

Light and Glory

by Richard A. Bennett.

From Eternity to Eternity

**What
is
Man?**



THE GLORY OF THE CROSS



Wrath and Glory



Light and Glory Forever



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From Eternity to Eternity

It was the late C. S. Lewis who gave us a helpful illustration about the vital connection between time and eternity. He suggested that time could be likened to a line that is drawn on a piece of paper. This line has both a start and a finish. Eternity can be likened to the piece of paper on which the line is drawn. Both the beginning and the end of the line are visible at one glance. It is for this reason that, when we read hundreds of prophecies about future events in the Bible, they are precisely accurate because they were inspired by the One who knows the end from the beginning.

In the Bible we read of the, “*Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come*” Revelation 4:8. God has no yesterday, no today, and no tomorrow. Forever He will be what He always was. In other words, He is the God of eternity. When we try to comprehend this, many of us would exclaim with King David, “*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it*” Psalm 139:6. Do you feel that way? I do!

Startling Truth: We are conditioned to think within the confines of a chronological sequence. God “*has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted*

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eternity in men's hearts" Ecclesiastes 3:11 Amplified Bible. Whereas some people believe in reincarnation, others view suicide as a terminal solution for their pain and problems. Death is not the end of life, it is moving from one realm to another. "*It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment*" Hebrews 9:27. Death is not extinction but a continuance of life either in Heaven or Hell. It is important to know in the context of time, our decision to receive Christ will determine our ultimate destiny. "*Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation*" 2 Corinthians 6:2. Not tomorrow, not sometime, not when I am dying, but NOW!

The Lord Jesus still pleads: "*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me*" Revelation 3:20. If anyone opens the door of his heart and invites Jesus to be his Lord and Savior, He promises: "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life*" John 5:24.

Eternal life begins the moment you receive new life in Christ. ". . . *it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit*"

1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

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In an astonishing miracle of the grace of God, the believer will be transformed into the likeness of the perfect Man, Christ Jesus.

What we are! *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God.”*

What we appear to the world! *“Therefore the world knoweth us not.”*

What we anticipate! *“When He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is”* 1 John 3:1-2

However, to be perfect in His likeness does not mean that we will all be equal in our capacity. I could hold in one hand a 10 ounce bar of gold, in the other a ¼ ounce bar. Both are gold. But the potential of their usefulness is vastly different. Similarly, in Heaven, every true child of God will be transformed into the likeness of the perfect humanity of their Lord and Savior. But our spiritual capacity to serve and worship Him in Heaven, will be distinctly different. In that sense, the late Dr. Howard Ferrin was right when he said: “You are becoming now what in Heaven you will be forever.”

Genuine worship is when the mind is focused on the sovereign living Lord Jesus Christ, when the heart is overflowing with praise to Him and the will is totally yielded to Him. Believers who **love** Him, **serve** Him, **worship** Him, and **praise** Him on earth, will be exalted to a new dimension of worship in Heaven. Personal witness for the Lord Jesus Christ should flow from our commitment to His glory and from our love for Him.

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Alpha and Omega: The Lord Jesus declared, “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last*” Revelation 22:13. At creation, the Lord Jesus was already there - ‘Alpha’! When time is no more, the Lord Jesus will be there forever - ‘Omega’!

The Greek alphabet has 24 letters. The first letter is Alpha the last is Omega. Have you ever noticed a child who is given a box of wooden blocks? Each block is embossed with a letter of the alphabet. It is the hope of the donor that the child will become familiar with the letters and eventually compose a small word. Typically, however, the letters are scattered on the floor to make an unintelligible and meaningless jumble of letters.

When I desire to communicate my thoughts to you I use words. Likewise, when God communicated His thoughts of love to a world that had gone awry, He used “***The Word.***”

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God . . . and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” John 1:1-2,14.

Incredibly, God the Son, stepped out of eternity into a 33-year span of time here on earth. While living in bodily form as Man, He said: “*I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work*” John 9:4.

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Likewise, you and I are allotted a limited timespan on earth. We are exhorted to be “*redeeming the time, because the days are evil*” Ephesians 5:16. Every day is a gift from God and every day that is given is taken away forever. It has melted into eternity.

This explains the significance of the prayer of the Lord Jesus: “*As Thou hast sent Me into the world, [as perfect Man] even so have I also sent them into the world*” John 17:18. Though never ever less than God, while here on earth, the Lord Jesus acted as perfect Man. Accordingly, Jesus, as perfect Man said: “*Lo, I come . . . to do **Thy will, O God***” Hebrews 10:7. And, “*The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do*” John 5:19. As God, the Lord Jesus had sovereign power to do what He willed. As perfect Man, He became utterly dependent upon and obedient to His Father in Heaven.

Later the Lord Jesus said to His Father, “*As Thou has sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world*” John 17:18. The Lord Jesus renounced His independent action and was obedient to and dependent on His heavenly Father. Likewise, to abide in Him, we must live in total dependence on and obedience to Jesus who said: “*Without Me, you can do nothing*” John 15:5.

“*And I saw a new Heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away . . . and He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new . . . **It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the***”

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beginning and the end” Revelation 21:1,5,6.

There is a day coming when earth will be dissolved and **time will be no more.** *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”* Revelation 21:8.

One Last Invitation: In the middle of the solemn announcement of judgment, because God is *“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9), He pleads: *“And the Spirit and the bride say, **Come.** And let him that heareth say, **Come.** And let him that is athirst **Come.** And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”* Revelation 22:17. The Lord Jesus said, *“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”* John 4:14.

Spiritual Check-up

- ◆ Knowing everyone will either be in Heaven or Hell, what can I daily do to reach others for Christ?
- ◆ How do I use my ‘spare time’? Is it self-pleasing or is each moment committed to obeying and depending on the Lord Jesus?

What is Man?

In both Old and New Testaments of the Bible, the question is posed, “**What is man?**” Throughout the ages, biologists, evolutionists, philosophers and psychologists have vainly attempted to answer this question. However, the only source of authority and redemption is often neglected or criticized. That source is the Bible.

Wanted! Men, women and young people who desire to fellowship with the Infinite God. If that includes you, please continue to read this article thoughtfully and prayerfully.

Personal Character: In our search to answer the question, “What is man?” let us first turn to the creation of man as recorded in the first two chapters of Genesis. *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . in the image of God, created He him; male and female created He them”* Genesis 1:26-27. The word “*image*” is of vital importance when answering the question, “What is man?”

Spiritual Capacity: In the second account of Creation, we read, *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of*

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[lives]; and man became a living soul” Genesis 2:7. The Hebrew word translated, “life,” is plural and not singular. Therefore, in the second Genesis account, the phrase “*The Breath of LIVES*” is also vitally significant.

Another account focuses on the creation of woman. This is not a contradictory account, as Bible critics claim, it is a development of God’s plan for man and his wife. We read, “*And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man”* Genesis 2:21-22.

Matthew Henry, the well-known Bible expositor, suggested that God did not take a bone from Adam’s head, speaking of superiority; nor did He take a bone from his feet, speaking of inferiority; He took it from his side, speaking of equality: The side is near the heart, speaking of the place of affection, the side is under the arm, speaking of the place of protection. If today’s families would understand and experience such symbols, many a family seminar or psychologist’s help would become redundant.

After I was born again, I regularly met with other new converts for Bible study and prayer. None of us had a Bible-teaching background. In fact one of us, a biologist, had actually been taught that the Bible was unreliable because of the two accounts of the creation of woman.

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Since then I have come to understand that the first account speaks of personal character; the second account speaks of spiritual capacity and yet another account has to do with family tranquility.

Personal Character - “Image.” To be created in the image of God cannot mean to be created in God’s physical likeness. We read, “*God is Spirit*” (John 4:24) and “*No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him*” John 1:18.

The Eternal God of Creation has an unlimited capacity to love, to think and to choose. He is the “*Lord God Almighty*” Revelation 4:8. Created in His image, man has a limited capacity to love, to think and to choose. This capacity with which man is endowed is his eternal soul. The soul cannot be seen by a radiologist; it is not physical it is metaphysical. **The soul is the real you and me!**

When Dorothy and I were engaged to be married, I gave her a little black velvet box, inside was a sparkling diamond. Announcing her engagement to her colleagues, she did not display the black box, but joyfully showed the engagement ring on her finger.

Why is it that people are so obsessed with the velvet box – the body? We dress it in the most attractive way possible; we exercise it; we feed it; we take it to the doctor and the nutritionist when it ceases to function as

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we would like; but we spend little or no time and attention to the diamond inside the body – the soul! *“What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul”* Mark 3:36.

Spiritual Capacity - *“The Breath of Lives.”* Adam was told that, if he were to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, there would be a catastrophic consequence. *“For in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die”* Genesis 2:17 NASB. But, you might say, Adam lived another 930 years before he died. Genesis 5:5. Yes, it took a long time for him to die physically, but when God breathed into him the breath of lives, it was not only physical life, but it was also spiritual life. On the very day that Adam sinned, he died spiritually.

Catastrophic Consequence: This consequence plunged the subsequent human race into a life that was intellectually, emotionally, and volitionally alive but spiritually dead. The good news for the believer is *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins”* Ephesians 2:1.

How is it possible for God to bring a spiritually dead person into spiritual life? The Lord Jesus met a very religious man called Nicodemus, and said, *“You must be born again”* John 3:3. Nicodemus replied, *“How can a man be born when he is old”* John 3:4? The Lord Jesus answered, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”* John 3:6.

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For the believer at their new birth, the Holy Spirit quickens their dead soul to provide “*abundant life*” John 10:10. Forgiveness and the assurance of Heaven is a wonderful promise of God. However, the Lord Jesus did not only die to get me out of Hell and into Heaven, but to get God out of Heaven and into me! “*Christ in you, the hope of glory*” Colossians 1:27. By our continuing faith and dependence upon the indwelling and abiding reality of Christ, He becomes to us purity, patience and victory. Yes! He is our very life. “*Christ, who is our life*” Colossians 3:4.

God placed man at the very pinnacle of His incredible creation: “*Thus saith the Lord that created the heaven; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He created it not in vain, He formed it **to be inhabited**; I am the Lord and there is none other*” Isaiah 45:18.

God made the earth for man, and He made man for the earth! “*What is man, that Thou are mindful of him? And the son of man, [created man] that Thou hast visited him? For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; **Thou has put all things under his feet***” Psalm 8:4-6.

However, another catastrophe happened when Adam obeyed Satan and disobeyed God. We read: “*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey,*

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his servants ye are to whom ye obey” Roman 6:16.

Adam obeyed Satan, and in so doing he transferred ‘all things’ previously under his feet to Satan. At that devastating time Adam no longer had administrative authority over the world, but handed control to Satan. Then Satan became “*the god of this world*” 2 Corinthians 4:4 and, “*the prince of the power of the air*” Ephesians 2:2. Let us not blame God for the terrors, trauma and tragedies that have ever since plagued planet earth.

The Ultimate Battle: For the Christian, the battle is not with politicians or educators or terrorists or economists or the pushers of drugs and pornography; it is with the organizer of the forces of evil – the devil himself. The church is not meant to be a social kindergarten pandering to the wishes of the congregation; it is a boot camp preparing us for the battlefield! “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*” Ephesians 6:12.

Thank God, this battle has been fought and won! “*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He [the Lord Jesus] might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil*” Hebrews 2:14. So, as the Holy Spirit has infused the believer’s heart to make the indwelling Christ a living

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reality, it is by His power we are “*more than conquerors through Him that loved us*” Romans 8:37.

The Apostle Paul testified, “*For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*” Romans 8:38-39.

Spiritual Check-up

- ◆ Is His image experienced in my mind, emotion and will? How does this impact other people?
- ◆ Am I content only to have my sins forgiven without praying for the fresh infilling of His abundant life?

The Glory of the Cross

What in the world is going on? Believers are not surprised at the trauma and travail of this hour. We know that, “*the god of this world,*” (2 Corinthians 4:4) Satan, is the root cause of today’s apprehension as it was prophesied by the Lord Jesus: “*men’s hearts failing them for fear*” Luke 21:26.

To introduce the theme, “The Glory of the Cross,” it is important to contrast “*the first man, Adam,*” with “*the second Man.*” “*the Lord from heaven.*” “*The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a life-giving Spirit. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second Man is the Lord from heaven*” 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47.

In the record of God’s prime creation we read: “*Let there be light: and there was light*” Genesis 1:3. The Hebrew word for “*light*” does not indicate an original creative act, rather that light was made to appear or become visible. So God bathed His created world with the inconceivable radiance of His eternal light and glory. This light would also have enveloped both Adam and

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Eve. In his arrogant desire to be worshipped in heaven, Satan had coveted this glory for himself and was raged with anger to see God's glory bestowed upon 'created man.' Hence, Adam and Eve became prime targets of Satan.

Satan succeeded in seducing Eve and tempting Adam. He thereby gained a lodging place in human history, "*the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience*" Ephesians 2:2. As a result, both Adam and Eve were stripped of the glory of God.

This rebellion still persists in the hearts of men. But, with an overture of mercy and grace, the Lord came from heaven to this earth in the form of Man, "*that He might destroy the works of the devil*" 1 John 3:8. Unlike the first Adam, who succumbed to Satan's temptation, the "*Last Adam*," the Lord Jesus, triumphed over temptation!

The Lord Jesus, in somber anticipation of the glory of the cross, "*lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour is come; glorify Thy Son, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee . . . And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was . . . And the glory which Thou gavest Me, I have given them*" John 17:1, 5, 22. This wonderful bequest explains why Satan relentlessly attacks the glory of God in and through believers.

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Consequently, it is essential for us to identify who our real foe is. It is Satan, who, by his cunning devices and ambition seeks to destroy mankind.

I. Satan is a created being: Satan was “*full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty (from) the day that thou wast created*” Ezekiel 28:12-13. Yes, Satan is not God, and therefore is not omnipresent. Satan travels ‘to’ and ‘fro’ and ‘up’ and ‘down’ “*in the earth*” Job 1:7. When he is ‘to,’ he is not ‘fro’ and when he is ‘up,’ he is not ‘down’! But Satan does constantly travel to exercise his oversight and administrative control over demonic legions.

In heaven, Satan’s name was “*Lucifer,*” which means daystar, “*son of the morning.*” For this proud antagonist of both God and His glory, to only be a ‘daystar’ was not adequate: “*I will exalt my throne **above the stars** . . . I will be like the most High*” Isaiah 14:13–14. This power lust originated in Satan’s insatiable pride and unholy ambition to be worshipped. At the cross, Satan met his demise through the death of the Lamb of God!

II. Satan is a seductive foe: Satan knows “*the Seed of the woman*” will “*bruise his head*” and spell his defeat (Genesis 3:15). Thank God that when the Lord Jesus, born of a woman, died on the cross, He “*spoiled principalities and powers, and made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it*” Colossians 2:15. In this supreme

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act of love and sacrifice, the cross became the pivotal point of all human history!

III. Satan is a fallen foe: It is written of Satan, “*Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty*” but the Lord said, “*I will cast thee to the ground*” Ezekiel 28:17.

Later, knowing the hostile environment into which the Lord Jesus would send seventy of His followers, He said, “*I send you forth as lambs among wolves.*” Upon their return, with great joy they exclaimed: “*Lord, even the demons are subject unto us through Thy name.*” To which Jesus replied: “*I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven*” Luke 10:3, 17-18.

IV. Satan is a deceptive foe: Having lost his ambition to be worshipped in heaven, Satan turned his attention to planet earth: “*to deceive the nations*” Revelation 20:8.

However, unlike the first Adam, the Lord from heaven — the Last Adam — foiled this plot and said: “*For the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me . . . now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out*” John 14:30, 12:31. The victory of the Lord Jesus over Satan was eternally secured at the cross: “*That through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil*” Hebrews 2:14.

In the game of chess, there can be a moment when the

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opponent is so positioned that it would be impossible for him to ultimately win. But a stubborn opponent might protract his final defeat with many more moves on the chess board until he proves that he is ‘check-mated’ — defeated! The Lord Jesus defeated Satan when, from the cross, He triumphantly cried: “*IT IS FINISHED!*” John 19:30. At that time, God’s work of redemption for mankind was paid in full and Satan became a defeated foe. There is nothing Satan can do to take away from the ‘Finished Work.’ But, like the stubborn opponent in the game of chess, Satan seeks to delay his ultimate banishment which will be to “*the lake of fire and brimstone*” Revelation 20:10.

However, Satan, in raging anger is determined to take as many men and women, boys and girls with him to this infernal destiny. Now, believers are privileged to fellowship with the Lord Jesus by snatching brands from the burning and taking reprisals from Satan’s demonic clutches. Thank God, this includes the salvation of our relatives, neighbors, daily contacts and mission outreach.

V. Satan is a liar and a murderer: When the Lord Jesus was confronted by His would-be assassins, He said: “*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is*

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no truth in him” John 8:44. People may ask: “Who is behind the present-day murders, beheadings, lies, terrorist groups and power lust in political, military and financial circles?” It is Satan!

Against such a scheming enemy, believers are called to take up spiritual weapons and engage in spiritual warfare. It is by the Blood of Jesus, the enabling power of the Holy Spirit and prevailing prayer, that we can, “*come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need*” Hebrews 4:16. In this way, our supplicatory prayer will effect precious people around the world living in spiritual darkness and fear and who need spiritual deliverance.



Restoration of Glory in our Fallen World

“What is man? Thou crownest him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of Thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under His feet . . . He left nothing that is not put under Him. But now we see not yet all things put under Him. But we see Jesus” Hebrews 2:6-9.

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Believers joyfully wait for the day when ‘all things’ will be under the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ. But, we still live in that period, which is described as: “*not yet all things.*” So, here and now, we are all called to be ‘watchmen on the wall’ (Isaiah 62:6) and warn men and women of the soon-coming day when the wrath of God will be poured out on a Christ-rejecting world. The Lord Jesus warned us of this and the fast approaching, “Great Tribulation,” Matthew 24:21.

Wake up! “*And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep . . . the night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore **cast off** the works of darkness, and let us **put on** the armor of light,*” and “**Put ye on** the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.” Romans 13:11-12,14.

Having “**put on**” the armor of light and the Lord Jesus Christ, we will experience a new tone of spiritual reality and urgency when witnessing to unconverted people. This is not attained by psychological counsel, or by persuasive salesmanship, or even by a charismatic personality. When spiritual reality blends with personal humility, it will result in the overflow of God’s love to friends, relatives and neighbors. What we believe can be open to dialogue, but **Who** we believe is the important factor when we witness for Christ. “*for I know **Whom I***

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have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.”

2 Timothy 1:12. For this spiritual warfare, God has provided spiritual armor.

I. Armory of the Blood: I well remember the day I was driven to the airport following a remarkable series of ministry in Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. The driver was the father of three sons. Each boy had an extraordinary deep-rooted Christian conviction and character. I asked the father how he had influenced the boys in their teenage years. The father’s reply amazed me: “Sadly, when my sons were very young, I was a helpless and hopeless alcoholic and caused much misery to my family. But then I met Jesus! He became my Deliverer, my Savior, and my Lord. At the time I knew very little about the Bible, so I could not bring them up with a biblical training. But one thing I did know was that there is power in the Blood of the Lord Jesus. So, every day before leaving my three sons at school, I placed my hand on their heads and claimed the protection of the precious Blood of the Lord Jesus.” What a wonderful testimony of a newly born again father!

When the children of Israel were told that the ‘angel of death’ would visit Egypt and all the first-born of the family would be killed, God gave a provision for the

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believing Jewish families; “*When I see the blood, I will pass over you*” Exodus 12:13. Thank God that today, the “*precious blood of Christ*” (1 Peter 1:19) is still our protective armor! Some believers think, that if they leave the devil alone, he will leave them alone. Not so!

It is the Blood of Jesus that provides believers with overcoming power against Satan, the accuser of the brethren: “*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death*” Revelation 12:11. Yes, our victory over Satan is secured by the cleansing of the Blood, the confession of our lips, and the consecration of our lives. Is that so in your life?

II. Artillery of the Word: Satan tempted the Lord Jesus by offering Him, “*all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them,*” Matthew 4:8. Jesus knew Satan was “*the god of this world,*” (2 Corinthians 4:4) because Adam had handed over his God-given dominion of the world to Satan. However, the Lord Jesus responded with the artillery of the Word of God: “***It is written!***” In this way He verified the scripture, “*Thou hast magnified Thy word above all Thy name*” Psalm 138:2.

As we daily read, digest and internalize the Word of God, we will be prepared for spiritual battles involved in witnessing for Christ. Then, as the Word of God

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permeates our thinking, our prayer life, our witnessing, it will be peppered with His Word!

III. Authority of the Name: At the gate of the Temple Beautiful, Peter and John met a man who was lame from his mother's womb. "*Peter said, 'Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth** rise up and walk'*" Acts 3:6.

For 40 years religion had left this man sitting impotently at the gate of the temple. But, in the Name of Jesus, he was instantly healed: "*his feet and ankle bones received strength . . . and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God*" Acts 3:7-8. Is your life governed by the impotency of religious routine or by the dynamism of the risen life of Christ in you?

Jesus! The name high over all,
in hell or earth or sky:
Angels and men before it fall,
and demons fear and fly.

~ Charles Wesley

IV. Ability of the Spirit: Moral abandon, shocking violence, financial exploitation, fear-ridden communities and countries are all part of the dismal daily news. In spite of man's incredible achievements, we can surely say, man has proved he is totally incapable of controlling the affairs of man! At such a time as this, God has

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promised: “*When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him*” Isaiah 59:19.

Today, many believers have more faith in apostasy than they do in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us remember, that in his God-given task of reconstructing the Temple, Zerubbabel was faced with outward hostility and inward lethargy. It was then that God encouraged him: “*Not by might [collective strength], nor by power [cultural strength], but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts [the Lord of armies]*” Zechariah 4:6.

Perhaps you feel very much alone and powerless to witness for Christ? If so, you are a prime candidate for the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Conscious that the work could only be completed by the power of the Spirit of God, Zerubbabel acted in obedience and faith. “*For whatsoever is not of faith is sin*” Romans 14:23. “*But without faith it is impossible to please Him*” Hebrews 11:6.

Fervency and expectancy in prayer in our prayer life is the result of a living faith: “*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*” James 5:16.

This type of prayer is only possible when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. “*Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the*

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devil.” “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit . . .” Ephesians 6:11, 18.

Without such a filling of the Holy Spirit there can be no overflow of life, victory and power! Therefore, *“be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled [be ye being filled] with the Spirit”* Ephesians 5:18.

This constant infilling of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to fellowship with Jesus in bringing souls into His kingdom. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to, *“reign in life by one, Christ Jesus”* Romans 5:17.

Only in this way will the power of God be **released**, the ploy of Satan be **resisted**, and God’s purpose for man be **restored**. As the late Elwood H. Stokes wrote:

I am weakness, full of weakness,
At Thy sacred feet I humbly bow;
Blest, divine, eternal Spirit,
Fill with power and fill me now.

Spiritual Check-up

- ◆ Do I recognize the spiritual battle around me? When combating evil, do I always remember the vital victory of the Blood of the Lord Jesus?
- ◆ Does my witness for Christ result from my efforts, or, from His love through me?
- ◆ Can I say: *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world”* Galatians 6:14.

Wrath and Glory

We remember that when God finished His creative acts with the creation of Adam and Eve in His own image, “*God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good*” Genesis 1:31. Any satisfactory philosophy of history will conclude, that as Creation commenced, so it will finish—“**Very Good.**”

However, the Bible also tells us that before one thousand years of universal peace and harmony, which we will discuss later, there will be a seven-year period when things will turn very bad. It is becoming increasingly evident that the Day of God’s Grace is about to conclude and the Day of God’s Wrath is about to commence!

The Lord Jesus gave us the supreme demonstration of grace when iron spikes were driven through His hands and feet, He prayed: “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*” Luke 23:34. Deacon Stephen later followed his Lord’s example of grace when he was being stoned to death. Kneeling down, he cried with a loud voice: “*Lord, lay not this sin to their charge*” Acts 7:60.

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The scene changes. The Apostle John had a vision of when God's purpose of extending grace will become a time when God executes His judgements. In heaven John saw those who had been "*slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held*" Revelation 6:9. For them, at that time, vital prayer was to relate the will of God to the circumstances in which they found themselves.

When, on the Isle of Patmos, John saw a vision of the martyrs praying for Judgement. They rightly interpreted the will of God. This was Judgement Day. "*How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*" Revelation 6:10. However, to interpret the will of God today, is to pray for sinners to be born again. This is the Day of Grace: The Lord "*is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*" 2 Peter 3:9.

Very Bad. Television cameras recorded the Iraqi tyrant, Saddam Hussein, when he crept out of a dirt hole designed to hide him in secrecy and safety. Hussein's last days were far removed from his flamboyant lifestyle and highly decorated uniform. At his end there were no bands to charm the crowds and bolster his image; no longer was he surrounded by a company of security guards. No! Just a fear-ridden disheveled man emerged from his underground hideout to meet his destiny.

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History is replete with despots who misused their military/financial resources in a vain effort to ‘play God’. This power lust originated in the courts of heaven before the world was created. There Satan boasted, *“I will be like the most High,”* Isaiah 14:14. Because man was created in the image of God, Satan’s first line of attack in this world was to project his foul ambition by tempting Eve and Adam: *“ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”* Genesis 3:5.

In this way Satan produced surrogates in his relentless pursuit to be the god of this world. This ploy used on Eve was quickly followed by the seduction of Adam. Such anarchy against the Most High God provided Satan with a lodging place in the affairs of humanity. Consequently, all subsequent generations were infected. This was clearly lamented by David: *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me”* Psalm 51:5. It is further explained by Paul: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* Romans 3:23.

Today, as the world displays an ever increasing rebellion against the Lord God Almighty, change from Grace to Wrath is inevitable. Multiple Bible students, together with Current Affairs Analysts, believe that we are quickly heading to a world-wide crisis of holocaust proportions which the Bible describes as, *“the great day of His wrath”* Revelation 6:17.

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It was none other than the Apostle Paul, who, in both life and ministry displayed God's grace, mercy and love wrote: *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness"* Romans 1:18. In this lovey-dovey world, where everything and anything is excusable with the phrase, 'Well, we're only human;' the concept of a God of wrath is a shocking thought.

The womb of an expectant mother was designed by God to be a warm environment of nourishment and protection. Parents don't make a baby, God does! *"As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of **God Who maketh all**"* Ecclesiastes 11:5. Not only does the Bible proclaim the sanctity of human life in the womb, but the former atheist and pro-abortion advocate Dr. Nathenson wrote: "Science has disproved my previous pro-abortion view."

Since the US Supreme Court's 'Roe vs. Wade Decision,' women have aborted more than 57.7 million babies in the United States alone. That is more than twice the population of Australia. [Israel My Glory] Such disregard for the sanctity of human life is an abomination! The womb, designed by God for the protection of the baby, has become a battlefield where the baby has no means of

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defense. But God gave men and women the incredible privilege of procreation to populate redeemed people in heaven. Such mass murder cannot and will not continue.

In addition, space forbids me to document the alarming acceleration of divorce (both in and out of the church), fornication, adultery, homosexuality, nudity, pornography, corruption and exploitation etc. God has given us all a warning of the doom that awaits every person who ignores the light of creation and conscience, and refuses to repent of sin and turn to Christ. *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death”* Revelation 21:8.

The Lord Jesus prophesied: *“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake [that is for Israel’s sake] those days shall be shortened”* Mathew 24: 21-22. This tragic Judgement awaits every person who has never bowed the knee in faith, repentance and thanksgiving to Jesus—the only Savior of mankind!

It is incomprehensible for me to observe multitudes of

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church attenders who leave their Bible Studies and worship services knowing of the End Time Judgement and yet have no desire to persuade people to flee from the wrath to come: “*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men*” (2 Corinthians 5:11) wrote the Apostle Paul. When did you, when did I, last earnestly persuade a person to receive the Savior? Persuasion is not giving people something to think about, it is sharing our testimony together with Bible truth for them to act upon. The risen Lord commissioned all believers through the ages to be, “*witnesses unto Me*” Acts 1:8. To witness not only by life but also by lip!

In the forthcoming day of God’s Wrath there will be:

No more vain promises from political puppets: “*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb . . . and who shall be able to stand?’*” Revelation 6:15-17. Saddam Hussein is but a prototype of this forthcoming universal devastation.

No more ‘anti-Semitism’: “*Sing and rejoice, O daughter*

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of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee” Zechariah 2:10-11. This prophecy is yet to be fulfilled.

No more vain ‘peace accords’: *“And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another . . .”* Revelation 6:4. Devastating days of bloodshed are coming to this world which no Middle East Peace Accord will prevent.

No more ‘physician-assisted suicide’ and ‘euthanasia’: *“And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them”* Revelation 9:6.

No more ‘climate change agendas’ in these critical days of Global Warming. *“The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up”* Revelation 8:7. Space forbids mention of the cosmic consequences waiting for a God-ignoring, Christ-rejecting, man-exalting, pleasure-pursuing, idol worshiping, conscience searing and sin

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loving world. These consequences are recorded in detail in Revelation chapters 6-18.

Is such judgement fair? Was it fair when the spotless Son of God, the Lord Jesus, took the total aggregate of the sin, the suffering and the pain of the whole human race in His perfect body? Yes, Jesus died instead of you and me. His end time judgement will be according to truth and according to righteousness: *“True and righteous are Thy judgements”* Revelation 16:7. Lord hasten the day when Truth and Righteousness reign!

Good News! For true believers, all is not gloom. *“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him”* 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10. No, we are not delivered **in** the period of God’s Wrath; we are delivered **from** that period. How can this be? The Bible gives us the answer, *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”* 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

In effect, there will be two comings of the Lord Jesus. The first is when the trumpet blows and He will come

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for the Church, “*Come up hither*” Revelation 4:1. The second is when He comes to this world **with** the Church “*on a white horse*” Revelation 19:11, as **KING** of kings and **LORD** of lords.

Early in my Christian life I heard the following illustration of how Christians are delivered from the outpouring of God’s Wrath.

On the horizon, a farmer saw a Prairie fire driven by the wind which would inevitably destroy his family and home. What did he do? He lit his own fire to burn the ripening grain around his home. When the fire came, the family stood on the charred ground where the fire had already burned. The Prairie fires approached the home and the roaring flames parted around the ground where they were standing, leaving them all safe.

The good news is that the fiery wrath of God for the judgement of sin fell upon His Beloved Son when He shed His Blood for your sin and mine. Can you say with the hymn writer: “Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand.” If so, you are standing on the ground where the fiery judgement of sin has already fallen on the Spotless Lamb of God!

Concluding Good News. The Apostle John testified: “*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse;*

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and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war . . . And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God . . . And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on his vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” Revelation 19:11, 13, 15, 16.

On that glorious day, a resounding chorus of praise will ascend to the risen Christ, the Lord of Glory: *“Alleluia; salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: for true and righteous are His judgments . . . Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth”* Revelation 19: 1, 2, 6.

At long last judgement will be according to Truth and according to Righteousness. Then for 1,000 years, the Lord Jesus will rule the world with prevailing peace. How do we know it will be 1,000 years? This is prophesied six times in Revelation 20. What does that mean? It simply means what it says, one thousand years! It is then that the Old Testament prophecies will come to pass: *“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”* Habakkuk 2:14.

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“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them” Isaiah 11:6.

Little wonder that the entire Bible concludes with a promise and a prayer: **Promise**, *“Surely I come quickly.”* The word ‘quickly’ does not mean ‘shortly’, but ‘suddenly’; **Prayer**, If so, let us together pray: *“Even so, come, Lord Jesus”* Revelation 22:20.

There’s a light upon the mountains,
and the day is at the spring,
When our eyes shall see the beauty
of the glory of the King;
Weary was our heart with waiting, and
the night-watch seemed so long,
But His triumph-day is breaking, and
we hail it with a song. ~ Henry Burton, 1840-1930.

Spiritual Check-up

- ◆ Am I willing to stand daily girded in Truth and wearing the breast-plate of Righteousness? (Ephesians 6:14).
- ◆ Each day do I anticipate meeting my Lord in the air at the Rapture?
- ◆ In the light of the prophesied seven year Tribulation period, am I using every opportunity to warn others and point them to Christ while there is still time?

Light and Glory Forever

Iwonder what kind of music you prefer when you sing praises to the Lord Jesus. Whatever your choice, we all need to remind ourselves that when we go to church it is not to be entertained or to meet with our friends but to meet with the living God. No, it is not what I receive from a Church service that counts, but it is what God receives from me in the service that really counts. True worship is my response of faith and obedience to the infallible Word of God!

The Apostle John, was overwhelmed when he encountered the glorified Christ on the Isle of Patmos: *“When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead”* Revelation 1:17. Isaiah also testified: *“I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. The seraphims . . . cried unto one another, and said Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts”* Isaiah 6:1-3,5.

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Like John, when we encounter the risen, glorified Christ, we too will fall before Him in our innermost being and, with Isaiah, when we meet Him who is “*Holy, holy, holy,*” our pride, arrogance and desire for worldly glory will be exposed. As a result, we will surely go through the valley of humiliation and respond: “*Woe is me! for I am undone; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts*” Isaiah 6:5.

On a dark day the windows look clean but, when the sun shines, all the dirt is revealed. We read: “*In Thy light shall we see light*” Psalm 36:9. And “*God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin*” 1 John 1:5,7. As we thankfully claim God’s promise of cleansing, we often overlook the phrase, “*as He is **in** the light.*”

God made a disclosure of Himself when, in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, God stepped into the world and declared: “*I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life*” John 8:12. We also read: “*For God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our*

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hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” 2 Corinthians 4:6.

So, just as God made a disclosure of Himself in the Person of His Son, our fellowship is restored when we personally make a full disclosure of ourselves in His holy presence: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” 1 John 1:9.*

As we do not commit our sins in bundles, why do we try to confess them in bundles by quickly saying, “Lord Jesus, please forgive **all** my sins”? On the contrary, let us keep short accounts with God. This means that the moment a hasty word falls from our lips, or a thought of lust crosses our mind, or the comment ‘it is not fair,’ reveals self-pity, we should make our immediate confession for each specific sin and truly repent in His holy presence.

By such confession, our fellowship with a Holy God is restored and the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all our sin: *“If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us [keeps on cleansing] from all sin” 1 John 1:7.* Daily confession of conscious sins and daily cleansing by the precious Blood will prepare the way for daily infilling of the Holy Spirit. Then a life

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of living fellowship and spiritual fruitfulness will result.
Hallelujah!

We read that Peter, James and John caught a brief glimpse of the glory of God on the 'Mount' as the Lord Jesus was transfigured before them: *"His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light"*

Matthew 17:2.

This is the same Lord Jesus, *"by Whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High"* Hebrews 1:2-3. Surely, it is an awesome experience to have living access into the presence of our all-powerful Creator and Redeemer.

It was shortly before the Lord Jesus died on the cross, rose from the grave and ascended to heaven, that He prayed to the Father: *"I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was"* John 17:4-5. The Lord Jesus then revealed His purpose for leaving heaven and clothing Himself as perfect Man: *"And the glory which Thou hast given Me I*

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have given them” John 17:22. Amazingly, this is the Savior’s bequest to every born again believer!

Shortly before the Lord Jesus dismissed His Spirit on the cross, He said: *“It is finished,”* John 19:30. Today, the *‘Finished Work’* of our Lord Jesus Christ, has secured a company of believers who will reign forever with Him in heaven. When His redemptive work on earth is over, we read of an astonishing sequel of yet future events.

“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands: They shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed” Hebrews 1:10-12. You may now be asking: “In what way will this world be *“folded up and changed”*”? God gives us the answer in the book of Revelation. In effect, this change will be a dramatic exchange: *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea”* Revelation 21:1.

No more sea? But, you may say: “I love to go to the ocean and watch waves rippling on the sand or pounding on the rocks.” However, when John was exiled for his faith on a desolate prison island, the sea spoke of prison bars which isolated him from his brethren whom he

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dearly loved. Thankfully, there will be no such separation and isolation in heaven. We also read there will be ‘no tears,’ ‘no death,’ ‘no sorrow,’ ‘no crying,’ *“neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away”* Revelation 21:4. Praise God!

Every born-again believer longs for that day in heaven when there will be no more smog of moral pollution and no more politically correct mental deception. The light and the glory of God will reign forever and ever.

In a previous chapter we noted that, before the sun was created, God diffused His own light and glory throughout the world. It will be the same in the heavenly Jerusalem. John wrote: *“He . . . shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal”* Revelation 21:10-11.

When John spoke of the New Jerusalem we read, *“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof”* Revelation 21:23. Yes, the light and glory of God will radiate throughout the Eternal City even when the sun will be no more: *“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of*

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the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever” Revelation 22:5. Hallelujah!

For the believer, the supreme joy of heaven will be to gaze upon the face of the Lord Jesus Christ. We read: *“And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads”* Revelation 22:4. How wonderful, together with loved ones who have gone before, worshipping the Lord forever and forever! *“When by His grace, I shall look on His face, that will be glory, yes, glory for me!”* Charles Gabriel.

For the believer, this certain hope is a joyful anticipation, but how should this hope affect me today? Let me share with you about my Grand-mother.

It was still three months before my twelfth birthday when Grandmother came to live in our home. She loved the Lord Jesus with all her heart and knew the supreme importance of the Bible in her life. Accordingly, soon after her arrival, she said to my Mother, *“Eve, I want you to get a Bible for Richard’s birthday.”* Even though Mother said, *“There is plenty of time before Richard’s birthday,”* my Grandmother insisted, *“No, Eve, please do it now.”*

A few evenings later she said to my Mother, *“Eve, please read me from John chapter 14 tonight.”* *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I*

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would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2-3. When Mother then aided Grandmother upstairs, on reaching the landing, she turned and said: “Eve, I’m home now!”

Next morning, as Mother took Grandmother her usual early morning cup of tea, Grandmother was already ‘Home’—‘Home’ with her beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. No not dead, but gone before! Then, on my twelfth birthday, I was given my first Bible.

Little did Grandmother know the important role that the Bible would have in my life. Just as she loved and served her Savior while on earth, so she continued to minister after her Home call by giving me a Bible.

Sixty years later, when Mother and Father went to heaven they lovingly left Dorothy and me a bequest. Prayerfully, we thought it right and proper to donate this money for the distribution of Bibles to the suffering church in China: *“Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account”* Philippians 4:17.

Over the years, through the Lord’s enabling, CCIM have also supplied hundreds of thousands of Bibles to Africa

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in multiple languages. This vital ministry will continue as the Lord provides after Dorothy and I have gone to heaven.

The Lord Jesus Himself said: *“I have given them Thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world”* John 17:14.

The cutting edge of the Word of God is lost when it is popularized to draw a crowd. True followers of Christ are not called to be conformed to this world but to be transformed in this world and become distinctive people.

In the Beatitudes, the Lord Jesus said: *“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”* Matthew 5:11-12.

Dear weary pilgrim, take heart when the world hates you for Christ’s sake. *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* Romans 8:18.

Referring back to the book of Revelation, we read of the holy city where believers will live forever and ever with the Lord Jesus: *“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven . . .*

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*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God . . . and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal . . . and the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, **and the Lamb is the light thereof**”* Revelation 21:2, 3, 10, 11, 23.

The Lamb of God, our beloved Lord Jesus—Yeshua—will be the light of the gloryland! The redeeming work is finished and Jesus sits on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

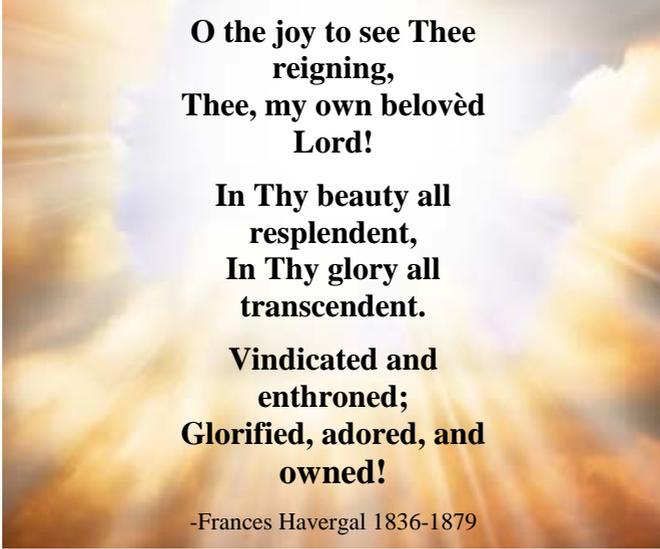
It fills me with astonishment and wonder to know that, with exceeding joy, the Lord Himself will present me—an unworthy sinner saved by grace—to His Beloved Father! Certainly it will not be because of anything I have done. It will be all about what He has done when: *“He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied”* Isaiah 53:11. Thank you, Lord Jesus!

*“Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory **with exceeding joy**, to the only wise God our Savior, be*

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glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen” Jude 24-25. Hallelujah and Hallelujah! Amen!

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**O the joy to see Thee
reigning,
Thee, my own beloved
Lord!**

**In Thy beauty all
resplendent,
In Thy glory all
transcendent.**

**Vindicated and
enthroned;
Glorified, adored, and
owned!**

-Frances Havergal 1836-1879

Spiritual Check-up

- ◆ Am I enjoying a living fellowship with the eternal God? If not, am I willing to humble myself and confess my sins?
- ◆ Do I daily cherish the Bible as God's personal word to my heart?
- ◆ Do I live as if the world is my home or is my priority to bring as many people as possible with me to heaven?

Other books by Dr. Richard A. Bennett

“Your Quest for God” is much sought after in multiple languages both for personal help and as a tool for personal witness.

“Food for Faith” It is possible to study many recipes and yet remain hungry. “Food for Faith” will encourage you to appreciate God’s Word; to appropriate God’s Word and to assimilate God’s Word. Only in this way will your spiritual appetite be nourished.

“The Love of God” Greater than human love! Just as a ray of light enters a glass prism and emerges in all the beautiful hues of the rainbow, so love enters the mind of Paul’s illuminated intelligence and emerges in the glorious spectrum of the fruit of *The Love of God*.

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