

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*
1 Nephi 3:187

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"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in number, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and reserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us. It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

—Abraham Lincoln

Declaring a National Day of Prayer on March 30, 1863.

—*America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations*,
by William J. Federer

—Submitted by Dan Lawrence to the CCEG

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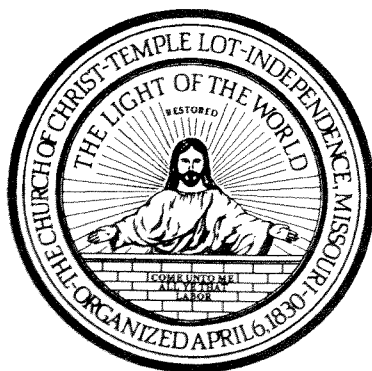
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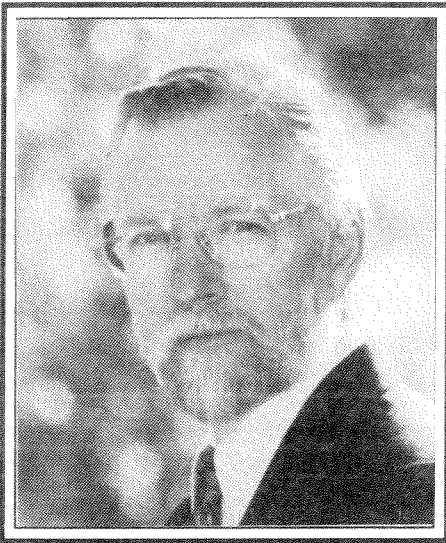
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
 To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;
 To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

ETERNAL SECURITY (ONCE SAVED—ALWAYS SAVED?)

WHAT SAY THE SCRIPTURES?



Harvey E. Seibel

In the book of Galatians Paul makes repeated reference to the works of the law, meaning the old Mosaic law. He also upbraids the Galatian saints. Says he, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ

unto another gospel" (Galatians 1:6). Paul expresses concern over the forced circumcision of Titus, his Greek brother, and this because of false brethren brought in unawares, who came in privily to spy out their liberty which they had in Christ, that they might bring them into bondage. (See Galatians 2:3-4.) Then Paul goes on to say that, "a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 2:16). Again Paul chides the Galatians by saying, "who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...?

Salvation is not possible through the works of the law, for were it so it would require perfect obedience to that law in every whit, which no man can do....

This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ...He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" (Galatians 3:1, 2, 5). Then Paul

writes, "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them" (Galatians 3:4). Paul here is referencing the law of Moses. He goes on to say "that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, "The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11). But, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law" (Galatians 3:13). "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions...But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ...But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster" (Galatians 3:19, 23, 25). Finally Paul instructs these wayward Galatians to "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (meaning the old law, HES). Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law" (Galatians 5:1-3). And if this becomes

the case then "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified

...It is by grace we are saved, yet works (not the works of the law) are necessary also...though works in themselves do not and cannot save us.

by the law; (if so, HES) ye are fallen from grace" (Galatians 5:4). Paul also discusses the old law in his epistle to the Romans showing that when we are under grace we are no longer under the curse of that law.

From the above discussion we can see that it was possible for these saints to return to the old law which would both profit them nothing and deny the grace of Christ. Paul therefore challenges them, "Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory:

for these are **the two covenants**; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar (Hagar). For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.... Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free" (Galatians 4:21-25, 30-31).

Therefore the televangelist's statement that if we fall from grace we must go to another method of salvation; that is, of works (or as he stated 'fall to works') is only conditionally true. Salvation is not possible through the works of the law, for were it so it would require perfect obedience to that law in every whit, which no man can do, so it became a ministration of death. However it is by grace we are saved, yet works (not the works of the law) are necessary also, as we shall presently see, though works in themselves do not and cannot save us. Consider the following scriptures:

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man*

should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Yet this does not mean we may be slothful servants, sitting back and doing nothing.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works**" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works**" (Titus 2:14).

James completes the thought begun by Paul above. In the scripture below, James' reference to works here are not the works of the old law.

"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? **can faith save him?** If a

brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say

Salvation is a free gift granted through the grace of God. We cannot earn it. Christ paid our debt on the cross. But we also receive a reward for our good works, additionally to the free gift.

unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? **Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: **shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?** Was not Abraham our father **justified by works**, when he had of-

fered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and **by works was faith made perfect?** And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. **Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.** Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also**" (James 2:14-26).

These works are the natural result of our faith and obedience to God. In the day of judgment we shall be judged of our works whether good or evil. We must keep in mind this distinction between the atonement of Christ and the works which we perform upon that perfect foundation. Salvation is a free gift granted through the grace of God. We cannot earn it. Christ paid our debt on the cross. But we also receive a reward for our good works, additionally to the free gift.

Now let us consider those scriptures which have to do

more specifically with the matter of our salvation and whether we may lose it once we have obtained it.

Matthew 24:13 tells us, "But he that shall *endure unto the end*, the same shall be saved." This is a straightforward statement. If we endure to the end we shall be saved. But what of that person who does not endure to the end? Can we say that he also is saved? Is not the one the converse of the other? Can we affirm that it is impossible to fall once we have accepted Christ? Does God take away our free agency so that we become nothing but robots thereafter? Can we not choose still to sin? Why did Paul say "I die daily?" (1 Corinthians 15:31). Even Paul had to fight the battle to keep from losing his salvation. For he wrote:

*"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, **I myself should be a cast-away.** Finally, however, Paul had run the course and gained the victory" (1 Corinthians 9:27).*

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the

faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the

If we endure to the end we shall be saved. But what of that person who does not endure to the end?

Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

There are some warnings that, as Christians, we should take to heart.

*"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth **take heed lest he fall**" (1 Corinthians 10:12).*

Why would the Lord cause this to be written if there were no chance we could fall?

"Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling" (Psalm 2:11) and "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12).

This, too, is a strange statement if truly we have it 'in the bag,' so to speak, meaning our salvation is es-

tablished and nothing we do can change it. If our salvation is assured then why the 'fear and trembling?'

Paul also gives some timely advice to Timothy along these same lines.

*"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. **Take heed** unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; **continue in them:** for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Timothy 4:14-16).*

What if Timothy had failed to continue in the doctrine? Would he have saved himself or those hearing him?

Now Paul issues a general warning:

*"**Take heed, brethren,** lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, **in departing from the living God.** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; **lest any of you be hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, **if we hold the beginning of our confidence***

steadfast unto the end”
(Hebrews 3:12-14).

This again shows the possibility of departing from God. We are made partakers of Christ *only* if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. This is what is meant by enduring unto the end. If we do this our salvation will indeed be assured.

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41)

*“Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. **Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.** And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch”* (Mark 13:33-37).

“Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly

is ready, but the flesh is weak” (Mark 14:38).

“Blessed are those

We are made partakers of Christ only if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end. This is what is meant by enduring unto the end. If we do this our salvation will indeed be assured.

servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at

an hour when ye think not” (Luke 12:37-40).

“But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more” (Luke 12:45-48).

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare

*shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man*** (Luke 21:34-36).

All these scriptures indicate that if one is not careful and is not watchful he can lose his salvation.

Paul, to the Colossians, in speaking of the work of Christ, states that we "that were sometime alienated and enemies" in our mind by wicked works, "yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death" to present us holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight: "**If ye continue in the faith** grounded and settled, and *be not moved away from the hope of the gospel*" (Colossians 1:21-23).

It is quite clear from this that it is possible *for one not to continue in the faith*. It is all dependent upon the word "if," for it is *if* we continue in the faith.

John 15:8 is quoted as follows: "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." *But if one does not bear fruit, or brings forth no fruit unto salvation he is cast away as an unprofitable branch.*

Remember the man who buried his talent and brought no increase. He was cut off.

But if one does not bear fruit, or brings forth no fruit unto salvation he is cast away as an unprofitable branch.

Such are lukewarm whom Christ will spue out of his mouth. These become slothful servants. In verse 9 he admonishes us to "continue ye in my love." This command would be meaningless if one had no choice but to continue in this love. But the Lord goes on to say, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love..." (John 15:10). Again we have the word "if," implying that we can still go either way. And this is borne out in the following scripture:

*"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, **LEST AT ANY TIME WE SHOULD LET THEM SLIP**"* (Hebrews 2:1).

These are plain words requiring no interpretation. How could we let them slip if there was no chance we could lose our salvation? But now

we come to the heavy duty scriptures of the word of God of whom both Paul, Peter, and Ezekiel give bountiful testimony, words which are so plain that even a child could understand them. Even the televangelist confessed that the following scripture used to scare him to death, but now he says, *we know what it does not mean*, it does not mean that we can lose our salvation. Since this scripture conflicted with his belief system, he attempts to make the scripture conform to that belief system. Rather, one should align one's belief system to that of the scripture and not the other way round.

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame**" (Hebrews: 6:4-6).

This scripture is very plain that those spoken of here had accepted the mercy of Christ and received the

Holy Ghost. These had accepted the salvation of the Lord. And had they endured unto the end of their lives they would surely have been saved. But now, having, in effect, committed the unpardonable sin, they cannot return seeing that they have crucified, unto themselves, the Son of God again.

Why is this? "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified...Now where remission of these is, **there is no more offering for sin**" (Hebrews 10:18). This is why one who crucifies the Son of God afresh cannot again renew unto repentance. It should be noted at this point that this is not referring to those who sin the sins of weakness in their Christian walk but who may repent daily for these sins. It does have reference to those who fully turn away and return to their former wicked walk. But let's continue:

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprin-

kled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

The righteousness of a righteous man will not deliver him in the day of his transgression. Neither will the wickedness of a wicked man condemn him in the day he turns to righteousness.

*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good work: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. **FOR IF WE SIN WILLFULLY AFTER THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH, THERE REMAINETH NO MORE SACRIFICE FOR SINS,** But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery*

*indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, **wherewith he was sanctified**, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:19-29).*

There remaineth no more sacrifice for sins seeing we have crucified the Son of God afresh.

*"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise...Now the just shall live by faith: **but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.** But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:35-36, 38-39).*

This is equivalent to the man who has set his hand to

the plow and then looks back. This man is not worthy of the kingdom of heaven.

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, *The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire*” (2 Peter 2:20-22).

Our final quotations come from Ezekiel.

“When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I

require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul” (Ezekiel 3:20-21).

“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth. When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it. Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if

he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live” (Ezekiel 33:11-16).

This shows that we have continuing free agency to choose either good or evil regardless whether we have accepted Christ or not. It is on the one hand even as it is on the other hand. The righteousness of a righteous man will not deliver him in the day of his transgression. Neither will the wickedness of a wicked man condemn him in the day he turns to righteousness. We thus become our own judges whether to do good or evil, and depending on our steadfastness in either course, will determine our final spiritual destiny.

WHY BAPTISM?



Jim Gordon

(Why not!) When you ask that question most people in the Church will respond that it is a commandment of God. However true this may be, those of us who have had years of experience with it, I believe, can bear a more specific testimony. My testimony is that it has brought me personal contact with the Holy Spirit. It has brought me peace and enlightenment that I personally would not trade for anything this world has to offer.

But the greatest of blessings has not come from the baptism itself but from the maintenance of that covenant, and therein lies my message. Baptism is not the final act of salvation as some churches claim but a promise to begin a new way of life and follow that path until life ends. I believe that to make that covenant and abandon it later would not have brought me to where I am today.

To abandon the covenant is to abandon the potential blessings latent within it. There are some who have been baptized into the church and then had only sporadic contact with the church and members. Evidently they feel the spirit will continue to grow within them, even though they do not cultivate and nurture it by prayer, fasting, reading their scriptures, attending services and making contact with those who do these things. (Now instead of answering this directly I will familiarize you with what the scripture teaches.)

Baptism is not the final act of salvation as some churches claim, but a promise to begin a new way of life and follow that path until life ends.

About the year 1491 BC the Lord led the children of Israel out of Egypt. The exodus came about with a multitude of miracles. Then for fifty years they continued living with those miracles on a day to day basis. They ate manna, which appeared miraculously overnight for all those years. They drank water that came out of a rock. When someone did wrong they were punished immediately by what was obviously the hand of God. The Lord spent all of those years refining them and making a righteous people of them.

About 1451 BC they crossed the Jordan River and took the City of Jericho. From there they began to fight their way into Palestine to claim the inheritance that God had promised their father Abraham.

The next thing that happened was a slight drifting towards wickedness. From time to time the Lord sent nations to conquer them, and he let Israel suffer in bondage until they would acknowledge their sins and turn again to Him. We have all thrilled to these stories of deliverance: Deborah, who fought Jabin, King of Canaan; Gideon, who fought the Midianites; David, as he fought the Philistines and many others.

The bottom line here is that in spite of the fact that the Lord called upon Israel to repent every so often there was still a continual slide away from righteousness. This went on until 720 BC when Ephraim and most of the other tribes of Israel were carried away to Assyria. Then in the year 610 BC Jerusalem was carried away into Babylon.

Let's take another example. Nephi established a righteous order among his people after his father's death. However, from the days of Jacob until Mosiah there was a slow erosion of

righteousness. Eventually Mosiah fled into the wilderness with but a few godly followers of what had once been

...The only difference between sinners and saints is the ability to sense when we sin and seek the Lord to redirect our lives.

a mighty and righteous people.

After Jesus came to this continent, His great work manifested itself in a perfect Christian lifestyle among all those people here at that time. It was about 200 years later that they developed a few cracks in the righteous order. But 421 years after Christ had come to teach His doctrine to the Nephites this same nation became so apostatized that it was spiritually useless and had to be destroyed.

What is true of nations is true of us as individuals. I have heard enough confessions in sermons and testimonies on Wednesday nights to believe that the only difference between sinners and saints is the ability to sense when we sin and seek the

Lord to redirect our lives.

In the Book of Ether, chapter 1:38, 39, 40, we read,

"And it came to pass at the end of four years, That the Lord came again unto the Brother of Jared, and stood in a cloud and talked with him. And for the space of three hours did the Lord talk with the Brother of Jared, and chastened him because he remembered not to call upon the name of the Lord. And the Brother of Jared repented him of the evil which he had done...."

The inference I draw from this scripture is that to keep in God's ways requires that we keep in touch with Him. This is borne out in Lehi's vision where those that turned loose of the rod of iron and left the path, which led to the tree of life, were lost in the mists of darkness. From this I conclude that righteousness is not within our power, even if we labor for it, without God's help.

The way to do this is to begin by being baptized so we may have God's power at work in us. And we need to complete that ordinance by having hands laid on us so that we might receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then we need to have regular spiritual checkups.

We could evaluate our spiritual lives ourselves, but without the Holy Ghost we

...Righteousness is not within our power, even if we labor for it, without God's help.

would be doing what the Apostle Paul advised us against. Because in II Corinthians 10:12 Paul wrote,

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, And comparing themselves among themselves are not wise."

Certainly the Holy Ghost and the scriptures will prevent such narrow judgment.

I have known people who would religiously go to the doctor for a regular medical checkup, and have never had a spiritual checkup. I also know persons who wouldn't think of taking a long trip without having their car checked out. One day we will all take a trip into eternity, and some have no idea how well equipped they are for the

journey. We expect doctors to be thorough in checking our bodies, but we need to be just as thorough in checking our spiritual condition.

Once a month we have an opportunity to do this. For the Apostle Paul has written,

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself not discerning the Lord's body" I Cor. 11:28, 29.

In conclusion let me say we need to be as thorough in examining and repairing our spirits as we are in caring for our bodies because the flaws in our spirits can endure into eternity. If you are attending church that's good. But if you haven't been baptized you need to do so. Then get hold of the spirit that comes from that experience and begin to work with it to rebuild and reshape your life. It may be hard for awhile but in the end the joy derived from it will far outweigh the problems it brings. And in the light of the spirit examine yourself each communion Sunday. Make this the checkup of concern.

There is one more thing I would like to share with you. Consider if you will that a

circle, a curve and an ellipse are just straight lines that are being constantly redirected

One day we will all take a trip into eternity, and some have no idea how well equipped they are for the journey.

according to a definite form. Some of the most beautiful work that man has ever done in art and architecture incorporates circles and ellipses. Can we imagine that God by constantly redirecting our lives could in time shape us into something as beautiful as his natural art that we see all around us? Then let us yield ourselves to His shaping of our lives for He does all things well.

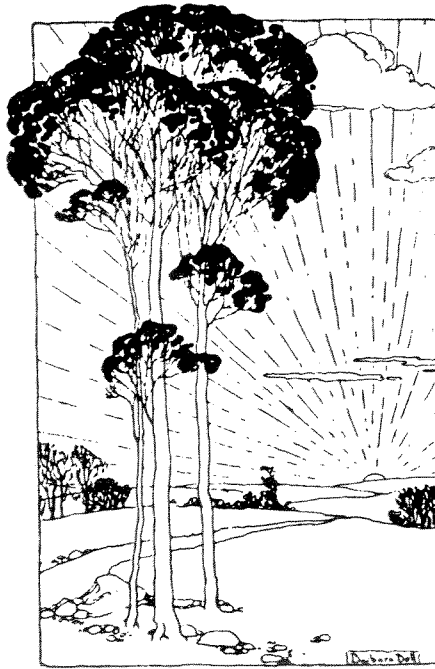
Mini-Miracle

I would like to share a 'mini-miracle' testimony. It isn't like the wonderful story of the conversion of my family to the Gospel, but a small testimony that strengthened my faith. I think we all have 'mini-miracles' in our lives that could uplift our brothers and sisters. And through the CCEG, what a wonderful opportunity to share our faith. The CCEG is like being in a 24 hour a day prayer service, just waiting our willing participation to share God's blessings to us.

A couple of months ago, I started to get a really bad headache that turned into a migraine. I used to have them a lot during a terribly stressful time of my life. But now I only get one about 3-4 times a year. I usually go to bed in a dark room with a cold cloth and no NOISE. By morning the headache has abated and I can function normally again. But for some reason, this time it lasted for several days. No medication I took did any good. Finally, my concerned husband asked why I had not asked for administration. He usually never questions me on such things and leaves it to me, but he did not like to see me in such pain and unable to function much in my busy household.

I felt bad that I had not turned to this avenue sooner as I have had many mighty blessings from administration. So I told him of course I wanted to have this and he called Bro. Bob Hedrick to come and assist

him. We had a word of prayer first and then the oil was placed upon my head. As soon as the oil touched my head and their hands covered that



PATHLIGHTS

spot, the headache was immediately taken. I have never had such an immediate and complete healing from administration. The tears were running down my face as the prayers were finished on my behalf. I told them both what happened. I was a little afraid to move (my lack of faith) for fear the headache would return. But it did not and I was so grateful.

Then a week later, it happened again, which is very unusual for me. Again, I did not think right away to ask for administration. Andy (my

husband) gently asked how long I was going to wait this time to ask the Lord to bless me. I told him I was ready to be normal again and he once again called Bob Hedrick. Now this made me a little nervous, because of my miraculous healing the last time (again my lack of faith). I know the Lord healed me immediately last time but I was not exercising my faith as I should have. What if, for whatever reason, the Lord decided not to heal me right away this time? Would it weaken my faith?

The scene was replayed exactly like before. But amazingly, when the oil touched my head, the pain was taken—immediately. Now I really cried and asked the Lord for forgiveness for being so weak. The Lord showed me a greater lesson that even when we lack what it takes and doubt, He still has the power and mercy to give us what we need. Through this experience, and because of the way it happened, my faith was made stronger yet. Truly the Lord is faithful to attend us and teach us in His miraculous ways. Praise and honor to Him!

*Love in Christ,
Debbi Brown
Phoenix, Arizona*

Posted on the CCEG

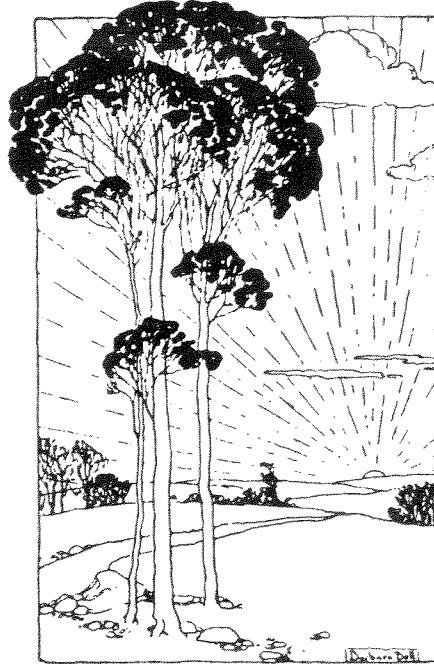
Give Me Jesus

I have a testimony that I would like to share with everyone. As most of you know, the Missouri Reunion wasn't too long ago, and usually when you go home from a reunion you feel uplifted and stronger. Well, I didn't and it was easy to say that I didn't get too much out of it because I have two small children and they kept me busy. I did hear the sermons and many of the prayers, and I think the reason why I didn't feel uplifted was because I was seeing just how much I have neglected my own spiritual life. I heard someone say, I think it was a prayer, that the Lord would show us our weaknesses.

As I left the reunion my heart was heavy and I did pray that prayer. Day by day I began to see many areas in my life I needed to change. At our Wednesday night prayer service I was reminded again of my weaknesses with every testimony. We were even reminded, in the 16th chapter of Alma, that we need to cry to the Lord and pour out our souls to Him over all the aspects of our life. My heart was feeling heavy, but instead of going to the Lord I started feeling sorry for myself that I had neglected so many things. Prayer is one of those areas. Instead of going to the Lord with my burdens and giving them over to Him, I continued to feel sorry for myself.

Last night I was listening to the Christian radio station and they too were talking about prayer. Still I did nothing. Then I listened to this

song; many of the young people know it. One of the campers sang it at the camp; it is called *Give Me Jesus*. Some of the words are: "In



PATHLIGHTS

the morning, when I rise...Give me Jesus. When I am alone...Give me Jesus. When I come to die...Give me Jesus. You can have all this world...Give me Jesus."

It is a beautiful song, but the words mean so much. I want my life spent with Jesus, every moment of every day. I want to be able to say that you can have all this world, but give me Jesus.

I humbled myself before the Lord and I prayed. As it says in Alma 16:221, "But this is not all:

ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness." I poured out my soul to the Lord and gave those burdens and weaknesses over to Him and repented of my sinful thoughts and attitude. He took my burdens. They were LIFTED FROM MY HEART and in their place I felt such thanksgiving and praise. My heart was full of thanksgiving for my life, for the opportunity I have to humble myself before him, for answered prayer, for His love for me even when I neglect Him, but most importantly for FORGIVENESS. My heart was light and renewed. I felt as if my garments were white and spotless once more. Thank you, Lord!

*Love in Christ,
Liza Hedrick*

Posted on the CCEG

The Walk of Life

Ronnie Gill

"And now, if the Lamb of God, he being Holy, should have need to be baptized by water to fulfill all righteousness, O then, how much more need have we, being unholy, to be baptized, yea, even by water. And now, I would ask of you, my beloved brethren, wherein the Lamb of God did fulfill all righteousness in being baptized by water? know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, he sheweth unto the children of men, that according to the flesh, he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments..." 2 Nephi 13:7-9

There are many paths in this life, some very tempting, some not so tempting, but there is only one path that Jesus walked, and this is the same path we must walk.

There are many guides that say they know the way and will help you along. But only the word of God can direct you to the correct path.

You may feel the steps in this path are hard or uncalled for, but all are important to your salvation.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your guide, then please consider these steps, because your life eternal depends on it. If you feel you are already in the right path, please look at each one of these steps and measure your walk. The first is...

1 "...And they were not baptized, save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it; neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins. And none were received unto baptism, save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve Him to the end" Moroni 6:2-3.

2 "And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying, He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father

give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do" 2 Nephi 13:15.

"And it came to pass when they were all baptized, and had come up out of the water, the Holy Ghost did fall upon them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. And behold they were encircled about as if it were fire; and it came down from heaven, and the multitude did witness it, and do bear record; and angels did come down out of heaven, and did minister unto them." 3 Nephi 9:14-15.

3 "And now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the First resurrection, that ye may have eter-


nal life; Now I say unto you, If this be the desires of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord...." Mosiah 9:39-41.

4 "And now behold, my beloved brethren, I suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts, concerning that which ye should do, after that ye have entered in by the way. Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things that ye should do" 2 Nephi 14:1, 4.

"Wherefore, we search the prophets; and we have many revelations, and the spirit of prophecy, and having all these witnesses, we obtain a hope, and our faith becometh unshaken, insomuch that we truly can command in the name of Jesus, and the very trees obey us, or the mountains, or the waves of the sea..." Jacob 3:7.

5 "And now, my brethren, I would that after ye have received so many witnesses, seeing the Holy Scriptures testify of these things,

come forth and bring fruit unto repentance; Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time, and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you" Alma 16:226-227.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL MINISTERS' CONFERENCE 2001

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference, be advised that the 2001 April Ministers' Conference will begin on Monday, April 2, 2001, "Conference Sunday," beginning Sunday, April 1, 2001. The first business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 2, 2001, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

According to action taken during the 1999 April Ministers' Conference, Solemn Assembly will be held Friday, March 30th and Saturday, March 31st,

2001, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

All committee reports should be forwarded to the Conference Secretary at least two (2) weeks in advance of the beginning of the first business session. As is always the case, it is requested that any business desiring to be placed before the 2001 April Ministers' Conference should be forwarded in advance of the first business meeting so that document packets may be completed for distribution.

Mailing address for the

above requested information is:

Elder R. W. Oldham
April Ministers'
Conference Secretary
5709 Logan Road
Kansas City, MO 64136

Your Brother in Gospel Bonds,
Elder R. W. Oldham
2001 April Ministers'
Conference Secretary
Church of Christ

Young People

YOUTH FORUM 2001

DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2001

TIME: 4:00-6:00 P.M.

PLACE: EAST LOCAL

YOUTH OF THE AGE OF 22 AND YOUNGER ARE INVITED TO SHARE AND COLLECT THOUGHTS TO BRING BEFORE THE GENERAL CHURCH CONFERENCE, AS WELL AS TO REPORT ACTIVITIES FROM THE PAST YEAR AND ANNOUNCE ACTIVITIES FOR THE PRESENT YEAR. PLEASE BRING YOUR SCRIPTURES.

CONTACTS:

ELDER ANDY BROWN..... (602) 569-9745

ELDER RICK OLSON..... (816) 358-8530

MATTHEW CASE..... (970) 203-9183

ANNOUNCEMENT

Resolution for the 2001 Solemn Assembly

The Council of Apostles recommends for adoption the following:

Be it resolved that a Solemn Assembly be held the two days preceding the April Ministers' Conference, on March 30th and March 31st, 2001, and the following statements will comprise our purpose:

Whereas, By numerous prophecies we know that the day of the Lord is nigh at hand, and

Whereas, We know that great tribulation shall come upon the earth before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, and

Whereas, We have the example of the church as found in Moroni 6:6: "*And the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls:...*"

Therefore, Resolved, That the whole membership of the Church of Christ, from the youngest child to the oldest member, be called to a solemn assembly, that a period of fasting may be sanctified unto our God.

Resolved, that this period of fasting and prayer be held on the Temple Lot,

Resolved, That we seek to lay hold on the promise recorded in Joel 2:32, "*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.*"

Resolved, that all members of this Church of Christ, who are hindered by circumstances beyond their control from assembling on the Temple Lot, will dedicate the same period to fasting and prayer in their locals or in their homes, that the whole church be united in one heart and one mind, that the direction of the Lord be revealed to us, that the power of the Holy Ghost cover us as the waters cover the sea, that the servants of the Lord might go forth in boldness and power, preaching the word with authority unto the uttermost ends of the earth.

*Respectfully submitted,
(Signed)
Smith N. Brickhouse, Secy.
Council of Apostles*

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The 2001 Ministers' Conference (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 1. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 2. A Solemn Assembly will be held prior to the conference, on March 30 & 31. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The 2001 Ministers' Conference (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 6, 7 and 8, at Independence, Missouri.

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Send all orders to the Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

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- Significant Corrections in the Book of Mormon
- Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of 3 Restoration churches)
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- Why? (Amplifies absence of a "First Presidency" in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

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