

The Gospel Preceptor

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Psa 119:104

Volume 4, Number 2

Published Monthly

February, 2021

Does the Truth Need Defending?

Dub McClish

Introduction

It is becoming increasingly popular to take the position that the Truth does not need to be defended. In their mad rush to avoid what they label “negativism,” some have taken the untenable stance that it is not even the Christian’s responsibility to defend the Truth. Logan J. Fox credits the adoption of this premise as the first step he took in his surrender of the Truth:

The first step was the discovery that truth is self-validating and needs no external supports.... I still remember the night I decided that I did not need to carry truth on my frail shoulders, that it could stand by itself or it wasn’t the truth. And so I unloaded the burden I had been carrying and said, ‘Tonight I will go to sleep and not worry about truth.’ With what relief and joyful ecstasy I opened my eyes in the morning to find that truth had survived the night without my help! I have never since worried about defending truth.... I cannot exaggerate the importance this has had for me.... (p. 17).

Perhaps few have more completely made “shipwreck of the faith” than Logan Fox in recent years. In the years since Fox wrote this description of his theological pilgrimage, others have adopted this dictum that was of signal importance in releasing him from the “shackles” of “Church of Christism.”

In an article titled, “Moslems or Christians?” Don McGaughey wrote:

The ironical aspect of such tragic dealings on the part of the Medieval Church, is that they were done in the name of “defending the faith.” The Medieval Ecclesiastics thought that God’s word needed protection. It did not! It never has! God’s word is living and active, and strong enough to defend itself. In seeking to defend the Word of God, these well-intentioned defenders, disarm the Holy Word by not allowing it to speak for itself (p. 3).

“Defensive” Lectureship?

In a 1972 editorial in the *Nashville Christian News*, the writer ridiculed one of the Colleges operated by brethren for having what he termed a “defensive” lectureship. The writer went on to opine that it was an indication of a lack of faith to be so concerned about apostasy. A church bulletin came across my desk a few months ago with an editorial titled, “Contending Earnestly for the Faith,” with the following statements in it:

Wars have been fought in the name of “defending the faith.” Others have taken the scriptures and, using them as their club, endeavored to beat their opposition into subjection. Fighting for the truth has sometimes taken a form of self-righteousness that says we know God’s way or have all the answers: if you want salvation, join us. We must never mistakenly place ourselves in the place that only Christ must occupy. The fact is God’s truth does not need defending... We must simply proclaim it. It can defend itself.

It is interesting, to say the least, that the author would make such statements in an article purportedly teaching men how to contend for the faith.

Others would have Gospel papers eliminate all exposure of false doctrine and defence of the Truth, as indicated by the following from Guy N. Woods: “Superficial and shallow souls have often criticized our gospel papers because controversial matters often appear. Such people should instead thank God that there are those who love the truth sufficiently to contend for it” (p. 281).

Scripture Urges a Militant Defence

The idea that the Truth will triumph to the greatest possible degree and that the church will remain the church without strong defence of the Truth is patently erroneous as shown by the following:

First, the scriptures teach the possibility of apostasy for individuals (Gal. 5:4; Heb. 2:1–3; et al.) and for entire congregations (Rev. 2:5; 3:16, et al.). The foregoing quotations very nearly imply the doctrine of the impossibility of apostasy for the church. The misguided souls who hold this view seem to believe in a supernatural control of some sort over the church that will automatically keep it doctrinally pure, whether we, as members of the body remain doctrinally sound or not. Both the teaching of Scripture and the lessons of history teach the opposite.

Second, God has chosen to use men as his instruments of Truth, both for revelation and for conservation. He revealed the “mystery” to select individuals who proclaimed it both orally and graphically (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:10–13; Gal. 1:12, et al.). While I doubt not that He could have **revealed** it **directly** to **all** men personally, the fact remains that He chose to use human instruments to herald the Truth (Mat. 28:19; Mark 16:15; 2 Cor. 4:7, et al.). Likewise, He could have chosen to **defend** the Truth **directly** through all ages, but it is evident that He gave this responsibility to the same ones who are to proclaim it. Indeed, one does not faithfully proclaim the Truth if he fails to defend it when it comes under attack. Those who heap ridicule upon good men and women who are concerned about the cancer of liberalism, which is eating at the vitals of the church, calling us “saviors of the church” and the like, may someday look back and wish there had been more of us.

Third, if insistence upon the need to defend, as well as to proclaim, the Faith is “much ado about nothing,” then why preach at all? If we are not to defend the Faith because “truth is its own best defender,” then what is the purpose of any preaching at all? By the same logic, Truth should be “its own best proclaimer” and **all** teaching efforts (including sermons, books, classes, personal evangelism, et al.) are both superfluous and wasteful, therefore foolish. After all, men have the Bible; why trouble them with any preaching or teaching? Such is the logical conclusion of this thinking. The conclusion is correct, but its premise is egregiously flawed.

Fourth, the only ultimate justification for all our evangelistic efforts is to propagate the Truth that makes men free (John 8:31–32). Not just any message will do this, but only **the truth**, which Christ identified as the Word of God (17:17). Stated another way, the world cannot be saved apart from the Gospel (Mark 16:15–16; Rom. 1:16). Half-truths leave men in bondage, and a perverted Gospel results in damnation (Gal. 1:6–9). Against such a background, the maintenance of the purity of New Testament Truth and doctrine is of surpassing importance—which implies opposing those who corrupt it.

Fifth, the Scriptures abound with exhortations to defend the Truth. Consider the following:

- Paul commanded the Romans to mark the ones among them who were living “contrary to the doctrine” they had learned (Rom. 16:17).
- He urged the Corinthians to “stand fast in the faith” (1 Cor. 16:3).
- He instructed the Ephesian saints to equip themselves fully with the Truth and to take up the “sword of the Spirit,” God’s Word, in order to withstand the “wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11–17).

- He told the Philippians that he was “set for the defence of the gospel” (was Paul’s behavior exemplary or not?). Further, they were all to “stand fast” as one in “striving for the faith of the gospel.” Only by such behavior would their manner of life be worthy of the Gospel (Phi. 1:16, 27). Paul was clearly not of the non-defender persuasion. His letters to Timothy and Titus abound with principles relating to defending the Truth:
- Timothy was to remind the brethren that they must not teach a different doctrine (1 Tim. 1:3).
- A good servant of Christ will warn about apostasy and contrast the Truth with error (4:1–6).
- A preacher’s salvation depends upon his continued attention both to his personal and his doctrinal correctness (v. 16).
- Timothy was to reprove publicly even elders who erred (5:20).
- Paul depicted one who teaches a different doctrine and argues with sound words as a proud ignoramus, a provoker of ungodly strife, and a man of corrupted mind who has abandoned the Truth (vv. 3–5).
- Timothy was to faithfully teach the message he had received of Paul to dependable men who would likewise teach it to others (2 Tim. 2:1–2).
- Before one can be approved of God he must handle the Word of Truth correctly (v. 15).
- Those who err concerning the Truth would overthrow the faith of some saints, therefore Timothy was to correct such in meekness (vv. 18, 25).
- Paul strictly charged Timothy to “preach the word,”—including reproofing and rebuking—in all circumstances, because the time would come when the saints would turn away from “sound doctrine.” In spite of this, the faithful preacher should be willing to suffer whatever necessary to accomplish his work (4:1–5).
- Elders are not only to “exhort” in the “sound doctrine,” but also to “convict the gainsayers” (Tit. 1:9).

Many other passages emphasize this same theme, which is one of the most prevalent and persistent themes of the New Testament, namely, that the Truth of God’s Word must be guarded, protected, and defended at all costs when it is opposed.

Sixth, to declare that the Faith needs no defence is to stamp countless courageous efforts of the past and present as wasted. Stephen died needlessly by this reasoning (Acts 7:52–60). Paul was certainly misinformed and should never have spoken so rudely to Elymas (13:8–12), nor should he have appeared before Felix, Festus, or Agrippa in defence of the Faith and of his own behavior relative to it (24:10–21; 25:7–8; 26:1–29). Paul should never have rebuked Peter (Gal. 2:11), and Priscilla and Aquila were out of order to take Apollos aside and expound unto him the “way of God more accurately” (18:26). To negate the need for defending the Faith is to sit in judgment of the lives and works of all the faithful prophets of both the Old and the New Testaments, along with every faithful uninspired Gospel preacher of the past and present.

Conclusion

This *the-Truth-needs-no-defense* premise strikes at the very foundation of the nature of the Truth. Truth, in whatever field of study, never ceases to be truth just because men ignore, deny, or forget it, but this is no excuse for allowing it to be mutilated and corrupted while we remain mute. Such is a grievous dereliction of duty. The very suggestion smacks much of seeking the favor of men more than of God (Gal. 1:10). Rather than evidencing a lack of faith if one **defends** the Truth, the **anti-defender** is the one lacking sufficient faith to obey plain, repeated statements of Scripture and to follow the example of the Lord and the apostles in their proclamation of the Word. It is hardly a demonstration of faith to stand silently by and watch the Truth be ruthlessly slaughtered. I believe as strongly as anybody in the ultimate victory of the Lord and the

glorification of his bride, but such promises do not guarantee a doctrinally pure body apart from a consistent effort on our part to keep it pure.

Guy N. Woods is correct in his observation: “If we do not stand up for the truth, there will eventually be no truth among us to stand up for!” (p. 281). Edmund Burke's famous quotation is also appropriate: “All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing.” Finally, brethren, “Preach the word; be urgent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Tim. 4:2).

Works Cited

Fox, Logan J. “Destiny or Disease?” *Voices of Concern*, ed. Robert Meyers (St. Louis, MO: Mission Messenger, 1966).

McGaughey, Don. *Action*. Ed. Jimmy Lovell. May 1967.

Woods, Guy N. “Editorial.” *Gospel Advocate*. Ed. Guy N. Woods. May 3, 1973.

The Pattern Of Acceptable Worship

Jerry C. Brewer

Neither the time, place, nor acts of acceptable worship to God have ever been left to man's discretion. This is seen in the first recorded instance of worship in Genesis 4. Abel offered his worship, “by faith” (Heb. 11:4). That means that God prescribed the acts, items, and place of his worship because, “faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). God's word produced the faith in Abel that motivated his worship. On the other hand, Cain offered worship that was a product of his own wisdom and device. Because he refused to offer what God prescribed, he did not offer worship “by faith” and was rejected.

When God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac, He said, “Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of” (Gen. 22:2), The time— following a three day journey (Gen. 22:4), the place—upon a mountain designated by God in the land of Moriah, and the act of worship—a burnt offering of his son, Isaac—were all designated by God. Abraham was not told merely to “worship.” He was given specific instructions of how, when, and where to worship. He had no “worship of his choice.”

Upon arriving at the place designated by God, Abraham told the men who accompanied them, “...I and the lad will go yonder and worship...” (Gen. 22:5). The Hebrew word *sachah*, which is here rendered “worship,” means “to prostrate, to bow down, crouch, fall down, humbly beseech, do obeisance, do reverence, make to stoop” (*Strong's Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*, p. 114). The Greek word for “worship” in the New Testament is *proskuneo* and is defined essentially in the same manner: “To kiss like a dog licking its master's hand, to fawn or crouch, prostrate oneself in homage, do reverence, adore” (*Strong's Greek Dictionary of The New Testament*, p. 61).

There is a pattern of acceptable, prescribed by God, in the New Testament which must be followed in order to please Him. Jesus said true worship must be offered “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). While the specifics of New Testament worship must be found in other places, Jesus stated the basis upon which acceptable worship may be offered to God in that verse.

To worship “in spirit” is to prostrate oneself before God with the recognition that He is the Giver and Sustainer of all life and that we are totally dependent upon Him in whom we live, move, and have our very being (Acts 17:28). Furthermore, it is to offer worship to God from a heart that desires to worship God—that longs to express its gratitude to Him. Of necessity, such a desire requires men to prepare for worship. Abraham made preparation by gathering the necessary items, such as the fire and the wood, to carry with him on his three-day journey. He did not go, as is often the case today, at the last minute with no forethought of worshipping God.

To worship “in truth” is to worship according to God’s word. Jesus said, “Thy word is truth” (John 17:17). That eliminates all the concerts and dramas that are called “worship” by the denominational entertainment industry today. If they are not “in truth”—authorized by God’s word—and they are not, they are vain and sinful acts of “worship” (Matt. 15:9).

God specified in the New Testament those acts of worship in which Christians are to engage. They are singing (Eph. 5:19), praying (1 Tim. 2:8), preaching God’s word (Acts 20:7), eating the Lord’s Supper in Memory of Christ’s death (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-26), and giving of our material prosperity to support the Lord’s work (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6). All of these are commanded by God as acts of worship and *must* be done if our worship would be “by faith.” The manner (in spirit and in truth), the time (on the first day of the week), the place (in the assembly of the saints (Heb. 2:12; 1 Cor. 11:17), and the acts (those delineated above) are all specified in the New Testament pattern. *Only* in this way can we offer worship to God that He will accept. All else is vain (Matt. 15:9).

The Pope and “Same-Sex Marriage”

Jess Whitlock

EDITOR’S NOTE: The *Garvin County News Star* is the newspaper serving Maysville, Okla. where brother Whitlock preaches. This paper bends over backward to accommodate every type of sin from denominationalism to sodomy. It once refused to print brother Whitlock’s article about “Cowboy Churches” and has recently refused to print the below article. Brother Whitlock is given a column on a rotating monthly basis which he titles “Bible Questions Deserve Bible Answers.” His column was printed each week in November, except for the week in which he wrote this article.

QUESTION: The Pope has given his approval and blessing to same-sex marriage. Is this in accord with the teaching of the Bible?

ANSWER: Actually, this is diametrically opposed to the authoritative Word of God. The Supreme Court passed a “law approving same-sex marriage” June 26, 2015. You cannot legislate morality and there is no such thing as same-sex marriage! In the beginning God made them Adam and Eve; not Adam and Steve (Gen. 2:18-25). The sin of so-called “same-sex” marriage is condemned in the pages of God’s Word.

There are three dispensations covered from Genesis to Revelation. The Patriarchal age, the Mosaical age, and the Christian age, under which we live today. Under the Patriarchal age we recall the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18; 19). Genesis 18:20 declares, “...their sin is very grievous.” Two angels spent the night in the house of Lot. The men of the city became a mob desiring to have relations with the men (angels). The men of Sodom “...drew near to break the door” (Gen. 19:9). The angels take over and “...smote the men that were at the door with blindness” (Gen. 19:11). Even though miraculously blinded, in their depravity they “wearied themselves to find the door.” Genesis 19:24 affirms that “Jehovah rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire...” Jesus confirmed God’s condemnation of sinful Sodom in Matthew 11:23-24. In 2nd Peter 2:6 we read, “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, having made them an example unto those that should live ungodly.” Jude 7 cites this sin as being “strange flesh.”

Under the Mosaical age, God is still against the sin of man lying with man, or woman lying with woman in carnal knowlege. “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind; it is abomination” (Lev. 18:22; cf. 20:13). The Hebrew word for “abomination” is defined: “unlawful, hateful, offensive, unclean, etc.” “There shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel” (Deut. 23:17). We know that there were “sodomites in the land” (1 Kings 14:24; 15:12; 22:46). The term *sodomite* is the equivalent of *homosexual*.

Some will say that we are not under the Patriarchal and Mosaical ages today. That is true, we now are in the Christian dispensation that will last until Christ comes again.

In Matthew 19:4-5 Jesus says that from the beginning God created them “male and female.” Search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and not one time will you read that in the beginning God made them “male and male” or “female and female.” Let your fingers do the walkin’ and let the Bible do the talkin’:

For this cause God gave them up unto vile passions: for their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working unseemliness, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was due (Rom. 1:26-27).

Paul also wrote by inspiration about the sinfulness of “...fornicators, abusers of themselves with men...” (1 Tim. 1:10). If you are unsure about the meaning of “abusers of themselves with men” consider the *New King James Version*: “for fornicators, for sodomites.” Notice please: “Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Does that mean there is no hope for the LGBTQ+ crowd? No, not at all. Some in the church at Corinth had been guilty of these very sins. Paul states: “And such were some of you: but ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.” (1st Cor. 6:11). Any sinner can receive forgiveness for any sin with repentance and baptism into Christ Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27). I shall not be listed with any preacher or the Pope who sanctions the sin of homosexuality.

The “Failure” of Jesus

Dub McClish

A popular theological system advances the following theses:

- The Jews of Jesus’ day “surprised” God the Father by rejecting His Son, their Messiah.
- This rejection prevented Jesus’ from establishing the earthly kingdom He intended to establish at His first coming.
- As an emergency measure, Jesus established His church to suffice until He returns.
- When He returns, He will establish an earthly political kingdom, which will endure for one thousand years.

If this system of theology is true, Jesus failed at His first coming. If He did not fail, this system is false. To even imply that Almighty God was “surprised” by the rejection of His Son is to blasphemously deny His omniscience. Moreover, it denies prophetic announcements of said rejection (e.g., Isa. 53, written seven centuries B.C.).

The rejection of Jesus, resulting in His crucifixion, did not thwart the establishment of His kingdom. Without question, the Jewish leadership’s rejection of Jesus would have prevented His establishment of a political domain—had He come for that purpose. But their fatal error (and that of the modern future-kingdom theorists) was their expectation of an earthly reign of the prophesied Messiah. They envisioned for their nation a revival of the glory days of the kingdoms of David and Solomon dominion of ten centuries earlier, which would throw off the despised yoke of Rome. They sought to force Jesus to be their king on one occasion, but He refused it and fled (John 6:15).

The church was no emergency substitute for failed kingdom plans. Rather, the church is that kingdom He came to—and did—establish. In the same breath, He promised to build His church, and He identified it as the “at-hand” kingdom (Mat. 16:18; 4:17). Paul reminded the Colossian saints that God had “translated” them into the kingdom (Col. 1:13). John was “in the kingdom” with the brethren he addressed (Rev. 1:9). The church is the “kingdom that cannot be shaken,” prophesied by Daniel (Heb. 12:23, 28; cf. Dan. 2:44).

Jesus' kingdom is spiritual, not temporal or political, in nature. When He comes again, He will deliver His presently-existing kingdom to the Father in Heaven, not establish one on earth (1 Cor. 15:24). Jesus told Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). What part of Jesus' plain statement can Bible readers not understand?

Reversing Self-Destruction

Lee Moses

"O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help" (Hos. 13:9).

The nation of Israel had a long history of self-destruction. At the very time God chose them to be His special people and was in the act of giving them His Divine Law to govern them, they responded by rejecting Him and choosing a statue to be their God (Exo. 32:1-6). When they were about to receive their own land, their sudden change of heart caused them instead to die in the wilderness (Num. 13-14).

Unsatisfied with simply submitting to God as their King, Israel demanded a human king in whom they could place their trust (1 Sam. 8:4-5). Then the northern tribes demanded a king of their own, separate from the lineage of David enthroned by God at Jerusalem (1 Kin. 12:16-20). However, their highly esteemed king was a power-hungry idolater, who "made Israel to sin" (14:16); a refrain repeated throughout that kingdom's existence (2 Kin. 17:24, et al.). This is why, in Hosea's day, God said to Israel, "Thou hast destroyed thyself" (cf. Hos. 13:10-11).

Any fool can see that our nation is following a similar course to destruction. Large numbers of people openly reject the word of God, and our families and our cities are being destroyed as a result. The nation's government sanctions the slaughter of innocent children in the womb, its celebrities treat sodomy and confusion over one's gender as a badge of honor, and its civil servants are verbally mocked and physically attacked for enforcing right laws. "Pride goeth before destruction" (Prov. 16:18); and our pride is why we reject God's word. In America, we have virtually everything material one could ever desire. And because we have so much, we think we have no need of God (cf. Deut. 8:1-20; Prov. 30:7-9). However, we have forgotten that every blessing we have came from God (Jas. 1:17). If we remain on this course, all that is assured is deeper ignorance and greater destruction. And we will have no one to blame but ourselves—it is truly self-destruction.

But this course is not irreversible. Even though God spoke of Israel's destruction as a done deed—"thou hast destroyed thyself"—He still offered hope. He added, "But in me is thine help." He still offers the same to us today (cf. John 7:37; Heb. 13:6). God does not retract this offer of help and hope when times are tough. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psa. 46:1).

When one rejects this help, it only assures final and complete destruction. As the American Standard Version renders Hosea 13:9, "It is thy destruction, O Israel, that thou art against me, against thy help."

The answer for Israel was not to be found in their kings or other political leaders. Likewise, it is folly for Americans to seek our deliverance via political leaders.

"O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity" (Hos. 14:1). Our nation is moving dangerously toward self-destruction, as is much of the Lord's church, through pride, rejection of God's word, and iniquity. By the grace of God, let us seek to reverse that, beginning with ourselves.

Lessons From a Lost Soul

Marvin L. Weir

The "rich man" in Luke 16 had to pass from this life and into eternal torment before admitting to a wasted life while on this earth. How sad! But Jesus warns, "no man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will

hold to one, and despise the other” (Matt. 6:24). Both God and mammon **demand** the mastery over a person. The Pharisees sought to justify before men their love of money and mammon while ignoring the fact that God knew their hearts and considered the things they exalted as an abomination (Luke 16:14-15). The Master's words that follow about “a certain rich man” and “a certain beggar” (not a parable) are solemn, serious, and worthy of remembering. Let us reflect seriously upon the lessons we may learn from the Lord's remarks.

A person may appear successful and have a pleasing appearance in the sight of men, but be absolutely corrupt and nauseating to God. The “purple and fine linen” (Luke 16:19) that impresses and blinds worldly people does not dazzle God or guarantee His acceptance! In fact, so many professing Christians today who believe they have need of nothing and most surely will inherit Heaven are in God's eyes wretched, poor, blind, and naked (Rev. 3:17). The Lord called the Pharisees “blind” and admonished them to “cleanse first the inside of the cup and of the platter, that the outside thereof may become clean also” (Matt. 23:26). Jehovah made it clear to Samuel regarding Saul: “Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for Jehovah seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

A man can be disgusting and poor in the eyes of his neighbor, but be pleasing and rich in the eyes of God. Lazarus was no doubt the object of disdain to his rich and prosperous contemporaries, but God was not judging the poor beggar by what he did not have and could not help. There is no doubt but that the “inside” of the beggar “full of sores” (Luke 16:20) was in much better condition than the “inside” of the rich man who was “faring sumptuously every day” (Luke 16:19). It would also be safe to say that most people of Lazarus' day were more impressed with the rich man than the sore-ridden and destitute beggar. It is not uncommon for the character of faithful children of God to be held in low esteem by the influential and wealthy of the world. The soul of Lazarus, however, was indeed precious to God even though its container was no longer impressive or pleasing to one's sight. Most of us have lived long enough to realize that many people we once were impressed with did not turn out as we thought!

A man may receive only the burial of a pauper, but be “carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom” (Luke 16:22). It is not what one has accumulated in this life that will be of importance in the day of his death. Neither is how one is treated in this life what matters most. People need to be very careful as to what they allow to influence them in this life. What will one day matter to every person is whether or not the angels carry their souls to Abraham's bosom.

A person may have a pompous funeral, but in reality be a poor, miserable soul (vs. 22-23). It is indeed a truth that there would be more **genuine mourners** at funerals if only they could see within the veil. Here is a thought that should cause one to think soberly upon his life. People eulogize the **past** of one who has departed this life, but what about his **present**? What if people could hear the wails of lost souls in torment? Would the preacher hearing the cries of one in torment cause him to change what he would otherwise say at a funeral service? What if the audience could hear the cries of the lost? Would they then believe what is said at most funeral services?

A man may in this world be a millionaire, but in the world to come not be able to receive even a small act of compassion (v. 24). Mercy and comfort cannot be purchased in eternity. Those who choose to serve “mammon” (Matt. 6:24) and profit while on this earth quickly discover in eternity that the wealth they accumulated is not evidence that their soul is right with God. So many today equate success in this world as God approving of their lives. The rich man's thirst for a simple drop of water is a terrible shock to one who never suffered want and who lived only for the gratification of the flesh.

A person who neglects and ignores his obligations and responsibilities in this life will have an eternity to recall his folly! “Son, remember that in thy lifetime...” (v. 25) are words that will haunt many souls throughout an eternal hell! A

wasted lifetime is a tragedy. In this lifetime, one has an opportunity to lay up “treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:20) Failure to do so will ensure anguish in flaming fire throughout eternity!

A unrighteous person may be in the midst of righteous people in this world, but the day will come when he will be eternally separated (v. 26). Earthly relationships will mean nothing when the “great gulf [is] fixed.” As proclaimers of the gospel have stated for years, when one finds his soul lost in torment all the prayers and penance of the papacy or of purgatory will never bridge the great gulf, for it is **forever fixed**, and one will not cross over to the other side.

A lost man in torment will realize that his prayers for himself or others avail nothing (vv. 24, 27-28). It is too late to care about one's own soul or the souls of others in eternity. The rich man did not want his brothers to come to where he was. He thought if one went to them from the dead they would repent (v. 30). Abraham's answer needs to be understood today. Listen carefully! “If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, if one rise from the dead” (v. 31).

God speaks to all today through His Son (Heb. 1:2). The Son speaks to all through His inspired Word. Again, listen carefully! “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

Will you benefit from these lessons from a lost soul?

“From Sinking Sand to Shades of Light” “He Lifted Me”

Holley Rebekah Brewer

Dec. 15, 2020

6:06 PM: “Your dad passed out...Just wanted to give you a heads up.”

6:48 PM: “Gonna go ahead and have an ambulance take him to hospital since we can’t get him off the floor and he’s still feeling bad.”

Those two text messages from my sister-in-law began a 66-day journey that put my faith in James 5:16 to the test.

It was discovered at the Great Plains Regional Hospital later that night that my dad, Jerry Brewer, was having a massive stroke. We were told that the nurse left him in an examination room, and when she returned, he was unable to speak and the right side of his face was drooping. He was given a “clot-busting” drug and taken by ambulance to Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. Had it not been for the recent snow storm, he would have been flown by helicopter.

He had surgery in the middle of the night to remove a large blood clot on the left side of his brain. The surgeon also placed a stent in his left carotid artery, where the clot had originated.

The next day, the neurologist called my mother to give her an update on his condition. “He has atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) all throughout his neck and his brain...The stroke was so severe last night that we had to put him in a sedated coma to protect his brain, so he is on a ventilator.” The plan was to start waking him up the next day; however, due to the fact that he could not clear his secretions, he developed pneumonia and had to stay on the ventilator. He was in a medically-induced coma for 23 days while in the ICU at Mercy Hospital.

On Dec. 18, I wrote the following on Facebook:

There really hasn’t been much change. He is still on a ventilator, and he is still sedated. They switched him today to a different sedation medication that is easier to come off of. The nurse I just spoke with said the plan is to wean him off of both of those tomorrow. We still do not know the extent of the damage. They do have him on an antibiotic because there is some concern about pneumonia.

Information is sparse and hard to come by. When we call, we often talk to a different nurse each time. This is just so frustrating not being able to be up there and see him and see his condition and talk directly to the doctors and the nurses

Later tonight, my mom is going to get to at least talk to him on the phone and, hopefully, he will hear her voice and be comforted.

My mom is the toughest woman I know, but this is very hard on her. Please continue to pray for her for strength and peace and clarity in the coming days as she makes decisions. And, of course, continue to pray for him.

Much love ❤️

James 5:16

Dec. 20 Facebook post:

Yesterday morning, with his hands restrained, my dad managed to pull his ventilator and feeding tubes out. Leave it to my strong-willed dad to extubate himself! But I'm seeing that as a good sign that he's still in there and fighting.

They left the feeding tube out for a while. He was not able to swallow, so it is back in, along with the ventilator, as he was still coughing up "stuff" from his lungs. He is still not speaking or responding to commands.

Again, thank you so much for the messages and prayers and good thoughts that we have been receiving. I have faith that he will get better!

Much love ❤️

James 5:16

Dec. 21 Facebook post:

Because his lungs are too weak to be without it, Dad remains on a ventilator. This means he remains sedated, which limits the ability to accurately assess his neurological functioning.

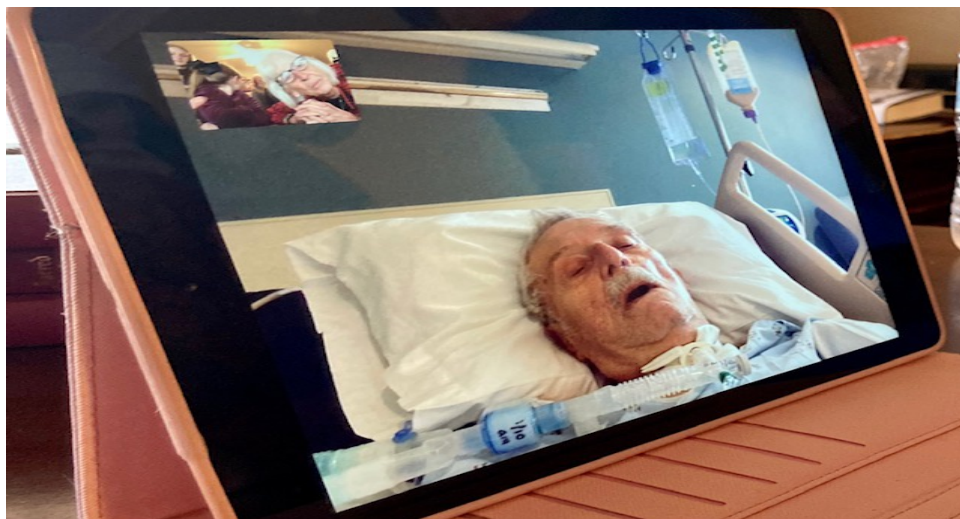
Since he will need a ventilator until his lungs improve, the medical team wants to move him to a long-term acute care hospital (LTACH). His case manager is trying to locate an LTACH facility that has room and agrees to take him; he could be transferred as soon as this happens.

The neurologist believes that he will improve with rehabilitation therapy, but first his lungs must clear so that he can be removed from the ventilator and the accompanying sedation.

Now we wait!

James 5:16

Facetime picture, Dec. 21, 2020 Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City



Dec. 24 Facebook post:

We are still in a holding pattern waiting for the stars to align: a facility to accept Dad, one that is in network, and one that the insurance company will approve and say they

are ready to pay for. Because of the holiday and the weekend, it is doubtful we will know anything until Monday at the earliest.

We did get to speak to the doctor this morning, and he assured us that dad is stable. He also said that he will get as good of care there at Mercy as he would at a long-term acute care facility right now. Dad is off the antibiotic, so I'm taking that as a good sign that his lungs are improving.

My mom, my niece, and I called my dad last night and we got to talk and sing to him. We could hear him coughing something fierce! I figured he was just telling us that he could hear us and wanted to join in the singing! 🎵

We are going ahead with our usual plans for tonight. We figured Dad would want it that way and canceling Christmas wouldn't change his situation.

If you are lucky enough to spend the holiday with your dad, do me a favor and hug his neck!

Merry Christmas and much love ❤️🌲

James 5:16



Dec. 31 Facebook post:

The pulmonologist called this morning and said the plan is to perform a tracheostomy on Dad, possibly as soon as today. The insurance company is requiring him to have the trach tube and a feeding tube in his stomach (not in his nose like it is now) before they will allow him to be moved to a long-term acute care facility. It's better anyway because it's not as uncomfortable as the ventilator tube. The biggest concern during the surgery is the clotting because they have him on a blood thinner due to the clot that was on his brain. So they have to be very careful and watch that his blood clots after the surgery. The doctor said they will monitor him for about a day and then start slowly taking the sedation off. He is back on an antibiotic because he has pneumonia again due to the secretions he is unable to clear. The doctor did say that his oxygen levels are good, and he is able to breathe on his own. We were very happy to hear that! I'm not going to give up on him until we bring him home! 💜

James 5:16

Jan. 1 Facebook post:

My mom spoke to the doctor this morning. They are going to keep Dad sedated all weekend to let him heal from the tracheostomy surgery (the ventilator is out!). The plan is to do the stomach feeding tube on Monday if everything goes well over the weekend. He said Dad is doing really well and he looks good.

Great news to start 2021!

James 5:16

Jan. 5 Facebook post:

3 weeks. 21 days.

There isn't really much to report but I have had people reach out to me the past few days wanting to know if there was any news, so I thought I would post. Dad is getting the feeding tube in his stomach today. Once he is healed from that, then we can petition the insurance company to allow his move to a long-term care facility. The nurses say he does wake up when they take the sedation off, but that he just looks around and doesn't talk or respond to their commands.

I call every night for an update (and sometimes during the day, too) and they often let me talk to him. Sunday night the nurse said he opened his eyes when he heard my voice! On New Year's Eve I called and played a song for him, "Daddy, What If." He and I used to sing it together when we lived in Texas. It's our special song.

I know many people are praying for him and for my family; we appreciate it so very much. My mom needs all the prayers and positive thoughts sent her way that she can get as this is difficult for her.

Much love ❤️

James 5:16

Jan. 7 Facebook post:

The plan is to move Dad to Select Specialty Hospital (a long-term acute care facility) in Oklahoma City at 6:00 this evening. They plan to take him off the sedation and put him on a regular floor (finally out of ICU!).

The nurse I spoke to yesterday said that the physical therapist had him sitting up on the edge of the bed. When she came in, his eyes were shut. When she called his name, he opened his eyes and looked over at her, which she said was a good sign.

A different nurse told my brother this evening that Dad squeezed her finger when she asked him to and even smiled! That brought tears to my eyes when I heard it. Baby steps!!

Please pray for a successful transfer to this new hospital and that he does not contract Covid. That is one of my biggest fears. At Mercy, he was on a non-Covid ward. I'm not sure that will be the case now.

Hopefully, they can start to assess the damage since they are going to have him off the sedation. The rehab process can then begin!

James 5:16

Jan. 8 Facebook post:

They finally got Dad moved to Select Specialty Hospital last night about 10:00. There was a delay due to EMSA. The nurse called my mom this morning at 7:00 to let her know that he was there and doing fine.

I called the hospital about 3:00 and spoke to the nurse. She let me talk to him, and she said he smiled and shook his head while I was talking. My mom and my brother had called earlier and had gotten a similar response from him. The nurse said he acted like he wanted to talk but just couldn't. We were so happy to hear that report!

We are going to take an iPad up to the hospital and leave it there so we can FaceTime with him. I am anxious to see what he looks like and what his reactions will be.

The case manager told Mom this morning that he will be at that hospital 20-25 days (per insurance) and then probably moved to a rehab center, such as Jim Thorpe, for a while.

Things are looking up! ❤️ James 5:16

Jan. 9 Facebook post:

My niece and I made a flying trip to Oklahoma City this morning to drop off my iPad. It was so hard to be in that hospital on the first floor and not be able to go up to the second floor and see him.

Tonight, I got to FaceTime with him, and he was awake! It was the first time I had FaceTimed with him since Christmas Eve. This time he didn't have all those tubes in him! It was so wonderful to see his face, and I believe he knew who I was. He was moving his head and opening his mouth a little as if he wanted to speak. When we got ready to hang up, the nurse said that was the most response he had gotten out of Dad since he's been at that facility. More baby steps!

James 5:16

Jan. 9, Second day at Select Specialty Hospital in Oklahoma City.



January 10, Family FaceTime session. We were thrilled when Dad raised his hand after my 6-year-old niece Sophie spoke to him. Jan. 10. My mom singing to my dad on FaceTime.



Jan. 15 Facebook post:

One month ago today our world was changed when my dad had a stroke. The past month seems like a bad dream; however, I am so very thankful to God for Dad's progress.

According to one of Dad's nurses, he has been weaned from the ventilator, which means that he is breathing on his own. He is also able to cough on his own and clear his lungs. Both of these developments are very good.

His trach tube has been downsized. The next step is to “cap it,” which “should” enable him to speak, which he hasn't done since December 15.

He continues to receive physical therapy each day, and he's begun speech therapy. Yesterday his nurse told us that he sat up (likely with help) on the side of his bed, and he comprehended commands.

At least one family member FaceTimes with him every day. He is more responsive some days, less so others. We still don't know how much of what we say he understands or what the range of his vocabulary will be when he is able to speak, but we hope for the best.

I talked to him last night and told him all I wanted for my birthday today was for him to get better and finally come home.

Please keep the prayers and good thoughts coming 🙏

Much love to all 💜

James 5:16

Jan. 18 Facebook post:

Good days and bad days. Ups and downs. Highs and lows. Two steps forward and one step back. This has been life for us the past five weeks.

On Saturday, we took an iPad to Dad that is set to answer automatically. We also took three poster boards full of pictures that are clearly labeled with each person's name underneath, along with some framed pictures.

While waiting in the lobby, the nurse waved at us from the window. My heart hurt to be so close to him and not be able to go up to his room.

Later that afternoon, we called and I got a late birthday present. He was awake and so responsive to us! We asked if he wanted us to sing, and he mouthed “yes.” He was trying so hard to sing with us. It was a great FaceTime session!

Since then, however, he has been either sleeping or unresponsive. Sometimes when we call, the iPad won't answer or it's facing away from him, so we are unable to see him.

The speech therapist did say today that the plan is to remove his trach tube in 72 hours. Once that is out, he can hopefully begin to speak.

Keep the prayers and positive thoughts coming!

Much love ❤️

James 5:16

After we dropped off the iPad, we stayed in the hospital lobby and FaceTimed with Dad to make sure it would work. However, he was unresponsive. We tried again later when we got back to my house and he was awake and very responsive.

Jan. 21 Facebook post:

After we FaceTimed with Dad on Saturday, we had such high hopes that he was improving. However, he has not responded like that since then. When we call now, there isn't any recognition or response and he just mumbles. He is physically stronger, which just means that now he knocks the iPad over!

He cannot be taken off the trach because he is not following commands. He still has to have some of his secretions removed because he's not coughing or swallowing when he's asked to do that. He is not actively participating in speech therapy. He does mumble some or give an occasional answer, but the answer is usually not appropriate for the question. He is on several medications, but there is nothing that should've caused the hallucinations that he's been having. It's just a cognitive deficit. Communication is his biggest setback; he is just not making the connections. They think physically he could do more if he could understand what he needed to do. Right now he is showing a high level of cognitive disability. The case manager said that isn't uncommon to still have cognitive difficulties this soon after a stroke. She said one day he could just start making those connections—could be tomorrow or it could be a month. She had a doctor from Jim Thorpe come to look at him, but right now he has not progressed enough to move to a rehab facility. Their goal is to get him to that point

so he can go to rehab next. At this point, it's more likely he will need to go to a skilled nursing facility.

Don't take life for granted. Don't take one single day or one single breath for granted. It can all be changed in the blink of an eye.

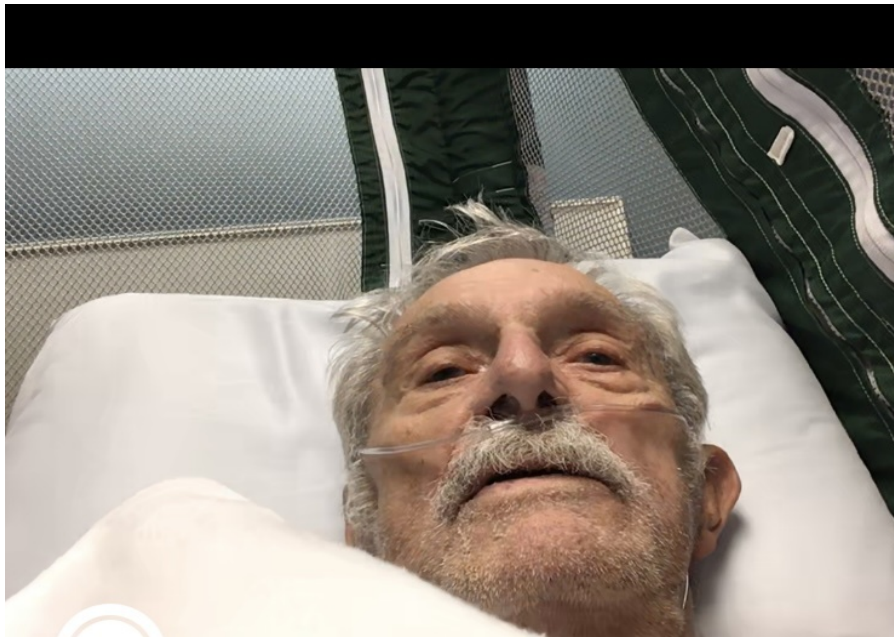
Please continue those good and prayers for my dad and also for my sweet mom who is having to bear this burden. She misses him so much. We appreciate you all!

Much love ❤️

James 5:16

Jan. 22 Facebook post:

The hospital called Mom this morning to tell her that, starting Monday, they are going to allow one visitor a day. She will get to see my Dad! 💜



Jan. 23, Select Specialty Hospital.

Dad was so restless that he was pulling out tubes and trying to get out of his bed, so they had to restrain his arms, wrap his hands in "mittens," and put him in an enclosure bed for his own safety. We found out later that the neurologist had given him an anti-psychotic medication, which was causing this behavior.

Jan. 25 Facebook post:

The first visit was a success! Mom stayed about an hour and said she talked nonstop. He had a few brief moments of awareness. She sang "I'll Fly Away" and "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be," and she said he sang along with her during both songs. This tells me we have to keep singing to him as he is responding to music. I know he's in there...patience! James 5:16



Jan. 28 Facebook post:

Guess whose day it was to visit Dad? This girl! It was the best 2 1/2 hours I've had in a long time! He was responsive and happy to see me and we sang and we looked at pictures. He is making more sense and trying to make connections. When I got there, he had just walked with help and a walker to the nurses' station and back. I wished I could have seen that! He is definitely physically strong. He's trying hard to make those mental connections, and I believe with time he will. Keep those good thoughts and prayers going as they are definitely helping!

Much love ❤️

James 5:16



Jan. 28, Select Specialty Hospital.

I took Dad his Bible, and he was so happy to get it.

Feb. 2 Facebook post:

I had a great visit with Dad today. He is doing so well! The hope is to have him moved to a rehab facility by the end of the week, possibly in Elk City. They have had him up walking, and he is even feeding himself. Language is the biggest problem right now, but hopefully with more intensive speech therapy, that will improve.

I have seen the power of prayer at work these past seven weeks. Thank you all so much for your prayers and positive thoughts. Don't stop now!

Much love ❤️

James 5:16

Feb. 4 Facebook post:

Today, I made my 8th-and final-trip to Select Specialty Hospital in OKC. Dad is being moved to the rehab wing of the Elk City hospital in the morning. One step closer to home!

James 5:16

On Feb. 5, Dad was transferred by ambulance back home to Great Plains Regional Medical Hospital in Elk City. Mom and I were there to see him, and she even got to hold his hand as they were wheeling him in to the hospital.

Feb. 9 Facebook post:

Dad is continuing to improve every day. He walks down to the dining room for his meals, and he eats there with the other patients in the rehab wing. He has trouble with wanting to get out of bed or the chair without assistance, so they have put an alarm on



him because he has issues with balance; there is always the fear of him falling. The nurse said it's just impulse control, which goes along with his brain injury.

According to the nurse I spoke to last night, he can read, so if you would like to send him a card or drop him a line, I'm sure he would love to hear from people:

He still struggles a lot with language and forming words and sentences. It is very frustrating for him, but I keep telling him it's going to take time and patience. I just keep reminding how far he has come in eight weeks!

Much love ❤️

James 5:16

Feb. 17 Facebook post:

After suffering a massive stroke and being in 3 hospitals for a total of 66 days, my dad is coming home on Friday!!!!

Physically, you would not even know he had a stroke by looking at him. He does not have the right side droop anymore, he can walk, he can shower by himself, and he even shaved himself the other day. He looks great! His speech is still jumbled, but with daily therapy, that is slowly getting better. He will continue to do outpatient speech therapy at the hospital 2 to 3 times a week for a while. I am sure he will not get back to where he was before the stroke, but he has come so far, and for that I am thankful.

God said it, and I never doubted it: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16 🙏

I have never prayed so much and so hard as I have prayed since December 15. I know many of you 100's have been praying too. "Thank you" seems so inadequate, but I truly mean that.

"Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?" (Esther 4:13-4:14).



Feb. 19: I have prayed for this day! **"From Sinking Sand to Shades of Light"**

Obeying That Form of Doctrine

Nana Yaw Aidoo

To the saints at Rome (Rom. 1:7) the apostle Paul wrote;

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (Rom. 6:16-18).

Analysis of the Text

What do we learn when we analyze this text?

First, we learn that at some point in the past, the recipients of the epistle *were the servants of sin*.

Second, at the time of the writing of the epistle, these saints who were at one time *servants of sin* had been *made free from sin* and had become *the servants of righteousness*.

Third, the means by which this massive change of state was effected in their lives was by *obeying from the heart that form of doctrine that was delivered* unto them.

Fourth, it was at the point at which the Romans obeyed the doctrine that was delivered unto them that they were made free from sin and not a second before. Notice the use of *then*. “Being **then** made free from sin...”

Clearly, in order for one to become a Christian or a Saint, that person must hear and believe a doctrine (the exact same kind of doctrine that was delivered to the Romans in their lost state) and then obey a form of that doctrine.

What was the Doctrine That was Delivered Unto the Saints at Rome?

The doctrine that was delivered to the Romans was the good news of Christ’s death, burial and resurrection for the sins of all men. That is the teaching by which all men everywhere are saved. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 the apostle Paul wrote;

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

This was the doctrine that was delivered to the Romans and when they obeyed a form of this doctrine, they were translated from being *servants of sin* to becoming *servants of righteousness*.

Facts Cannot be Obeyed

However, friends, it ought to be evident to all that the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, though eternally important, are mere **facts**. The nature of facts is that they can only be believed. Facts cannot be obeyed. Only commands can be obeyed. Therefore, it is evident that what the Romans obeyed in order to their change of state was a command that was a form of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Of this conclusion, there is no escape. Notice once again that the change of state was not effected until that form of the doctrine that was delivered unto them was obeyed from the heart.

What was That Form of Doctrine?

In order to know that form of doctrine that upon being obeyed led to the change of state in the Romans, let us hear again from the apostle.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,

even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. (Rom. 6:3-5).

The word *form* translates a Greek word that means a pattern, a resemblance or a likeness (cf. Rom. 6:5). Therefore, what the Romans obeyed in order to their change of state was a pattern, a resemblance or a likeness of the doctrine of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. According to the text above, the form, pattern, resemblance or likeness of the death, burial and resurrection that was obeyed by the Romans when they were *servants of sin* in order to become *servants of righteousness* was **baptism**. For in baptism, we have a form, a pattern, a resemblance or a likeness of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Romans, prior to their becoming saints, were buried by baptism whereby they were planted in the *likeness* of Christ's death and then rose from the watery grave (cf. Acts 8:36) from which they were buried to walk in newness of life. Thus by being baptized, the Romans obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto them.

As a conclusion to his premise on the burial with Christ in baptism in verses 3 and 4 of Romans 6, in verses 17 and 18 Paul declares that the process was an obedience "from the heart" to that "form of doctrine," and "being then made free from sin," the result was righteousness. The order is: death, burial, resurrection, freedom; and it is the death, burial and resurrection that takes place in baptism, which frees one from sin. Before baptism the subject is dead in sin; after baptism he is dead to sin. "He that is dead to sin is freed from it" --verse 7. So the sinner is baptized out of death in sin into death to sin --"being then made free from sin." Paul said "then"—when do you say? So obedience to the form of doctrine in baptism stands between the sinner and freedom from sin. (Foy E. Wallace Jr., *Bulwarks of the Faith*, pg. 304).

Conclusion

Only a deceitful handler of the Sacred Writings (2 Cor. 4:2) would dare obscure the clear teaching of Romans 6. Baptism is **not** the only thing necessary to be saved from sin. One also has to hear the gospel taught (John 6:44-45), believe it (Mark 16:16), repent of all his sins (Acts 2:38) and confess faith in Christ (Rom. 10:8-10). However, not until that person has obeyed the **form** or the **likeness** of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ in baptism would that person be freed from sin, and be made a servant of righteousness. Baptism therefore is the culminating act in gospel obedience. Little wonder after the "chief of sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15) had developed faith in the risen Christ, repented of his sins and spent three days in fasting and prayer (Acts 9:1-12), Ananias whom the Lord sent to him upon finding him asked; "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16).

Dear reader. Have you from the heart obeyed the form of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ in baptism? If not, why not?

Visit Our Website at www.thegospelpreceptor.com

"The Thing That Hath Been...": The Cycle of Apostasy Volume 2, Enlarged and Revised, is at the printer and will be ready soon. It contains **5 new chapters** with much more material on mainstream churches of Christ, their Pentecostalism, their preaching schools, their tangled web of fellowship with error, and an in-depth expose' of pornography in Freed-Hardeman University's art classes. The Enlarged Edition is 360 pages, compared with the first edition's 214 pages. This **BOOK is FREE** and **POSTAGE is FREE for single copies**. Multiple copies will be sent boxed, via Priority Mail. To order early, send your name and address in an email message to us at dbray46@gmail.com. Your copy will be mailed as soon as we receive them from the printer.

The Gospel Preceptor

Published Monthly at Elk City, Oklahoma

Editor & Publisher.....Jerry C. Brewer

Staff Writers

Nana Yaw Aidoo – Accra, Ghana

Ron Cosby – Disney, Oklahoma

Harrell Davidson – Obion, Tennessee

Gene Hill – Indianola, Mississippi

Dub McClish – Denton, Texas

Lee Moses – Union City, Tennessee

Doug Post – Gore, Oklahoma

David Ray – Yukon, Oklahoma

Jess Whitlock – Maysville, Oklahoma

Links to Bible Study Resources

The Scripture Cache

Precept Upon Precept You Tube

Spiritual Perspectives – Gary Summers

Biblical Articles & More – Gary Grizzell

False Doctrines of Man

Yukon, Okla. church of Christ

Berea church of Christ

South Seminole church of Christ

Ready This Month!

“The Thing That Hath Been...”: The Cycle of Apostasy
Volume 2, Enlarged and Revised

By Jerry C. Brewer

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be...and there is no new thing under the sun” (Eccl. 1:9). Nineteenth century apostasy has come full circle in churches of Christ and this book exposes it for all who will learn the lessons of history.

The first volume is gone. The second volume is an enlarged revision, containing all of the material in the first and five **new** chapters. It is 362 pages, including the title and copyright pages, dedication page, Foreword, Author's Preface, and table of contents listed here:

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	i
Author's Preface.....	iv
Chapter 1 - An Emerging Denomination.....	1
Chapter 2 - When the Floodgate was Opened.....	19
Chapter 3 - The Time has Come Again.....	26

Chapter 4 - Creeds of Mainstream Churches.....	40
Chapter 5 - Pentecostalism in Mainstream Churches of Christ.....	51
Chapter 6 - “Spirit-Filled” Mainstream Churches of Christ.....	67
Chapter 7 - A Deadly Mixture in Mainstream Churches.....	81
Chapter 8 - “Forging Our Identity”	85
Chapter 9 - “Forging” Our Moral Corruption.....	104
Chapter 10 - Errors In Mainstream Preaching Schools.....	141
Chapter 11 - The Social Gospel Of Mainstream Churches.....	183
Chapter 12 - Societies of Mainstream Churches.....	203
Chapter 13 - Fellowship of Mainstream Churches.....	216
Chapter 14 - Fellowship in Mainstream Lectureships.....	235
Chapter 15 - Mainstream Periodicals.....	254
Chapter 16 – Newsletters of Mainstream Churches.....	301
Chapter 17 - Mainstream Youth Ministries.....	313
Epilogue.....	330
Works Cited.....	337

The book is now in the printer's hands and will be shipped some stood. Single-copy postage are **FREE**. Persons requesting multiple copies are asked to pay postage. Five or more copies will be sent Priority Mail. Email your name and mailing address to David Ray dbray46@gmail.com for your **FREE COPY**.