

# The GOSPEL TRUMPET™



VOL 19 ISSUE 6

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet.” Isa. 58:1

NOV – DEC 2007

## Examining Loopholes for the Remarriage of Divorced Persons

In our day the marriage covenant could almost be classified as an endangered species. A popular movie several years ago was entitled “The Last Married Couple.” Each decade divorce is easier to come by in many states. And we never know when we will find out about some other couple who is getting a divorce. Most of us in our own immediate families have someone involved in a divorce-remarriage situation. Surely it is important that the church speaks clearly on what the Bible has to say about divorce and remarriage. We must decide whether we stand on the New Testament passages which deal with the subject, because there is much diversity of thought.

Divorces in Jesus’ day could be had very easily. The Pharisees came to Jesus and asked what His opinion was of this question, and He answered them (Matt. 19:4-5) by going back to Genesis and quoting from Gen. 2:24, “And said, For this cause shall a man leave father

and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh.” That is God’s ideal of marriage. That is the original plan, and you will note that there is no room for the ending of marriage.

Today more and more marriages are ending in divorce. What has happened? Has God’s ideal for marriage changed? The primary reason for the change, in my judgment, is because the church has let down its standards concerning divorce and remarriage. We have tried to make the Bible applicable to our day and that is always a mistake. We must seek to make our day accord with the message of the Bible. As we become involved in evangelism, we get into some very sticky situations. We call for conferences and discussions and studies on the subject, trying to see if there is a way to interpret the scriptures so that there are some “loopholes” that would allow divorce and the remarriage of divorced persons (whose partners are still living). Many

in the church have pussy-footed around with this issue and have said, “God can cure an alcoholic; God can cure a drug addict; God can take away a prostitute’s desire—but oh my—if there has been a marital problem that leads to separation, you can’t expect a young wife to go through life without a husband.” And so the search for loopholes continues. We want to examine some of the loopholes that have been presented in recent years in an attempt to justify the remarriage of divorced persons.

### *1. The Exception Clause Found at Two Places in the Book of Matthew.*

Matt. 5:32 says, “Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.” Matt. 19:9 repeats the same exception. The exception clause (“except it be for fornication”) is usually understood to mean that divorce and remarriage is okay if

*It is not  
divorce,  
but death,  
that ends  
marriages.*

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## GOSPEL TRUMPET PUBLISHING CO.

### Anti-Denominational Holiness Paper

*Editor:* Sis. Susan Mutch  
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This definite, radical, anti-sectarian holiness paper is published in the name of the Lord for the edification of the church of God. Its mission is to point souls to full salvation through Christ and to expose the errors of spiritual Babylon (false religion). We desire this paper to be used as a sharp instrument in the hands of the Lord, breaking the spiritual silence in this time of restoration.

The Bible teaches:

Godly Sorrow and Repentance	Acts 3:19; 17:30, 2 Cor. 7:10
The New Birth—a Radical Conversion	John 3:3-7
Freedom from Sin/A Holy Life	1 Jn. 5:18, Lk. 1:73-75, Tit. 2:11-12
Entire Sanctification—a Second Cleansing	1 Thess. 5:23, Acts 15:8-9
Unity of God's People/One Church	John 17:21; Matt. 16:18
Divine Healing	James 5:14-15, Isa. 53:5
Ordinances	Mt. 28:19-20, Jn. 13:14-15, 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Rom. 16:16
Plain, Modest Dress	Dt. 22:5, 1 Tim. 2:9-10, 1 Cor. 11:14-15
Sanctity of Marriage	Mt. 19:5-6, Mk. 10:11-12, Lk. 16:18, Rom. 7:2-3
Non-Violence	Luke 3:14; 6:27-29; 18:20
Restoration (Sounding 7th Trumpet)	Rev. 10:7; 11:15
Eternal Punishment or Reward	Matt. 25:46

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## Editorial

I recently came upon an article in a popular “Christian” magazine titled, “When to Separate What God Has Joined.” (The title alone hints at the deviation from the Word of God.) While we understand there can be certain circumstances that will make a separation necessary, the Bible makes no allowance for divorce and remarriage as did this article.

I groaned in my heart when I considered the many precious souls that would become ensnared in that trap of Satan as a result of the errors written in that publication. Oh, what damage Babylon is doing to souls! What untold damage! How many eternity-bound souls received counsel from “preachers” that, “considering their circumstances,” divorce and remarriage was permissible? Is it any wonder that God said, “I am against the prophets...” Yes, *against* them! Read Jeremiah 23:30-32. The prophets “say, He saith... and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord.”

Let it be known that this *Gospel Trumpet* publication is not dedicated to tickle itching ears or to please the multitudes that are intent on making a way for the flesh. Whether it is popular or not, we intend to use “great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12) in an effort to awaken the deceived multitudes. Though false prophets seek to make people more comfortable in the flesh, we are far more concerned about preparing their eternal souls for the Judgment shock. It is time people looked at the Word of God in the light of a very real eternity and stopped making excuses for both low-living and low-preaching.

If you desire soft, effeminate, lukewarm, compromise religion, this publication is not for you.

Our prayer for this coming year is that God will heat up the message and the messengers, expose the works of darkness wherever they are found, and save multitudes out of sin and sectish deception.

May all of the truly redeemed—that truth-loving, translated host that are unspotted from the world—join with us in prayer for the swift advancement of the work of God. *sm*

### Change of Address?

Kindly let us know so we can update our mailing list. This also saves on postal costs incurred by returned mail.

The Gospel Trumpet Publishing Co. is registered as a charitable organization in the USA. Please request a tax receipt for donations, if so desired.

*This work is supported through free-will offerings.*

# Testimonies & Letters

## A Great Help

Praise the Lord! Greetings to you from Myanmar. I am so pleased and glad for receiving your magazine May - June 2007, which is the *Gospel Trumpet*. It is a great help for my spiritual life. I came to know much of your ministries. I would like to pray with you for the expansion of God's kingdom on this earth.

Bro. James  
Myanmar

## Publication is Fascinating

Dear Sis. Mutch,

Your publication is quite fascinating to me. I was particularly challenged by "Beware of All Honey"—the letter from John Wesley printed in the current issue. Also deeply interesting was the article, "An Exclusive Christ," by D.S. Warner. I am wondering if you could provide me with bibliographic information on that piece. I'm curious where it is found among other published works of D.S. Warner. Thank you for whatever help you can be on that matter.

J. Dudley  
California, USA

## Heart-changing Experience

Praise the Lord! I am thankful to be saved! I am glad to say I had a heart-changing, soul-cleansing experience. Oh, I had sin piled upon sin, guilt upon guilt, shame upon shame. I had never heard a real salvation message, but the Lord was faithful and came and visited me, not once, but many times. I would reject Him time and time again, but oh, the love Jesus had for my soul! What mercy!

One night the Lord let me feel so bad and terribly miserable I just got out of bed and went outside. I thought I needed to get away from all this. I thought maybe the best thing would be to take my life, but before I got that far somehow the Lord got a hold of me and I got down on my knees behind a little building. Now, I didn't really know how to pray. I was in a religion that prayed out of a book. We recited prayers that were written hundreds of years ago, but this particular night I just knelt down and prayed from my heart. It wasn't a long, fancy prayer. It was a simple prayer, something like this: Jesus, I need help; Jesus, I know you

are the only One that can help me. Please save me! I was so sorry for what I had done to Him all those years. Jesus saw the sincerity of my heart and saved me. Oh, glory to God! And it keeps getting better.

The Lord then was so faithful to us and showed us we needed to come out of the false religion and confusion we were in, so we did. The Lord allowed us to go through some more things before He brought us in contact with the saints.

The saints came and held a meeting in Bonduel, Wisconsin (where we were living at the time), and oh, what a glorious day! We have come home to Zion at last. I am glad to say I have taken a firm stand in this present restoration; this last move of God. I am so privileged to be a part of the work of God, a lively stone in this spiritual house.

Saints, I ask that you would pray for me that I would be all the Lord is calling on me to be.

Bro. Lester Bontrager  
Ohio, USA

## Tracts for Study

Greetings to you in His holy name!

I write this letter to first of all introduce myself. My name is Rev. Susanta Patra and I pastor the very first Church of God in Asia. Our founder, A.D. Khan, was converted from Muslim background many years ago even before my birth. I am deeply involved in Pioneer Evangelism and church planting. There are 603 churches under my care.

I am writing to request you to please send one piece of the following tracts for my study...

Thanking you,  
Susanta Patra  
India

## Desire to Serve the Lord

Dear Bro. Daniel,

Greetings in Jesus' name! By the grace of God and all of your prayers, we all are fine here in Nepal, hoping same to you all over there. I specially thank the Lord even though I am an empty vessel, He selected me for His work in this land. I have a great desire to serve the Lord full time.

Bro. Daniel, we have 30 children continuously coming in all of our meetings at present. We are not able to take

more now because the place where we are doing our service is small. But we are planning to take as many as we can whenever we shift to another place nearby. By much prayer we have decided to keep the name of our children's centre as "The Church of God International Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal."

At this moment, we are conducting our devotional meeting among 50 to 60 believers each Saturday. Because of this immediately we have to hire other sufficient place. They neither easily stand nor sit for prayer. I hope and pray you understand the situation which I am facing here in these days.

Please pray for the blessing of parents' meeting which started from today till Thursday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. in our meeting hall. Again, I thank you for your valuable prayer which you are doing for us. Please pray for myself and others over here in Nepal so that we can do His work with His great fear and intelligence. May the Lord bless you all.

Bro. Binod  
Nepal

## I Enjoyed Articles

Dear Editor,

Please add me to your mailing list for bi-monthly editions of *The Gospel Trumpet* magazine. Thank you so much! I have enjoyed articles out of past magazines of *The Gospel Trumpet* that a friend has shared with me in the past. God bless!

G. Myers  
Missouri, USA

## Getting Gospel Trumpet

Sis. Susan Mutch,

I am regularly getting the *Gospel Trumpet*. Thank you.

N. Kurrle  
Paraguay

## Youths are Spiritual

Beloved Editor,

Your last issue July to August is meant to provoke the readers unto good work. Your youths are indeed spiritual. May the good Lord continue to bless His work.

Your editorial comment is also noted. I pray all those who claim to be elders/pastors whose children constitute a disappointment to the same course to so preach should understand read and understand what you mean. I will endeavour to photocopy the magazine and send

# Testimonies & Letters

as many young people as I reach.

Please, remain encouraged. Some people are being sustained by your gospel. Thanks for sending them.

Okike Ogbonnaya  
Nigeria

## I Receive Spiritual Blessings

Thank you for sending the *Gospel Trumpet*. My thoughtful neighbors signed me up to receive it a couple of years ago. Please accept the enclosed donation to help cover printing and postage...and know that I receive spiritual blessings from each issue.

Bill Sebastian  
Texas, USA

## Stood Out from the Crowd

I had the pleasure in hearing you all sing while I was on holiday in Canada. I was visiting the Niagra district when you all really stood out from the crowd. I was very impressed by how smart the children were dressed and how polite they all were. Forgive me for saying at first I thought you were from the Amish community until one of the elder girls told me you were from the church of God. Do you have similar beliefs to them, as your dress code is the same? Do you have the same practice of living without electricity, cars, etc.?

I live in Istanbul, Turkey. I am of Irish Catholic origin, and I shall be telling my friends about the wonderful time I had in Canada and how I had the experience of meeting and seeing for me a very different group of people who sang like angels and who definitely had God in their hearts. Keep up the good work.

K. Denizeri  
Turkey

## Determined to Seek for Souls

Greetings in His name! The Lord was continuously helping us to labor for souls. Accordingly, we had continued visiting in Habitat, Tayabo, and in the village near us. We had Bible studies during the whole week...

Last Sunday we were able to invite some visitors in our service. Mrs. Simeona and Mrs. Lydia attended and also the highschool classmate of my wife. May the Lord bless the seed that was sown.

We are always pressing, though the love of many may wax cold we are determined to seek for souls that are lost. The saints here were starting to see where they stand. It was the Lord's doing. Salvation is the most important thing. Please continue praying for us that we always hold fast in the faith. Bro. Villanueva  
Philippines

## Rejected Charismatic Spirit

Thank you for your commentary about "modern day" tongues. My husband and I have rejected that charismatic spirit and have had many difficult times since. At times, we doubt our decision and after reading your site...I am encouraged. Have you ever heard of anyone else having years of difficulty when opposing that spirit?

Thank you again for taking the time to write your interpretations.

Beth, Website

## Wonderful Ministry

I must say how thankful I have been over these past years to receive the *Gospel Trumpet* for free of cost; cannot be bought and is there for all who believe.

Thank you very much and may God's abundant blessing be upon all of you and this wonderful ministry.

Sis. Vicky Santos  
Philippines

## Brought Me Home

"Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life." Prov. 4:13.

Oh, I thank God He has brought me to my mother (Gal. 4:26), who is instructing me in the way of truth and righteousness. Praise the Lord that He didn't leave me to flounder in the wilderness of sect confusion, but has brought me home to Zion, where I can receive the help I need for my soul. I appreciate so very much the preaching of the pure Word of God. It has been manna from heaven to me—pure, wholesome bread to my soul that was starving in false religion.

At our first meeting of the saints in Dec. 2004, I could hardly believe my ears. I was thrilled to hear—for the first time in my life—true preaching under the

anointing of the Holy Ghost. At first I thought, "They must have sent their best preacher." I was so thankful to discover soon that there were not just one or two "good preachers" among the saints (as we were used to among the Amish) but that it was the presence of God which truly fed the soul!

I am grateful how the Word keeps coming forth with clarity and heat, burning up the dross in my own experience and cleansing the church of all things that are impure and a hindrance to the work of God.

I thank God for His great mercy and love to me in saving me from the awful path of sin and self-destruction I was on. It is with great joy that I follow this narrow way. It is not grievous, as some would think, but truly liberating, for "if the Son [has made] you free, you [are] free indeed!" John 8:36.

I am so very glad to be a part of what the Lord is doing in this end time—glad to be a part of the army Ezekiel speaks of, and by the grace of God I will never break rank or retreat. Please pray for me that I will ever be faithful.

Sis. Verna Bontrager  
Ohio, USA

## Preach the Gospel in Pakistan

Dear Bro. Layne

Dear sir, yesterday I received *The Gospel Trumpet* magazine. That is very kind of you to add me in your mailing list and subscribe me to your teachings.

I request that when you plan schedule for next year's outreach, please sir, plan for Pakistan and give me this opportunity to host you. I would like to invite you and your missionaries in 2008 to preach the gospel in Pakistan. God bless you.

Bro. S. Masih  
Pakistan

## Your Care for Souls

In the name of Jesus Christ I want to thank you, brothers and sisters, for your care about souls; to encourage those that are saved and to bring those that are in darkness to the light of the gospel.

I received the *Gospel Trumpet* and am very glad that you are still keeping my address. As on wings of God this envelope came to my door. Now we have a new address...

We are just a small group here. We

pray that God would keep us in the purity of His Word.

I am a widow and 85 years old. I am glad for the work in God's field. I Tim 5:5 – this I long to keep.

I live together with my handicapped son, who is deaf, but he is able to read and write. If possible please send us tracts and literature.

Sis. Lisa  
Kazakhstan

## **I Have a Resolve**

Praise the Lord! I am blessed indeed to be saved and in the living church of God. I am so very encouraged to keep walking in the narrow way and ever want to do so until my last breath.

Through the conference line, I was listening to the service at Ohio, on Oct. 20th. Sis. Elizabeth Strizu's preaching put a deeper press in my soul to keep on being diligent in the midst of trials in my life. It's these very trials that are really helping me be stronger—more victorious—and truly fitting me for heaven.

I have a resolve within my soul to gain ground with every test the Lord allows me to go through. He knows what is best for me and I am thankful I can trust Him with all my heart. I can sing wholeheartedly with the hymn: "I am learning how to trust him with my life and for all things; And my spirit, filled with glory, in exceeding gladness sings."

Saints, there is a determination within my soul to make it all the way, and I ask that you please pray for me to be steadfast in the faith and growing stronger with each trial. Also, that the Lord would help me do my part in the body. May God be praised for His constant care and keeping of my soul.

Greatly encouraged in the Lord,  
Sis. Nancy Maynard  
Alaska, USA

## **Persecution is Increasing**

Loving greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am once again thanking the Lord for this wonderful time of communication with your esteemed presence. Dear elders, I request you to kindly pray as the persecution is increasing day by day in our region. The anti-Christian elements are at large. We have been prohibited to enter into some of the villages where we have started church plantation. However, we are not stopped by hearing their

threatenings. We need your prayers and financial support at this juncture.

Please pray and take part in this ongoing work. There is no time, the enemy is pouncing behind us. Stand behind us to push and encourage us. Looking forward for an early reply in this regard.

Y. Benjibab  
India

## **Don't Want to Miss a Word**

I am requesting an address change. I have moved to a new location and do not wish to miss a word.

D. McConnell  
Louisiana, USA

## **Reach the Unreached**

Dear Bro. Daniel,

Greetings in Jesus' name. The work of the Lord is up to date and blessings are spreading all around. Lord's work in Pakistan is flourishing and members of our congregations are increasing. Literature and correspondence school works are now spreading in many areas and we have won many souls for our Lord. Last Sunday we baptized 22 people. Two people are now helping us in preaching. This is all because of the literature you sent and the mercy of our Lord.

All the members of the church of God in Pakistan are thankful to you for helping us. This is our prayer that God may help you to reach the unreached. Brother, please keep the Lord's work in Pakistan in your personal and congregational prayers.

Asher Kaleem  
Pakistan

## **Glad to Hear from You**

I am very glad to hear from you, and I'm always thanking God for your life...

I desire to receive your bi-monthly holiness paper. Please if it can be possible that we get it in French also. Please we want to hold crusade in the month of November, so if can be possible for you to send us the tracts in French for the evangelism. May God bless you!

J. Gnofam  
Togo

## **Encouraged by Your Invitation**

Dear Bro. Layne,

Greetings from the church of God in India. We always remember you in prayer and we are pursuing the teaching from your materials, but require more of your

materials regularly that we can be in same teaching and leadership to bring oneness to all our local churches in our locality, to build up of the body of Christ.

All our churches are in villages. Many orphan children also in our churches. Pray for them. Many of our youth want to train up for the full time ministry. Kindly pray for their needs, and also pray for children ministry training we are doing for one month.

I am very much interested to attend the Germany or USA meeting to see the practical church life and meet all the saints. All our churches in India are very much encouraged by your invitation, and my heart is full of joy, eagerly waiting see it come to pass. I am so glad I spoke with you over the phone, my Bro. Daniel. May the peace of Christ be with you and all the saints there.

Bro. Saroj K. Hial  
India

## **Like to Receive Trumpet**

I would very much like to receive the *Gospel Trumpet* please.

J. Robbins  
Washington, USA

## **A Valuable Thing**

Dear Bro. Daniel Layne,

Brother, I am happy through seeing your email. I have received copy of *The Gospel Trumpet*. This was very useful to me. It was a valuable thing.

I invite you to come to India. If you are not able to come, please send any person in behalf of you. Brother, please pray and make plans to come to India definitely. Please remember us and our work in India. Waiting for your early reply.

Bro. V. Padma Rao  
India

## **Want to Work Together**

Greetings in Jesus' name from Yangon, Myanmar. I hope you and your ministry are going well. By the grace of God our family and ministry are going well.

Thank you so much for your *Gospel Trumpet*. It is a great blessing for our ministry and our life. Thank you for you serve all the world for the Lord Jesus Christ. We really want to work together with your mission in Myanmar. Please send us again your materials. Thank you. God bless you.

Bro. H. Ling  
Myanmar

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# The Importance of Right Doctrine

*Bro. Daniel Eichelberger*

“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.” 1 John 2:21.

There is a common belief held by the majority of professing Christians today that truth is subjective, that there is great latitude for variations of scriptural understanding. We may all get along, regardless, if we simply believe in Christ. Consequently, doctrinal preaching and teaching is not that important. Preach Jesus and that is all. This is a great mistake and one not supported by one jot or tittle of scripture.

Thank God, we have a better foundation and “a more sure word of prophecy” than such watered-down nonsense. John wrote to people in his day that knew the truth. Not “a” truth, or “some” truth, but THE truth. And he contrasts this word *truth* with another one not found in religious vocabulary today—the word *lie*. In the spiritual sense, there are but these two words; nothing is subjective. John sets this forth clearly. And those who know the truth in our day, as surely as those who did in his, know for certain that no lie is of the truth.

Every false doctrine carries an eternal consequence for the one who espouses it, no matter how sincerely it is believed. The Lord will judge us, not by our good inclinations, but by our faithfulness to His Word. Lies prejudice the mind against those who believe and espouse the truth. Is it any wonder why sectarians dislike the message of the church of God? She is the “pillar and ground of the truth” and does not apologize for being so. Sects freely admit they are not the one church spoken of in the scriptures, which embraces all believers in heaven and earth. In this they speak truth, but their belief is a lie, for it does not produce the desire for such a visible unity. But the church of God proclaims

her scriptural status boldly. Her ministers will fearlessly preach doctrine, for they are commanded to do so in the scriptures.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Tim. 4:2.

“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” 1 Tim. 4:13.

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.” Titus 2:1.

“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 Tim. 4:16.

What? Saved under doctrinal preaching? Verily so. And if souls are to be genuinely converted and kept converted today, we must follow the apostle’s prescription here given.

This melting together of denominational lines today is not the working of God. It is the attempt of Satan to construe the boundaries of right and wrong so thoroughly that souls will not be inclined to seek after truth and pure doctrine. And no wonder, for Jesus said, “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32. How, then, can a soul be made truly free who has not set his or her heart to seek out the truth?

In the light of this, what are we to make of the recent letter by the self-professed “Babylon preacher” to the *Gospel Trumpet*? He objects to certain articles we have printed, claiming that they are “unimportant,” “legalistic,” “dogmatic.” In particular, he took issue with a recent article on wine and another on superficial altar work. Is this fair of

him? When there are multitudes of professing Christians who unabashedly disobey the Word of God in regard to the matter, is there not a need to publish the truth about the meaning of the word *wine* in the Bible? They think nothing of having a drink or two with their meal, and setting a stumblingblock in the way of others, justifying their doing so on a mistaken interpretation of the scriptures. And this “Babylon preacher” thinks it is “worthless” to print the truth on the matter? Obviously, he is wiser than Solomon (see Proverbs 20:1; 23:31; 31:4).

And what of superficial altar work? He attacks such an article and insinuates that such teaching has nothing to do with the ways of Christ. He asks, “What lasting kingdom impact are you making with this type of rhetoric?” You see what we are up against, dear saints, in this last and evil day. He couches his disdain for doctrine behind a religiously phrased inquiry.

This same man claims his silence on such matters is love. Utter falsehood! It is not love that allows souls to continue in error and in a course which flatly contradicts the Word of God. You will never win a sinner to a truly righteous and holy life by back-patting and condoning a lie. Oh, that God would raise up a whole host of holy writers to expose error in all its myriad forms in any and all subjects!

Contrary to this man’s assertion that “Christ-followers” must focus more on loving people and using real, lasting relationships with them to lead them into a relationship with Christ,” the scriptures place the burden of saving souls squarely

*“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 Tim. 4:16.*

on preaching. “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom. 10:14). How, indeed? If we would adopt the Babel custom, it would be football parties, campfires, fishing trips, social suppers, and “building relationships,” and precious little (if any) preaching and doctrine. There is a time and

place for building relationships, but this does not negate the need for doctrine, nor is it to take the place, as it does in most churches, of preaching. "Yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel!" 1 Cor. 9:16.

It is the duty of the true church of God to so proclaim doctrinal truth that no hiding place can be found for error. Only a fearless people and ministry with a Bible experience can accomplish it. We have been given the command, "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." Isa. 62:10. If the stones are superficial altar work and a mistaken understanding of wine in the Bible, so be it. Out they go with all the other myriad "thou shalt nots."

The true minister knows how to "be gentle unto all men" and at the same time

to "reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 2:24; 4:2). It is all in the line of what God has called him to do. He has not been called to "serve tables" and oversee social suppers.

Let "Babylon preachers" try to perpetuate silence in the name of love, falsely so-called. The holy church of God is blowing the seventh trumpet anyway, and the silence is breaking despite the efforts of such preachers to stop it. We are not in league with error and the devil, nor do we intend to be. If our spiritual language is an offence to the blind leaders of the blind, we do not care. Our business is to keep souls from falling in the ditch with them. This calls for some strong measures; strong language. Perhaps a poor soul will be awakened here and there and led to the "old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein." Only

the preaching of right doctrine will open their eyes to see they are headed to the ditch.

Oh, ministers of God, preach doctrine as Paul has instructed you to do. Preach the truth because Jesus has said it would make souls free. Nothing less and nothing else will do it. To love a soul is to tell them the truth always, all the time. Do not fear the epithets cast on you by the dumb and greedy dogs of Babylon who cannot bark. Preach all the Bible. Sound the alarm. "Ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence." Isa. 62:6.

"Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." Isa. 28:17.

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

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## The Kiss of Charity

Bro. Robert Bourn

*"Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen."*

*1 Peter 5:14.*

Dear brethren of the most high God and all sincere seekers of the truth; I greet you, in spirit, with the divine charity spoken of concerning this holy ordinance. Webster's Dictionary gives this definition of the word ordinance: *1) An established or prescribed practice or usage, esp. a religious rite.*

The kiss of charity is not only established by the Holy Bible, but is prescribed as well. In the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of first Corinthians, Paul instructed the church to "keep the ordinances." Jesus states in John 14:15, "If ye love me, *keep* my commandments." James declares, "Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." It is a deceptive spirit of the devil that endows people

with the mentality that they can pick and choose from the Word of God what they will or will not practice.

A Bible ordinance by simple definition is an outward public expression of what has spiritually taken place inwardly. Baptism, for example, clearly brings this definition of ordinance to light. Rom. 6:1-4 vividly portrays how the believer dies to sin, buries the old life, and resurrects to walk in newness of life. Therefore, baptism is a public ordinance that shows the death, burial, and resurrection that has taken place within the believer's heart.

Likewise, the kiss of charity expresses a deep inward work that has been wrought in the soul. As John 3:3 states, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." So it is also with the kiss of charity, full understanding can only be obtained by possessing what produces it. The deep source of this godly ordinance is found in the following

verses: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye *love one another*; as I have loved you, that ye also *love one another*." John 13:34. "That their hearts might be comforted, being *knit together in love*." Col. 2:2. "That they all may be one." John 17:21. Divine God-given love and unity is the unseen root that sprouts into this holy expression of outward affection, thus proclaiming our heavenly kinship.

Do we have multiple witnesses to establish the kiss of charity as a Bible teaching?

1. Rom. 16:16 "Salute one another with an holy kiss."

2. 1 Cor. 16:20 "Greet ye one another with an holy kiss."

3. 2 Cor. 13:12 "Greet one another with an holy kiss."

4. 1 Thess. 5:26 "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss."

5. 1 Pet. 5:14 "Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity."

The answer is emphatically, Yes! Not only do we have multiple scriptures from the inspired Word, but also multiple authors on the subject. Two apostles of the morning time, Bros. Paul and Peter, have set this forth in the Word of God, in which the same Bible states, "ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God and is

profitable for *doctrine*.” 2 Tim. 3:16.

People will stop at no end to explain away the Bible. While engaged in conversation with a preacher not long ago, on this very subject, I was informed that the word *kiss* did not mean *kiss*, but really means, *hug*. How absurd! Dear ones be advised, there is a principle taught in Rev. 22:19 that warns us not to take away or add to the Word of God.

It is truly amazing to see the hireling ministry of today, who are choking on large chunks of camel meat as they scrutinize the punctuation of the Holy Writ with a magnifying glass (Matt. 23:24). Woe unto you, blind guides, repent of the sin of hypocrisy and God will bless you to explain, instead of explaining away the Bible.

Many desire to justify their wilful negligence of this Bible ordinance by casting it into the realm of ancient culture or custom. However, we bring their attention to the fact that the inspired Word distinguishes it from culture or custom by addressing it as an *holy* kiss (1 Cor. 16:20).

Ezk. 22:26, “Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane.”

Dear soul, will you stand before the judgment bar of God guilty of profaning God’s holy things? Some religious professors even go as far as slandering God’s holy children, calling them effeminate for observing this sacred and divine ordinance. To this the Word of God answers, “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.” Titus 1:15. “Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil.” Isa. 5:20.

Proper modesty along with consistent Bible principle imply that the brothers should greet the brothers and sisters the sisters.

Those who seemingly cannot get past kissing someone of the same gender are the same that would not have received the blessing from Jesus. “*And he spit, and touched his tongue... And straightway his ears were opened and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.*” Mark 7:33, 35. The plain facts of the matter are some of you are spiritually weak and weighed in the

balances for your wilful lack of participation in observing this God-sent, holy ordinance. Get your heart baptized with fire, salute the brethren as you ought, and straightway your ears and tongue will also be turned loose for God!

Where should I kiss my brother? The right answer is found in Prov. 24:26. “Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.” Dear ones, this is the proper method for the Christian salutation of Rom. 16:16. Its meaning is like

the salute that Jehu gave Jehonadab that had come to meet him, “Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?” 2 Kings 10:15.

In closing, I ask you the same. If your answer is yes, the kiss of charity is the Christian greeting that must follow.

“And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot.” 2 Kings 10:15. Thank God for this divine, holy love and unity that has produced a zealous and fiery chariot of the Lord. 📖

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## Examining Loopholes

*Continued from Page 1*

sexual unfaithfulness has happened on the part of one of the married partners. But before we get too deeply into the meaning of the words, it is important that we notice to whom Matthew is written. The gospel according to Mark was written primarily to the Romans, and the exception clause is omitted. The book of Luke was written to the Greeks, and the exception clause is omitted. Matthew was written primarily to the Jews, and the exception clause is included.

Undoubtedly Matthew had the Jewish wedding custom in mind. When a young man wanted to marry a girl, he traveled to the house of the prospective bride, negotiated a price for the girl, established a covenant of betrothal, and then returned to his father’s house for a period of about twelve months. The betrothed bride and groom were called “husband” and “wife” even though there was still no physical union. The marriage ceremony (and physical union) only occurred after the twelve-month period of separation. And the exception clause found at two places in Matthew refers not to marriage divorce, but to a betrothal divorce. If the young man discovered that his prospective bride had been unfaithful during the period of betrothal, he could return her to her father with a paper of divorcement.

The exception clause was not included in Mark and Luke, because Greek and Roman marriage customs did not recognize the betrothal provision and so it was not necessary for them to even mention the exception.

Notice however, in the exception clause, that the word is “fornication”—not “adultery.” Fornication speaks of sexual relations between two unmarried people. There are times in the scriptures when “fornication” is used to speak of all illicit relationships, but notice that in this particular portion of scripture, the words “fornication” and “adultery” are used in contrast with each other (in the same setting), and when that happens in the Greek language, the two words cannot mean the same thing. So we find that what Jesus is saying here is not that divorce and remarriage are okay if sexual unfaithfulness has developed after marriage, but what Jesus is clearly saying is that the engagement can be broken if sexual unfaithfulness has happened during the betrothal period.

*This is not the popular point of view, but it is the biblical view.*

This is the provision that Joseph was going to use when he discovered that Mary was expecting a child (See Matthew 1:18-20). So we find that Jesus, in this first (so-called) loophole, is not making room for divorce and remarriage after the marriage has been consummated (if there has been sexual unfaithfulness), but the exception is a provision for the breaking of an engagement (if sexual immorality has occurred).

### 2. The Question of Whether Adultery is a State or a Single Action.

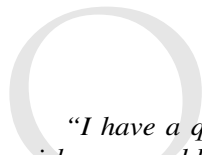
The Bible clearly says that whenever

remarriage occurs, adultery results, and that is pretty much accepted by almost every Bible reader. Adultery is identified in every passage where the remarriage of divorced persons is mentioned. But the important question is this: Does adultery take place in the act of becoming remarried, or does it exist in the state of being remarried? If adultery is just the act of remarriage, then a couple who is remarried can go to the Lord, confess that sin, and be forgiven, and go on living together and not be guilty of adultery until such a time when they split up again, and go to the Lord again and confess that sin, and be free again until they split up again and go and confess again. If adultery is merely a single act, then that is how the process can work. The act can be forgiven like any other sin can be forgiven.

Notice that in the Bible accounts, Matthew, Mark, and Luke all use the term “commits” (“committeth”) adultery. The phrase is in the present tense, which in Greek nearly always denotes a continuous action. Romans 7:2-3 clearly uses the continuous action tense when it says, “She shall be called an adulteress.” Furthermore, we are told here why the remarriage of divorced persons is adultery. It is adultery because the first marriage is still binding. People talk in our day about “ending” marriages. You can’t do that. It plainly says in Romans 7:2 that the wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. *It is not divorce, but death, that ends marriages.* The only thing that divorce does to a marriage is to make adultery legal in the eyes of the government. As long as a former mate is living, the original marriage union is secure in God’s eyes, and that is a state of marriage.

When one of the married partners separates from the other and joins himself to someone else, that does not free him from the state of marriage that he is in, but instead, it enters him into a state of adultery. First, the remarriage act, and then the state of being remarried, constitutes adultery. Just like the act of becoming married leads one into the state of matrimony, so the act of becoming remarried is adultery that leads one then into the state of an adulterous relationship.

This is not the popular point of view, but it is the biblical view. If you are going to be honest and read Romans 7:2-3 carefully, you cannot come up with any other conclusion. I know that Paul is not speaking specifically here to the point of divorce and remarriage, but what he is doing is using an illustration about our relationship to the Law. Neverthe-



*“I have a question to ask you. I wish you would write a message out and put it in the Gospel Trumpet.*

*Is it wrong for a preacher to preach in the pulpit and be married twice? I know they preach that fornication is wrong. Why not adultery?*

*I remember years ago I think the church of God would not allow this to happen. They just came and listened to the Word.*

*I have been in the church of God about 55 years, although I went out in sin, but now I am back in.” —A Reader*

Jesus Himself, when addressing a similar question regarding divorce, clearly stated that “from the beginning it was not so.”

In fact, not so very long ago, even in secular society divorce was uncommon and was frowned upon. How things have changed in this decadent society! What is sadder still is that what used to be considered sin is now showing up behind the pulpits of the land and is the cause of untold spiritual damage to souls.

Had there been purity of life and doctrine behind the pulpits of the land, no doubt society itself would not be as bad as it is today, with its extremely high rate of marital break-ups and broken homes.

Many religious leaders have chosen the way of the flesh instead of the way of the cross and reasoned themselves out of the Word of God and into compromise to accomplish it.

One of the Bible requirements for an elder is to have only one living

spouse (1 Timothy 3:2).

Note this plain text of scripture: “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.” Rom. 7:2-3.

Since the Word of God is a “hard saying” to those in situations they do not care to continue in, many have taken the liberty to rationalize a “way out.” So now they deem it acceptable to loose themselves from the original marriage bond, not because their original spouse died, but for any number of reasons, which, of course, we would be “hard-hearted” not to understand.

We understand severe situations may mean a separation is necessary, but the Bible gives no liberty to remarry. Rather, one is to remain single, unless such time when there could be a reconciliation (1 Cor. 7:11).

While our heart truly goes out to any who find themselves in very unfortunate circumstances, we direct them to the grace of God and will be compassionate in offering support where we can, but in no situation is divorce or remarriage condoned in the Word.

Woe to the preachers who, instead of warning eternity-bound souls of this sin, help them into it, for they must give an account to God (Heb. 13:17).

In short, not only is it wrong for a preacher to be divorced and remarried (or married to someone who is divorced), but the same stands for everyone. —The Editor

less, the truth about divorce and remarriage is clear.

The adulterous relationship resulting from a second marriage is an on-going intimate relationship, and thus is not a one-time act of adultery but a continuing state of adultery.

### *3. The Case of Remarriage that Occurred Before the Couple Became Christians.*

What do we do with the situation where a young man or woman has married and divorced and married again (maybe as often as three or four times), and then they come to know the Lord as Saviour? The argument is

that we certainly cannot hold that against them, because they did it when they were non-Christians; surely God forgives all that. But Mark 10:5-9 indicates that marriage is a divine institution which was ordained by God from the beginning, and it is not particularly a Christian institution. Mark 10:6-9 says, "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife. And they twain shall be one flesh...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Jesus says that marriage is binding in all cases, and it was that way from the beginning, not just since the beginning of the Christian era.

One term which helps clarify the all-inclusive nature of God's marriage laws is the word "whosoever." The word "whosoever" is used seven times in the New Testament references to marriage and divorce and adultery. It is used frequently in the New Testament in reference to salvation, and whenever it is used, it always means "all inclusive, anyone, everyone." (Note the use of the word in John 3:16). It does not matter if one is from Asia, Europe, the islands of the sea, or a small American village—whosoever meets the conditions of salvation shall not perish. It is all inclusive. And just so, when the Bible uses the word in connection with marriage—and talks about "whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another, committeth adultery"—it is likewise all inclusive. That is true whether the person is from a culture which has spoken against the remarriage of divorced persons or is from a society where remarriage is not frowned upon. The marriage vows are binding upon all, whether Christian or not.

Some quote from 1 Corinthians 7:17, 20, 24 and say that the Bible tells a person to remain in the same condition in which he was when he was first saved. This becomes a loophole for justifying the remarriage of divorced persons who remarried while they were still unsaved. But we need to look at the setting of the 1 Corinthians 7 passage. Paul is talking about two things—circumcision and servanthood. He says that if God calls you and you are not circumcised, don't bother getting circumcised. And if, when you come to know the Lord, you are a servant (a slave),

don't bother trying to free yourself. Stay where you were when you were called. Paul is not talking about sin and wrong living. He is not saying, "If you are a murderer, just continue being a murderer." He is not saying, "If you are a liar, keep on lying." He doesn't say, "If you were a fornicator, keep on in your immorality—that's okay." Proverbs 28:13 makes it clear that God wants all of us to turn from sinful living.

John the Baptist lost his head defending this principle. Mark 6:17-18 tells how John the Baptist had said that it was not lawful for Herod to have his brother's wife. Herod was not a Jew. Herod was not a Christian. Herod was a typical representative of the Mideast culture. John was talking about God's eternal law—the law which from the beginning was one man and one woman in the marriage relationship. John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

Marriage is binding on all—whether Christian or non-Christian. Hebrews 13:4

## *What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

says so. It is important to notice that neither Mark nor John recognized Herod's second marriage as valid. Mark (in 6:17) describes the woman as "his brother Philip's wife." That is whose wife she was, even though Herod had married her (Mark 6:18). She wasn't Herod's wife. Herod was living with her in adultery. She was Philip's wife. God does not recognize the second marriage because the first marriage is binding until death. That is an eternal principle settled in the eternal counsels of God. Marriage is not just a Christian institution; it is a broad, general institution, and therefore it is binding whether you were married when you were 14 in the ghettos of New York City or united in marriage at age 25 in a typical Brethren wedding ceremony. From God's point of view, all marriages are binding and can be broken only by death.

### *4. The Argument that an Innocent Party has Certain Freedoms*

First off, it is doubtful that there ever is "an innocent party" in a marriage conflict. I don't know of any case where there has been

a marital separation in which one of the parties was totally innocent. I agree that there are different degrees of fault, but to say that someone is innocent is a pretty big statement. There are exceptions to the general rule, and so we should look at how the Bible would deal with the conflict if someone is indeed innocent.

What about the person who has experienced marriage failure and seems totally innocent of any wrongdoing which led to the divorce? Is it proper for that person to remarry? The latter part of Matthew 19:9 records the words of Jesus: "...and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery." Jesus does not say why the woman was divorced. Perhaps she didn't cook right, or maybe she ran off with another man, or she may have combed her hair in a way that displeased her husband. At any rate, one who marries another who is divorced involves himself in an adulterous relationship. God is saying that the marital relationship is so sacred that there are no exceptions—even if one of the parties is innocent. 1 Corinthians 7:11 says that we need to keep the marriage intact because in marriage we are involved in a covenant relationship, and we need to keep our

part of the covenant even if the other party breaks his or hers. Even if there is such a thing as "an innocent party" in a marriage conflict, there is still no right to remarry.

Some quote from 1 Corinthians 7:15 and conclude that the Bible says in certain situations people "are not under bondage." These people would say that if you are married to an unbeliever, and the unbeliever departs, you are free from the bondage of marriage—as free as if you had never been married. But what Paul is talking about in this passage is that we are not bound to follow after the departing individual and serve him as a slave. If you are married to an unbeliever and the unbeliever chooses to leave you, then you do not have to feel that since you are a Christian wife, you have a marital obligation to follow him around, knock on his door, and say, "I'm here. I want to cook your supper; after all, that is my obligation and responsibility. I'm your wife." He slams the door, moves to another apartment, and gets an unlisted phone number, and somehow you find out what the number is and call him up and say, "Where are you

living? I've got to come." No, the Bible says you are free from that if the unbelieving partner departs and doesn't want to have anything to do with you, let him go. You are not bound to keep following him, serving him, and hounding him. Let him go. God has called us to peace.

To interpret the passage any other way would contradict other verses in the same chapter (1 Corinthians 7). Verse 11, for example, says, "Let her remain unmarried." There is something binding about the first marriage. The married person is always to let the door open for reconciliation. Down in verse 39 of the chapter, we read that the wife is bound as long as the husband lives, regardless of how he treats her or what he does to her. *Only death terminates a marriage.* Therefore the word "bondage" in verse 15 (of 1 Corinthians 7) does not mean that one is free from the bond of marriage if serious conflict arises.

There is a Biblical way to experience God's blessing when tangled marriage situations are present. There needs to be a voluntary separation of the partners who are wrongly married. True, the remarried divorcees sometimes seem happy together. They have a family and home. Yet the real solution is to separate.

We find that the children of Israel were involved in sinful marital relationships, and Ezra 10:11 says that they were instructed to "separate yourselves from...the strange wives." Ezra 10:44 says that in some of the families children were involved. There were probably some young men and women in that camp who were deeply in love with each other, yet all of us must be reminded that "the way of transgressors is hard." Sometimes there is no easy way out.

An important principle related to some of the tough issues in life is found in 1 Peter 2:19-21. Verse 20 says, "If when ye do well and suffer for it, [and] ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." We are encouraged to suffer for righteousness' sake. It is never pleasant, of course, to encourage suffering. Our flesh-nature shrinks from suffering, but nevertheless God's plan sometimes requires that, in this present world, we are going to suffer for righteousness' sake. I believe that is God's perfect will. But God

realized that there are some people who will not be able to stand up to that. Thus in 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, the Lord gives a permissive will related to marriage: "Let not the wife depart from her husband. But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband; and let not the husband put away his wife." God does allow married partners to separate if the relationship between them becomes too strained.

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*"But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul."  
Prov. 6:32.*

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When separation occurs, however, there are only two options—to remain unmarried or to become reconciled to the married partner. Once again, there is no provision for divorce and remarriage.

Also, Jesus talked about a "eunuch solution" to marriage problems (Matthew 19:10-12). Some are "born" eunuchs—born without the ability or desire to be involved sexually with another person.

Others are "made" eunuchs—desexed by doctors so that they could be used in certain capacities for their master. Also, there are some who "make themselves eunuchs" for the kingdom of heaven's sake. We often say that it is too much to ask a person to go through life without enjoying the blessings of marriage. But Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:8 that singleness is a good choice to make. He gives reasons in 1 Corinthians 7:32-34. God calls some people to remain eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. We should exalt this position as an option for our young people. God has a real blessing in store for those who choose that direction. Isaiah 56:4-5 informs us that God holds a special place in His heart for those people who are willing to forego some of the otherwise acceptable pleasures of this life for the kingdom of heaven's sake.

Surely, if God has special blessings and grace for those who choose a life of singleness for the kingdom of heaven's sake, there will be sufficient grace for those who have had unfortunate marriages and are determined to go through life without remarrying (as long as their mate is living). Every faithful disciple of Christ needs to do what he can to encourage and help victims of divorce who choose to obey God in the matter of not taking the route of remarriage. ☞

—David F. Myer

*This article is available in booklet form.*

## Intensity

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Psa. 42:1. Here is intensity. By intensity we mean that burning passion of the soul after God; that intense desire to be holy as He is holy and to glorify Him in all words and acts of life.

"I opened my mouth and panted: for I longed for thy commandments." Psa. 119:131. Here is intensity—Panting after the commandments of God like a thirsty animal for water. The great task of the overseers of God's church today is to keep God's people out of a careless, go-easy, indifferent life. How few thirst after God. How few thirst and hunger for the salvation of souls. Preachers may go over the country holding revivals and find entertainment and enjoyment in doing so, but even of those, how few have such a burning passion for souls that they will wrestle with God in the midnight hour or early morning hour or any convenient time for the salvation of the lost. They may think more of what gain they will make. This would be an awful crime, but it may be one of which some are guilty.

There are holiness people who act very much as if no one were going to hell. Others act as if they were just as holy as they cared to be. They seem to have no thirsting for greater perfection of life. They act as if there were no improvement to be made.

The need of today is a greater passion for goodness, a more intense longing for greater Christ-likeness and a greater burden for those for whom our dear Saviour gave His life. "Rivers of water run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law." Psa. 119:136. Here is intensity. When did you shed a tear over sinners lost? Do not these words shame you? Dear people, the house is on fire, how can you keep on sleeping? —C.E. Orr

# Ye Shall Be Hated

Menno Simon

There are some light-minded, rebellious, contentious, and carnal persons who, without cause and scripture, and in every respect without the fear of God, teach, write, admonish and cry out against us.

Be not frightened by their upbraiding and slandering, for from the beginning it has been the case that the unbelieving hate, slander and persecute the believing; the wicked, the good; the unrighteous, the righteous; the carnal, the spiritual; the heretics, the Christians. It was the case with Cain and Abel...with the false prophets and the true prophets, as Christ Jesus has told us before, namely: "Ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake" (Matt. 24:9).

If they were the true disciples of Christ Jesus as they boast themselves to be, they would persecute, betray, or murder nobody for the sake of their faith, but with Christ Jesus, they would diligently seek

to reclaim that which was lost (Matt. 18:11), if we were lost, as they claim.

If they were the bride of Christ, they would not be spiteful, cruel and bloodthirsty, but meek, mild and merciful, yea, be thus minded as is the good and faithful bridegroom, Christ Jesus. But they plainly manifest themselves by their works not to be the bride of Jesus Christ, but rather to be the bride of him, who, from the be-

ginning was a murderer, that is, the devil (Jn. 8:44).

If they were the body of Christ, they would not crucify and persecute anyone for the sake of the truth of the Lord, but would themselves, with Christ Jesus and His church, be crucified and persecuted for the sake thereof (Matt. 5:11; Jn. 16:1, 2; 2 Tim. 3:12). For the innocent lamb does not kill, but from the beginning it was killed.

Behold, kind readers, what miserable, bloody, tyrannical and murderous heretics our gainsayers, opponents and persecutors are found to be before God in all their teachings, admonitions, instructions, life and tyranny. But this they do not acknowledge, for it would not do to acknowledge this. If they did, how could they then crucify and persecute the chosen children of God, the children of the kingdom and promise, the brethren and sisters of Jesus Christ, the angels of peace,

and the children of the eternal, imperishable life?


But now their minds are so obscured, their eyes are so bedimmed, their ears so closed up that they cannot understand, for their evil-doing and wickedness have obscured and blinded them. The table of divine word is to them "a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence" (Rom. 11:9). The righteous judgment and awful wrath is come

upon them, because they so industriously seek falsehood, and so obstinately combat and reject the lovely truth of Jesus Christ.

Christ Jesus says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6). But these hunger and thirst after unrighteousness, with which they, according to Paul, are abundantly filled (2 Thess. 2:12).

These seek diligently night and day, not after the right way, but after the wrong, hoping yet to find something, either in the word or in our lives, which may be so twisted, bent, or applied as to trample upon and nullify the right evangelical truth. Inasmuch as they so assiduously seek after unrighteousness and delight in falsehood, therefore God smites them with such great blindness that they can neither comprehend nor judge of

*They so assiduously seek after unrighteousness and delight in falsehood, therefore God smites them with such great blindness that they can neither comprehend nor judge of the teachings of God.*

the teachings of God. Yet they desire to clothe their cause, however shameful it is, in the garment of the scriptures, that they may, under this scriptural, holy appearance, better deceive the foolish, ignorant populace that desire to be deceived and seduced. And thus they remain, both teacher and disciple, in the service of their perishable flesh which they have chosen as their God (Phil. 3:18-19). 

# MEETING REPORTS

## The Building of Zion

“For the people had a mind to work.” Neh. 4:6.

We are building a city.  
To the work! Make haste!  
Eternity’s looming—  
There’s no time to waste.

Shall we stop for Tobiah?  
Or Sanballat? NO!  
We will build and we’ll fight  
Against all of our foes.

For the building of Zion  
Doth take precedence  
O’er listening to cavilers  
And all devil-sent.

We will work with the Lord  
To false prophets oppose,  
And with angelic trumpet  
Their lying expose.

We shall labour together  
In blest harmony  
With sword and with hammer  
In sweet unity.

Until all the great walls  
Of Jerusalem stand,  
And all redeemed souls  
Are one holy band.

—Sis. Verna Bontrager



**Israel and Egypt:** Forty-nine saints departed Sept. 2 with a burden to spread this glorious gospel throughout Israel and Egypt. Saints from California, Ohio, Indiana, Canada, Mexico, and Germany met together in Tel Aviv. The Lord blessed and sent many precious souls our way. We were able to minister throughout the country in song, testimonies of deliverance, and even our very presence spoke

to those around us. We sang often and it wasn’t unusual to see tears in the eyes of those listening.

One day while on the Sea of Galilee in a boat, the captain turned off the motor so the saints could let their voices ring. The Lord wonderfully opened the windows of heaven. Not only were the saints moved with an overwhelming gratitude for the Lord’s love, but other passengers were also moved to tears. After singing, the saints were found testifying to those on board of deliverance from sin and sectism. We made many wonderful contacts there.

In a couple of our hotels we rented meeting rooms and held a singing service and had several visitors come. They were touched. One night we gathered in a hotel room and had a special meeting with some visitors, including a pastor and his family from Jerusalem. That also was blessed of the Lord

We spent one morning at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem and had meeting there outside. Bro. Layne exhorted us to live a radical life, as Christ lived a radical life and died a radical death for us. After all Christ went through to bring us this wonderful salvation can we get by with not giving our all? After the moving exhortation the saints again sang. It was no formal singing! Some saints were moved to tears, while passers by were compelled to stay and listen. When we concluded our service, one of the volunteers there said they had heard a lot of singing in that place, but never anything like that.

We met many people from various



countries that longed to know more about the church of God. Pray that God would follow after them and lead them home to the one body where we enjoy true fellowship and unfeigned love.

Sis. Crystal Burr

**Korea:** It is wonderful to have something that the whole world is in need of. Thank God for this present truth that is sweeping the world. It satisfies every hungry soul that is desiring to please God, regardless of age or culture.

We are thankful to God for the opportunity to go to Korea and to meet with people who are still preaching holiness. We were received with warm Christian love and have been invited to hold meeting in Seoul. Pray that the Lord will continue to bless and open many more doors in Korea.

In the Master’s service,  
Bro. Ray Tinsman

**Ohio:** We thank the Lord for a wonderful meeting here in Greenville, with Bro. Ernest Benion Jr., Sept. 27-30. The Word of God was preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost and was simple to be understood. We want to express our appreciation to the saints that attended the meeting from Ontario, Canada; Warsaw, Indiana; and Wisconsin. There were approximately 300 saints and many visitors from various places.

The Lord richly blessed us. There were many souls who sought for help at

the prayer bench, and others were saved and sanctified.

Please pray that God would grant much increase to the work here.

    Laboring in the gospel,  
    Bro. Ray Tinsman

**Ontario, Canada:** We thank the Lord for sending us Bro. Randy Hargrave, from Ohio, and Bro. Stephen Hargrave, from Indiana, to hold us a doctrinal meeting October 1-7. Saints from Manitoba, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, California, Alaska, Mexico and Germany came to worship with us in the glorious fellowship of our Lord and Saviour. This was the largest meeting we have ever had here in Aylmer, with the attendance reaching 440.

During the morning services, Bro. Randy Hargrave taught on the history of the church. He referred to different happenings in the past and proved by the Bible that they were a fulfillment of prophecy. He went through each of the seven seals mentioned in Revelation, showing us what had happened to the church during each time period. God only has ONE church, and it is traceable all the way back to the upper room.

In the evenings, Bro. Stephen Hargrave had doctrinal studies. Some

topics studied were: The Obedience of Faith, The Name of the Church, The Chosen People, Salvation, Sanctification, and Being a Pioneer. These studies were very valuable. Without a strong doctrinal foundation, our Christian house cannot stand. We were much encouraged in this meeting to get a deeper scriptural understanding by studying our Bibles.

We appreciate what the Lord is doing for us here in Aylmer, and see good fruit from the meeting already.

    Bro. Henry Hildebrandt

**Philippines:** The Lord is truly working in this end-time gathering around the world, for which we truly rejoice. God blessed our labors in the Philippines. Our gospel company was 15 in number. We arrived in Manila on Oct. 6th, 2007. We were well met by the saints, Bro. Severino Villanueva, his wife, family and teenagers from San Jose City, Bro. Edgardo Luzong from Paniqui and Bro. Faustino from Quezon City.

We proceeded on to San Jose by bus, and had services there on Sunday morning. Leaving the rest of the company there, Bro. Ray Tinsman and I went back to Manila and took a plane to the southern island of Mindanao where we met with Bro. Rabino and Bro. Filbert, local pastors in the area, who represented 3 congregations gathered in two locations. We very much enjoyed meeting these wonderful saints. We spent 3 days on the island of Mindanao visiting and holding meetings, then came back to San Jose, joined our gospel company and additional saints from San Jose, and went by bus to the town of Paniqui to Bro. Edgardo Luzong's, where in the evening we had meeting with a congregation of holiness people. We were well received and very much appreciated the hospitality accorded us in Paniqui.

From there we took our bus on to Manila, where Sunday morning we had service in Quezon City and in the afternoon had a meeting with saints in the home of Bro. Lino Dela Cruz in another suburb of Manila, with several ministers and saints. Again, we were well received and appreciated the wonderful hospitality and warm fellowship of these true saints of God.

    When we returned from Mindanao

## Church of God Schools (Kindergarten – Grade 12)

### Upland, California

The Gospel Restoration Academy

### Warsaw, Indiana

The Church of God Restoration Academy

### Greenville, Ohio

The Church of God Academy

### Kidron, Ohio

Seventh Trumpet Academy

### Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Evening Light School

### Honey Grove, Texas

The Church of God Restoration School

### Bonduel, Wisconsin

Little Pilgrim Academy

### Steinbach, Manitoba

Church of God Sunrise Academy

### Aylmer, Ontario

Church of God Christian School

### Germany

Christliche Schule der Gemeinde Gottes

### Baja California, Mexico

Baja Church of God Mission School

### Chihuahua, Mexico

Evening Light Christian Academy

### Durango, Mexico

Church of God Evening Light School

to San Jose City, we discovered the meeting there had proceeded with much spiritual success. Souls had been saved, the last night's meeting being attended by over 160 and two previous nights by over 130 persons.

We left the saints in the Philippines much encouraged and eager for our return. We are so thankful for the Lord bringing us into contact with so many who love truth and are determined to live for God.

Bro. Daniel Layne

## Upcoming Meetings

### Kenya, Africa

Nov. 28 – Dec. 11

### Greenville, Ohio

February 3 – 10

### Germany

March 21 – 30

### California

March 31 – April 6

## Tracts & Booklets

### *Booklets*

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\$1.00	Do Christians Sin? (Let the Scriptures Speak)
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\$1.30	He Lifted Me Out – English, Spanish & German
\$1.75	Heavenly Life for Earthly Living
\$2.25	How to Live a Holy Life
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\$1.50	Why the Millennial Doctrine is Not Biblical
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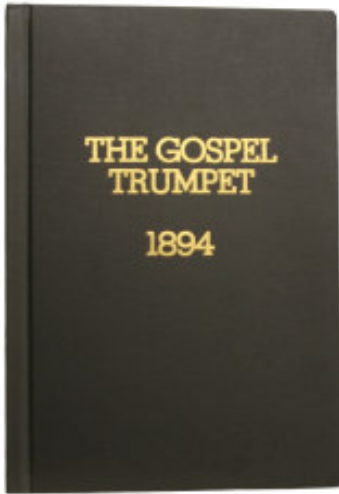
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<b>Philippines:</b>	Bro. Severino Villanueva Jr.	San Jose City
<b>Kenya, Africa:</b>	Bros. Bonface Munzaa, Simon Mutinda	62 Congregations: Chuka, Eldoret, Embu, Kitui, Machakos, Mbeere, Meru South, Nakuru, Nyeri, Western

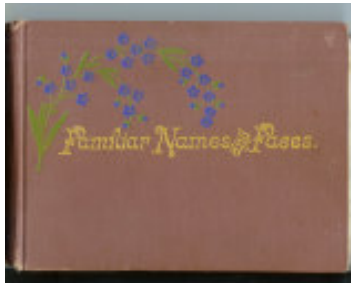
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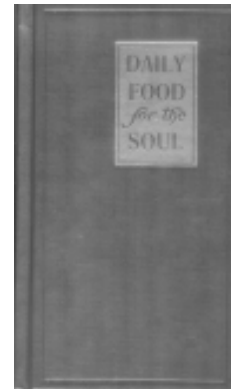


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