are not afraid to say, who we contain and who has made Himself known in us, as us. Sounds like blasphemy, but it's far more blasphemous to relate to ourselves as independent of God, is it not? That's the true blasphemy to think we are our own creation, independent and alone.

Also we are not afraid to say, "That person is NOT a Christian, (by his own confession he reveals his true identity as not Christ)! That's how we know he's not a Christian, he tells us by what he says of himself. He may become a Christian, and we pray he will, but when he does he will have this same confession; Jesus Christ, who died and rose again has made Himself known in Him as His Eternal life, here and now, and there is no other way! Jesus said, there is a light in every man that lights the way, but then Jesus added, if the light that is in you is darkness...(then the real question to be asked is )... how great is that darkness? Satan is a dark light in humanity... he is a stronghold and we do not fight flesh and blood but principalities and powers in high places. Satan is the spirit of anti-Christ.

Jesus Christ is the true light in humanity, and greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world! So then, there is a light in every man! A dark light as to what it is to be a person, or a Light, light, lit up by Jesus Christ in us A person is a person containing a person. And we either contain Christ... or we contain Satan. And we are NOT MIXED!

Thank you for listening to my laboring love of Jesus! He is the only one who ever guaranteed me that I would spent eternity with the people, I LOVE. SO if I die tonight at least I know I have given you Christ as He has revealed Himself to me, in me, and as me. SO YOU'D BETTER BE THERE TOO!

# Letters

Dear Sylvia,

Thank you so much for sharing your conversations with these lovely brothers and sisters with me, how miraculous...I cant wait to meet these people...Wow, the liberating secret to Malaysia. What the enemy intended for evil, (a church split) there in Malaysia the Lord has used to bring in his grace and Truth to many believers who need this so desperately.....

You know Sylvia, sometimes I get flack from other believers who are convinced that the only evangelization is to the unbeliever, but the church needs to be re-evangelized with what the Fullness of the Word of God really says. The church MUST know who they are here on earth, and what God says they can do with God's faith! Please keep me posted on what comes forth with our brothers and sisters in Malaysia...

Love you,

Kristi Rice



Dear Sylvia,

I've been hearing you on Short-Wave for a while now, and what you are saying sounds like "right on." I've heard you and another lady talking together several times and it sounds like you two know something along this line--I am a born-again person, I am 76 years old, so I've been born-again person since age 22, and I've heard his teaching (years ago) not anymore cause these young preachers haven't a clue what you talking about. Today on your show, you talked about us being dead, or dead in Him. Romans 6 says that "Knowing this" or "reckon yourselves to be dead indeed into Sin, but alive into God through Jesus Christ" We are born DEAD until we are born-again and become a New Creature in Christ. In ourselves we are nothing, dead to God, but in Christ, we are alive. I like what you said, self, cannot kill self. Amen. Please send me some written materials.

Sincerely, Jean Mitchell



Some of you might be interested in the booklet called, "God Means Evil for Good" that our new friend, **Vijay Paramsothy from Malaysia** talks about in His recent e-mails to me. (See "Letters" in November's Newsletter).

## God Means Evil For His Good Purposes

(Compiled scriptures with intermittent comments)

Sylvia Pearce

God doesn't do the evil, He can only do good (James 1:13). The devil is the doer of evil, not God. However, the scripture says that, "God created evil" (Isa. 45:7). and to agree with the scriptures, we must say, "Amen." Yet in what sense did He create evil? God created freedom with the possibility of His creatures going the evil way of unbelief, so in an indirect sense, He created evil by creating us free beings. So now let us see how He uses the devil's evil for His higher eternal purposes, yet still reins sovereign over His creation—(Daniel 2:19-22; 4:32):

*This is Joseph's statement of faith after being treated unfairly by his brothers. Genesis 50:20* "As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

*God chastises His disobedient sons by using the Assyrian who were Israel's enemy, yet they are the rod of God's anger. Isaiah 10:5* "O, Assyria, the rod of my anger, the staff of my fury! And the staff in their hand is my indignation."

*God will take us through deep valleys to cause us to discover great treasures. Isaiah 45:3* "I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hidden riches in secret places, that you may know that it is I, The Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name."

*God created free beings with the possibility of going the evil way of unbelief. Isaiah 45:6-7* "That men may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is none other. I form the light and create darkness, I make peace, and create evil, I am the Lord, who do all these things."

*The greatest evil in all history was when Satan put Jesus on the Cross, yet God meant it for our greatest good.* Isaiah 53:10-11 "Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand; he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous; and he shall bear their iniquities."

*Nothing can be against us, everything is created for our greatest good.* Isaiah 54:16 "Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals, and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy;"

*God meant the consequences of the fall to drive us to childlike trust.* Exodus 4:11 "Then the Lord said to him, Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?"

*Mercy sent Satan to Job for Job to know that he was only complete in God, and not in himself.* Job 2:3, "And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you moved me against him, to destroy him without a cause."

*Job, himself never saw his evil circumstances coming from Satan, but from God. We see through evil to God only.* Job 2:10, "But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips."

*Can the creation be wiser than God, and does God not control all things.* Job 12:16, "With him are strength and wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are His."

*Job keep his eyes on God alone, even in the negative.* Job 16:12, "I was at ease, and He broke me asunder; He seized me by the neck and dashed me to pieces; He set me up as his target."

*Even Job's family said that God was responsible for all that happened to*

*Job.* Job 42:11, "Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house; and they showed him sympathy and comforted him for **all the evil that the Lord had brought upon him**; and each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold."

*God chastens whom He loves.* Deuteronomy 8:5, "Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you."

Psalms 66:11, "Thou didst bring us into the net; **thou didst say affliction on our loins**;

Psalms 102:9 For I eat ashes like bread, and mingle tears with my drink, because of **thy indignation and anger**; for thou hast taken me up and thrown me away.

Jeremiah 42:10 If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you; and not pluck you up; for I repent of **the evil which I did to you**.

*Seeing God Only.* Lamentations 3:1-18, "I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of **His** wrath; **He** has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me **He** turns his hand again and again the whole day long. **He** has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; **He** had made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long heavy chains on me; though I call an cry for help, **He** shuts out my prayer; **He** has blocked my ways with hewn stones, **he** has made my paths crooked. **He** is to me like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding; he led me off my way and tore me to pieces; **He** has made me desolate; **He** bent **His** bow and set me as a mark for his arrow. **He** drove into my heart the arrows of his quiver; I have become the laughingstock of all peoples, the burden of their songs all day long. **He** has filled me with bitterness, **He** has made me drunken with wormwood. **He** has also broken my teeth with gravel stones, **He** has covered me with ashes. And you have removed my soul far off from peace; I have forgotten prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord."

I Peter 4:12 "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you."

II Samuel 12:11 "Thus says the Lord, "Behold, I will raise up evil against

**you out of your own house."**

**Joel 2:25**

**"I will restore to you the years which the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and cutter, my great army, which I sent among you."**

**Amos 3:6**

**"Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does evil befall a city, unless the Lord has done it? Jesus would not give Pilate, Herod, nor the devil any power. He saw their evil work, but gave it no power. There is only one power in the universe."**

**John 19:7**

**"Then said Pilate unto him, Speak thou not unto me? Know thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?"**

**Jesus answered, Thou could have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above."**

***God's sovereignty reigns.* Acts 2:23, "Him, being delivered by determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, you have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."**

**Acts 4:26**

**"The Kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done."**

**I Peter 2:21**

**"For even hereunto were you called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps."**

**Romans 8:32**

**"He spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us ALL things? All means good, as well as evil."**

**Romans 8:36**

**"For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."**

***Just because God uses evil, the evil act is not justified, nor does it go unpunished.* Jeremiah 25:9-12&14, "Behold I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon,**

**my servant**, and I will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy the, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, and sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle and this land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years, and it shall come to pass when **seventy years** are accomplished, that I will punish the king of **Babylon**, and that nation saith the Lord for **their iniquity**...I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands."

## Poems of the Month

### **O thou Afflicted!**

By: Hannah Hurnard

**O** thou afflicted, tempest-tossed,  
In sorrow's pathway led,  
Behold thy suffering is not lost,  
Thou shalt be comforted.  
In fairest colors thou shalt shine,  
And precious jewels shall be thine.

**F**oundation stones of bright sapphires  
Shall garnish all thy floors,  
Thy ruby windows glow like fires,  
And emeralds make thy doors,  
And all thy walls and borders be  
Of precious stones and porphyry.

**F**ear not! Thy trust ends not in loss,  
I'll not put thee to shame,  
There is a purpose in thy cross,  
And no reproach and blame.  
One day, with glad, exultant voice  
Thou, child of sorrow, shalt rejoice.

**S**tretch forth the curtains of thy tent,  
Lengthen the cords, spread wide,  
Strengthen thy stakes with great content,  
Break forth on every side.  
Thou shalt have seed through all the earth.

(Isa. 54:11-12)

## Sweetness in the Cross

The sweetness in the Cross is extra sweet,  
for all the bitterness one has to eat.  
Wreaths and garlands of all kinds,  
appeal in sympathy or victory  
to various minds;  
but nothing makes the Cross as much a friend,  
as scornful wrath when we are at our end.

BC/12-31-05

## Prayer Request

### Prayer for Brian Coatney

[coatneys@newwavecomm.net](mailto:coatneys@newwavecomm.net)

I have glaucoma surgery on the left eye coming up Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. The surgery is to create a new drainage system for excess fluid buildup around the optic nerve. That lowers pressure on the optic nerve.

I didn't want to have to do surgery, but I remembered, under conviction, the guy on the roof in a flood praying for help and then turning down the boat and then the helicopter -- and wondering why God didn't rescue him.

So those dear ones who've prayed for my eyes, thank you still for prayers that are no less efficacious, for truly the surgeon's hands and mind need wisdom, and who am I to argue with all of God's means working together?



This is from Paul E. Billheimer's book, "Destined, to Overcome." **"Prayer is where the action is.** John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer," and E. M. Bounds tells us "God shapes the world by prayer."

**A great illustration** is the account of the Israelites battle against the Amalekites. Satan, God's enemy had stirred up the heathen nation of Amalek to fight the Israelites trying to keep them from entering the promise land. As the battle was beginning, Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us out men, and go out, and fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." Joshua and his men began the battle. "And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed" When Moses grew tired and could no longer hold up his arms, Aaron and Hur stood up on either side and supported him until the battle was won by God's people and Amalek was defeated.

These 3 men, Moses, Aaron and Hur were united in holding up the rod (symbolizes the Cross) of God, and also symbolic of His power and prayer. When the intercessors engaged in believing prayer, Satan's forces were bound and paralyzed. Then God's children were victorious. To the casual observer the battle was won in the valley where the troops were engaged but to the spiritually discerning the battle was won on the mountaintop. Prayer is truly where the action is. Paraphrased by Margaret Lester

## **This Month's Article:**

### **The Depraved Self: What is It?**

**Brian Coatney**

Thinkers have always discussed whether man is good, evil, or a mix. However, a problem arises when we focus on man as the moral entity in and of himself: we assume a human nature and the ability to modify that nature, leading to hope for praise if we do well and fear of condemnation if we don't do well. Obviously this keeps all attention on ourselves and what we do.

A break from this self-locked view comes when we see justification by faith—that righteousness before God comes only from who Christ is and His atoning death. His righteousness is ours then, by faith, and faith is simply receptivity. That's a great deal: our sins get cancelled, and Christ's righteousness becomes truly ours.

That satisfies the legal issues, but now we will look at everyday living. I have never met a single Christian that didn't move along in the Christian life thinking, "I want to serve God, but I have this old nature holding me back and causing me to sin every day." Yet Paul tells us in Romans 6 that we're dead to sin, and his exposition, succinctly stated also in Galatians 2:20, is that we're crucified with Christ.

God didn't mess around at all keeping our old man alive or encouraging us in hopes of improving the old man. Nope, His answer was death. In Christ's body, we died, thus breaking our enslavement to the old master, sin. In daily living as Christians, we certainly don't feel like that happened, but there it is, the Bible tells it's so. How well I remember my first glimpses of the hypocrisy that fights to defend the Bible as God's word but then denies that every Christian is dead to sin.

That's really tough to hear and believe, but when nothing else works, the scripture starts looking much better than it did when we still had lots of energy to invest in trying to modify our behavior to match the scripture's injunctions to holy living. Then, we might hear that indeed God severed Satan's control over us that kept us yielding our members helplessly to the cruelest person in existence—the devil.

Paul knew, however, that understanding of this deliverance would only be as solid in us as the Romans 7:17 awakening that we never were the problem; the problem has always only been "it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Here's the absolute distinction between the human self and sin. The self is not the sin, and so the self cannot be the depravity that keeps its stronghold in Christians when they don't know their deliverance.

Now we have two "Not I" building blocks to reason with as revelation pours in. We usually start by wearing out and then learning that Christ is the doer in us, but what about the one doing evil? Paul tells us we're not the evil doer either. That definitely constitutes humans as vessels, created to contain a sin master or a righteousness master. This means that we never do our own will. We don't like that at first; we want to be the prime movers.

If we were a prime mover, for good or for evil, we would have a nature. That sounds appealing for a season but loses appeal when we find ourselves stuck with two things: an old self that God says He crucified in Christ and a self even as a Christian that causes us loathing of the self when God says the problem is not the self but sin operating in the self.

I'll concede that on the feeling and thought level—on the appearance level—we have every reason to believe that we're alternately good or evil. On the faith level, however, we find a strange assertion in the scriptures, that we're new creations, and that faith in God's keeping manifests the fruit of the Spirit. Hmm, fruit of the Spirit. Like Paul says, if we walk in the Spirit, God keeps us from sin.

Faith looks at the possibility of the word *if*, a word stated or implied everywhere we meet the exhortation to faith, and meeting the if-ness of if, moves into the is-ness of is.

**Christ, Our Life Ministries**

**PO Box 43268**

**Louisville, Ky. 40253**

**(502) 245-4581**

**(502) 417-2110**

Thank you, all our supporters for your prayers, your faith, your love support, and your financial gifts. Without you this ministry wouldn't be possible.

<http://theliberatingsecret.org>

[www.spiritradio.net](http://www.spiritradio.net)

[www.colmlouisville.org](http://www.colmlouisville.org)

[sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org](mailto:sylviap@theliberatingsecret.org)