

# SURE OF HEAVEN

## GOOD NEWS—GOOD WORKS,

## HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

IN THE MIDST OF LIFE THERE IS DEATH

### **GOOD NEWS—GOOD WORKS**

We read in the Bible, truth that should be recognized as truth even by those who prefer not to believe the Bible; “the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23). ‘GOOD NEWS’ follows this statement in Romans 6:23, “the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” ‘WAGES’ . . . ‘DEATH’ . . . ‘GIFT’ . . . ‘ETERNAL LIFE’. The majority of people do not believe this ‘GOOD NEWS’: many of them are not even interested.

Whether or not we believe the truth of Romans 5:12, that by Adam sinned entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned, we are certainly aware of the fact that we human beings are all members of a dying race. We are numbered with more than two and one-half billion human beings who at this present time inhabit this planet called ‘earth’. How many other billions have been here and have gone away, we do not know. Some of the billions who went away left their earthly habitation quite young. Some were permitted to remain here for a longer period.

In the opening chapters of Genesis we find a man, created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26 and 27), in a wonderful Garden (Eden) in fellowship with his great Creator. In the last verses of that first Book of the Bible we find an excellent, devout, honorable man of God, by the name of Joseph, in a coffin in Egypt. Right at this present time of trouble in Egypt more than the usual number of dead men are being placed in coffins in that land.

We are told that more than thirty-five thousand people die on this earth every twenty-four hours. Of this number more than two thousand die in our so-called ‘Christian’ land, this land of Bibles. About seven hundred million people, who were alive on earth one hundred years ago, are now dead. If some great event does not take place to put an end to this awful epidemic of death, at the end of another century, about two and one-half billion human beings now alive will have died.

IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME?

Percentage wise there were never so many sudden deaths. Death is no respecter of ages. We never know when it will strike. Not one of us is sure how long he will be among the living here on earth. Would you like to know just how and when you are going to die, if you are not to be among the saved who will not experience physical death at the appearing of the Prince of Life? (I Corinthians 15:51 to 56, Acts 3:14 and 15).

Perhaps you have heard of the man who said that he would give half of his earthly possessions to know the place on this earth where he was to die. When asked why he would do such a foolish thing, he replied, "I would keep away from that place."

During the several days, including Labor Day Monday, when several hundred people met sudden deaths in automobile accidents, the newscasters reporting the tragedies and the plane crash which occurred about the same time in which a number were suddenly killed, remarked, "they were in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Whether you and I are in the wrong place at the wrong time, or in some other place, if the great event of I Corinthians 15:51 to 56, which will put an end to this awful epidemic of death so far as 'saved' people are concerned, does not take place, every one of us now living, whether 'saved' or 'unsaved', will leave our earthly homes and experience Ecclesiastes 12:6 and 7. We will say 'good-bye' to our corruptible bodies and our spirits will return to God Who gave them. Good news for 'saved' people is recorded in II Corinthians 4:16, "though our outward man rot thoroughly, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

When the day of death was at hand for David and Joshua and the apostle Paul and the apostle Peter, David and Joshua said, "I go the way of all the earth." (I Kings 2:2). Paul said, "the time of my departure is at hand." (II Timothy 4:6). Peter said, "Shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as the Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me." (II Peter 1:14; John 21:18).

David, Joshua, Paul and Peter were all in the right place at the right time when they said 'good-bye' to earth. Right at this moment, as you read this message, others are leaving here by death for some other place. Only God knows how many or how few of them can truthfully say with Paul, "I am now ready." (II Timothy 4:6). Are you ready to meet God?

In John 13:3 we read concerning the outstanding Great Man of all ages, that He knew that the time of His departure was at hand. He had already said in John 12:27 to 33, "for this cause came I unto this hour (of death). Now is the judgment of this world, and I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me; signifying what death He should die." On Calvary's cross the eternal, sinless, omnipotent Son of God was delivered according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. (Acts 2:23). Christ said, in Matthew 26:24 and John 3:14, "the Son of man goeth, as it is written of Him"; "the Son of man must be lifted up." Then he said, "As Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40).

God's Son was in the right place at the right time when He was delivered for our sins and raised for our justification. (Romans 4:24 and 25). He was born to die on Calvary's cross for your sins and mine. (Hebrews 2:9—I Peter 1:18 to 23).

Read carefully, and seriously consider, the truth of I Timothy 4:8, "godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that 'WHICH IS TO COME'." Then answer the question of the Son of God, "what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

Surely you should agree with me and with every other sane person of even ordinary intelligence, that it is more than profitable to be ready for death, or for the coming of the Lord, and for whatever may await all of us thereafter. Be certain of Acts 10:42 and II Timothy 4:1, the Lord shall appear to judge the living and the dead.

## WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT THE WICKED . . . GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

You may not consider yourself wicked, but it should prove both interesting and profitable to read what God says about the ‘wicked.’

“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?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

Why will ye die? The righteous and most spiritual are experiencing physical death, and they know the truth of Psalm 116:15, “precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” However when God speaks of the death of the wicked and asks the question, “why will ye die”, He is referring to something far more serious than physical death.

Note what God says about the wicked in Psalm 7:11 and in Nahum 1:2 and 3, “God is angry with the wicked every day” . . . “God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth, and is furious: the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and He reserveth wrath for His enemies. The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked.”

Note seriously these solemn words in Psalm 9:17, which are true even if you think otherwise: “the wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” Inasmuch as God’s most spiritual saints have gone to their graves, surely any one who interprets ‘hell’ in Psalm 9:17 to mean physical death and the grave, and no thereafter punishment, is deceived by Satan, the god of this age, who is accused of the crime of deceiving the whole world. (Revelation 12:9).

No human being needs to be a profound theologian or gifted Bible teacher to explain the meaning of Hebrews 10:30 and 31; “we know Him that hath said, vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. The Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Note carefully God’s warning, recorded in Amos 4:12, “because I will do this unto thee, ‘PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD’.” Whether or not you are concerned or apathetically indifferent, Romans 14:12 is up-to-date truth:

“SO THEN EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD.”

You are going to meet the true and living, personal God, Who is indeed both a just, holy, righteous judge and a compassionate, merciful, gracious Saviour. The ‘GOOD NEWS’ of II Peter 3:9 has ever been true, “the Lord is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Nineteen hundred years ago God asked some self-righteous, religious people, two questions that He is asking you today, “how thinkest thou shalt escape the judgment of God, or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that

the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?” (Romans 2:3 and 4). Then we learn in the next few verses that those self-righteous, unsaved, religious sinners had their choice between receiving God’s goodness and repenting or treasuring up wrath, tribulation, anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first and also of the Gentile. (Romans 2:5 to 9). Even those hard-hearted, impenitent, religious people believed and taught that there is to be a resurrection of the saved and of the unsaved, as we learn in Acts 24:15.

Why not be wise and say with the lad, who knew that he was a guilty sinner before God, but who in John 3:16 learned the ‘GOOD NEWS’ of Romans 5:20, “where sin abounded grace did ‘much more’ (over) abound.” He believed the truth of John 3:16, “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” He believed unto the saving of his soul (Hebrews 10:39). He said concerning the ‘GOOD NEWS’ in John 3:16, “God said it” . . . “Christ did it” . . . “I believe it” . . . “That settles it.” . . . “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (I Timothy 1:15).

Hear the ‘GOOD NEWS’ and bad news in two of Christ’s statements. First John 12:47, “I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.” Then in Luke 13:3, “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” With these two statements hear John 3:17, “for God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Hear the words of the merciful Saviour in Isaiah 1:18, “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow: though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Again the ‘GOOD NEWS’ in Psalm 103:8 to 15:

#### “THE LORD IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS”

“Slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He hath not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him. For He knoweth our frame: He remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass . . . the wind passeth over it and it is gone.”

Read this ‘GOOD NEWS’ many, many times. Then turn to Luke 7:47 to 50 and read the ‘GOOD NEWS’ that a very, very sinful woman, perhaps a ‘notorious’ sinner, heard from the heart and lips of the eternal, omnipotent, sinless Son of God: “thy sins are forgiven” . . . “thy faith hath saved thee” “go in peace.” Christ said her sins were ‘many’. (Luke 7:47). It is both interesting and noteworthy that in Luke 7:19 to 23, the Lord Jesus proved that He was the very God who prophesied in Isaiah 35:3 to 5 that He would come down to earth, and prove His eternal Deity by performing supernatural miracles, and prove that He had power to forgive sins (Mark 2:10), and to give eternal life to all who believed in Him and received Him as Saviour. (John 10:28 and John 17:2)

#### WOULD YOU WILLFULLY MAKE GOD A LIAR?

In I John 4:14 we read this wonderful truth; “the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.” Then note the most interesting and important statements in I John 5:10 to 13: “he that

believeth not God hath made Him a liar: because he believeth not the record that God gave of His Son; And this is the record, that God hath given unto us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God; that ye may 'know' that ye have eternal life." If you are really trusting in the perfect Christ and His perfect redemptive work, God wants you to have a 'know-so' salvation.

Many splendid, moral, law-abiding, benevolent, zealous, devout, religious people at this present time, including thousands upon thousands of church-members, make God a liar, because they do not believe the Bible record of the eternal, self-existent, omnipotent, sinless Christ, Who said, "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me" (John 6:38), Who said, "I am the way; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6); Who said to self-righteous, impenitent, religious leaders, "ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." (John 8:44). The Lord Jesus called those self-righteous, impenitent, religious leaders, "serpents", "a generation of vipers". Christ asked them a question which God is still asking of all religious people today, who do not believe in the eternal Deity of Jesus Christ and who refuse or fail to meet God at Calvary where Jesus appeared once in the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself (Hebrews 9:26). Give your undivided attention to Christ's question, in Matthew 23:33, "how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" Do you have the answer? Are you going to escape that awful penalty?

#### ALL ARE CONDEMNED OR JUSTIFIED

God directed a wise man to write some Proverbs. We here quote for your serious, thoughtful consideration two very important statements from the Proverbs: "he that trusteth in his own heart is a fool" (Proverbs 28:26) "he, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." (Proverbs 29:1). In connection with the last statement, think carefully of Hebrews 9:27, "it is appointed unto men once to die, but 'after this' 'the judgment'."

But also think of the 'GOOD NEWS' spoken by the Lord Jesus, to Whom the Father hath committed all judgment (John 5:22). That Saviour said, in John 5:24, that believers (saved people) shall not come unto judgment.

"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God who justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us." Every member of the human race is either justified or condemned. In John 3:18 we learn the great truth, the 'GOOD NEWS', that those who put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ are not condemned. Hear the very wonderful 'GOOD NEWS' in Romans 3:24, "justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Christ told the self-righteous, deceived, religious leaders of His days in their midst; "the publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before you." In John 8:11 we find the words of the Saviour to a woman caught in the act of adultery. Christ said to her, "neither do I condemn thee: go and sin no more." (John 8:11).

What did the Saviour say to the penitent thief (Luke 23:43), crucified by the side of Christ? “Verily I say unto thee, to-day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise.” That thief, who deserved capital punishment (Luke 23:41), was not required to submit to some water ceremony or any religious sacraments. He was saved by grace, calling on the Lamb of God Who beareth away the sin of the world. According to Ephesians 2:8 and 9 and Titus 3:5 to 7, and Romans 4:5, you can be saved right now in the very same way. What about it? Tomorrow may be too late.

Remember Titus 2:11, “the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.” Remember Romans 5:20 and 5:10; “where sin abounded, grace did ‘much more’ abound” and God’s alienated enemies are reconciled to God by the death of Christ. Read this ‘GOOD NEWS’ in Romans 5:10 and in Colossians 1:20 and 21.

### EVERY DAY WE ARE BEING TOLD THAT THE BIBLE IS THE BEST SELLER

In Romans 4:3, we read this very interesting question, “what saith the Scripture?” In Romans 3:4, “let God be true, but every man a liar.”

In John 8:44 we read concerning Satan, “he was a murderer from the beginning, abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it.” Thus we see what the Lord Jesus thinks of Satan.

In II Corinthians 4:3 and 4 Satan, who does everything in his power to keep sinners from being saved by the Gospel of the Grace of God, is called ‘the god of this age’. In II Corinthians 11:13 to 15 we learn that Satan, in order to accomplish his deadly work, transforms himself into a religious ‘angel of light’ and has under his control and command religious human messengers who preach sinners into eternal perdition in the name of the Christ of Christianity. They are camouflaged as apostles of Christ with another gospel, which will not save any sinner. (II Corinthians 11:1 to 5).

Undoubtedly the Bible is the best seller. The Bible is likewise the best ‘teller’, in that it tells the truth about the human heart, about sin and the wages of sin, ‘after-death’ judgment, and the one and only way of redemption and salvation from sin and the consequences of sin.

The Psalmist told the truth concerning the Old Testament Scriptures, sometimes called the ‘Jewish Scriptures’. He said, “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105). In II Timothy 3:15; 16 and 17 and II Timothy 2:15, the man of God, who wrote one-half of the Books of the New Testament Scriptures and who practiced what he preached, declared that the Bible, which was able to make a believing sinner wise unto salvation, was God-breathed. He called it, ‘THE WORD OF TRUTH’. (II Timothy 2:15). The Lord Jesus, in praying to His Father, said, “THY WORD IS TRUTH.” (John 17:17).

### WHAT GOD’S WORD SAYS ABOUT THE SINNER AND HIS HEART

We read in the so-called ‘Jewish Scriptures’, in Psalm 14:1 to 3, truth that is confirmed in the New Testament Scriptures. “The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. THE LORD LOOKED DOWN FROM HEAVEN upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand,

and seek God. They are all gone aside; they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good; no, not one.” This is confirmed in Ecclesiastes 7:20, “there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”

Now note what God said concerning the sinful state of His own chosen people, in Isaiah 1:2 to 8: “they have rebelled against Me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib, but Israel doth not know; My people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord; they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger. They are gone away backward . . . the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.” More is said about the sinner’s heart in Jeremiah 17:9, “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.”

As we turn to the New Testament Scriptures, we read what the Lord Jesus, Israel’s rejected Messiah, said about the human heart, and He told the truth, in Matthew 15:19: “out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” “THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE; for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:22 and 23). “There is none righteous; no, not one.” (Romans 3:10). “The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (I Corinthians 6:9). By the TEN COMMANDMENTS let every mouth be stopped and all the world become guilty before God. (Romans 3:19). “Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in God’s sight: for by the law is the ‘KNOWLEDGE OF SIN’.” (Romans 3:20).

#### GOD ALWAYS LOOKS DOWN FROM HEAVEN

God is still looking down from heaven upon the children of men. He sees millions of fools behind the iron curtain and elsewhere, who say “there is no God.” He sees about one billion human beings in the heathen lands worshipping gods which they have made of iron, wood and stone with their own hands. God sees what He describes in Romans 8:22, “the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” God sees the unsaved human race described in Titus 3:3, “foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”

If you have read the newspapers during the past two months, you know something of what God sees in the international, unrest, hatred, rumors of war, violence, and bloodshed. What have the papers said about this so-called Christian land of Bibles? Suicides, race-hatred, political corruption, kidnapping, divorces, armed robberies, the various crimes of ‘teenagers’, murders, bitter quarrels and strife among employers and employees, and such wholesale drunkenness as was never known.

How refreshing and encouraging and blessed, in the midst of present world conditions and the depravity of the heart of the natural man, cursed with indwelling sin, to hear the ‘GOOD NEWS’ of Romans 5:20 and see it in operation in I Corinthians 6:9 to 11 and Titus 3:3 to 7:

“WHERE SIN ABOUNDED GRACE DID MUCH MORE (OVER) ABOUND”.

Note what Paul found in a large city about 1900 years ago, what he did about it, and the transformation of sinners that took place:

“Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God . . . “SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU”. . . “But ye are ‘WASHED’. but ye are ‘SANCTIFIED’.” “But ye are ‘JUSTIFIED’ in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” (I Corinthians 6:9 to 11).

Again, after Titus 3:3 wherein the awful condition and predicament of the sinful, sinning human race is described, wonderful ‘GOOD NEWS’ follows in Titus 3:4 to 7:

“After that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared . . . Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to God’s mercy He saved us . . . That being ‘Justified’ by ‘HIS GRACE’, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Because the human heart is desperately wicked, because of Satan’s power and work of deception, because man is incurably religious and many, many religious people believe they must earn their way into God’s favor, the great majority of the people on this earth will not believe the ‘GOOD NEWS’ of salvation which Paul preached to those wicked Corinthian sinners and by which they were so transformed by supernatural power that they were changed from ‘dead sinners’ to ‘living saints’. Hear that ‘GOOD NEWS’, in I Corinthians 15:1 to 4, by which they were saved: “how that Christ died for our sins; and that He was buried, and that he rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures.” Paul thus testified concerning God’s saving message to those Corinthian sinners, “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (I Corinthians 2:2).

The Lord Jesus foretold His crucifixion in this language in Luke 12:50, “I have a ‘BAPTISM’ to be baptized with, and how am I straitened till it be accomplished.” Paul gloried in the ‘CALVARY’ ‘BAPTISM’ of Christ. (Galatians 6:14). But he wrote the Corinthians that Christ sent him not to baptize but to preach the gospel. (I Corinthians 1:17). He told the transformed Corinthians that they had been ‘BAPTIZED’ (both Jews and Gentiles) into ‘ONE BODY’ (I Corinthians 12:13), called in I Corinthians 12:28, “THE CHURCH.”

We learn in I Corinthians 12:25 to 27, Romans 12:4 and 5, Ephesians 3:6 and Ephesians 1:22 and 23 and Ephesians 2:21 and 22 and in Ephesians 4:15 and 16, that “The CHURCH” in this present age and dispensation of grace is something more than a religious organization into which religious people are inducted by religious preachers, priests and other officers. The Church of this dispensation is called, in Ephesians 3:6, “THE JOINTBODY,” because all saved people, or ‘living saints,’ are joined to the risen, glorified Christ, the ONE HEAD of the Church, and joined one to another, to all other CHURCH-MEMBERS. The CHURCH is a Spiritual Organism Which Christ will present to Himself a ‘GLORIOUS,’ ‘SPOTLESS,’ ‘BLAMELESS,’ ‘HOLY’ CHURCH. (Ephesians 5:25 to 27). Christ and the Church ‘ONE FLESH.’ (Ephesians 5:31 and 32).

## THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE ATOMIC BOMB

The awful condition of the world is driving some sinners to suicide, many to excessive drinking, some to mental institutions and others more and more to worldly pleasures and amusements and jazz-crazy entertainments. On the other hand so many thousands of distressed



people are turning to religion that church-attendance and synagogue-attendance in this country is at an all-time high.

We hear continuously, by radio and television, from newscasters and announcers, “attend the church of your choice, no matter what your faith, creed or religious convictions may be.” The announcements are producing results in church-attendance. The other frequent public announcement is, “The Bible is still the best seller.”

In the membership of the more than two hundred and fifty sectarian church-organizations there are thousands upon thousands of true, faithful, spiritual, zealous, aggressive saints, who, in obedience to Titus 2:14, are zealous of ‘GOOD WORKS.’ Many of them know that their ‘GOOD WORKS’ neither saved them from the penalty of sin nor helped to save them; but that they were saved by ‘THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST,’ which is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. (Romans 1:16). The Greek word translated, ‘GOSPEL,’ may be correctly translated, ‘GOOD NEWS’.

According to the Jude 12, Romans 4:4, Ezekiel 33:13, Hebrews 9:14, II Corinthians 3:7 and 9, the sinner who turns to religion and Old Testament sacraments (done away with at Calvary—Colossians 2:14 to 16), or to any human reformation scheme, instead of turning to the Grace of God, to Christ and Calvary, for salvation and a home in heaven, is “twice dead, plucked up by the roots.” God tells us that if man could be saved by struggling with the ten commandments or by striving to measure up to the righteousness demanded in the Sermon on the Mount, then Christ died in vain, or for nought. (Galatians 2:21).

God wants you to meet Him at Calvary on the mount before you tackle the sermon on the mount. You must receive at Calvary the nature of Christ before you try to practice the ethics of Christ. “They that are in the flesh (not indwelt by the Holy Spirit) cannot please God.” (Romans 8:8 and 9). “Ye must be born anew.” (John 3:7).

#### THIS PRESENT EVIL AGE IS MOVING TOWARD A HECTIC CLIMAX

This age is called in the Bible, “this present evil age.” (Galatians 1:4). There is considerable speculation as to whether or not we are nearing a Third World War, which statesmen say will be the end of civilization as we know it. According to I Corinthians 15:51 to 57 and II Thessalonians 1:7 to 10 and Matthew 24, this age is headed for both a glorious and a hectic climax. It will be glorious for those who have a hope laid up in heaven (Colossians 1:5 and 6), an incorruptible inheritance that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for those who are kept by the power of God unto salvation. (I Peter 1:3 to 7). It will be far worse than a time of sorrow for those ‘who have no hope.’ (I Thessalonians 4:13 to 18).

God holds out ‘GRACE’ salvation to every sinner (Titus 2:11), and behind them is the threat of the destruction of the human race by the atomic bomb. The truth of John 3:36 is still the truth of God: “he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him.” Do you remember what God said to the rich fool, who did not believe the truth of Luke 12:15, “man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth?” God said, “thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” (Luke 12:20).

Do not be foolish. You cannot afford to take any chance. At the beginning of one of our highways, which was torn up and under construction, there was a large sign reading, “be on the alert for the unexpected.” If you are unsaved, you are on a very dangerous highway. Prepare to meet thy God.

## WHAT CHRIST NAMED AS THE FIRST WORK OF GOD

The religious people of Christ’s own nation, in John 6:28, asked Him a very important question, “what shall we do, that we might work the works of God?” Christ might have named at least one thousand good works. But note carefully His answer, in John 6:29: “this is the work of God, that ye believe on Him (Christ) Whom He hath sent.” This should cause us to receive at full face value the truth of I Corinthians 3:11 and 14, “other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” . . . “if any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.” Then Colossians 3:17 is so very important: “whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks unto God the Father by Him.”

## GOD’S WORKMANSHIP CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS ‘UNTO’ ‘GOOD WORKS’

From the very moment the believing sinner is saved by grace through faith; not of works, lest any man should boast; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8 and 9), God expects, or desires, unlimited ‘GOOD WORKS’. In order to be eligible for God’s approval, recognition and reward for ‘GOOD WORKS’ the person must be “God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto ‘GOOD WORKS,’ which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10).

Not only is the religious preacher or teacher grossly ignorant when he instructs his followers that it makes no difference whether the ‘GOOD WORKS’ precede or follow salvation from the penalty of sin, but he is deceived by Satan.

According to Colossians 1:5 and 6, it is by hearing and believing the ‘GOOD NEWS’ that the believing sinner has a hope laid up in heaven. This ‘GOOD NEWS’ is the ‘GOOD WORK’ of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (II Thessalonians 2:13—Acts 4:12). Then the believer is instructed to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the ‘WORK OF THE LORD’ (I Corinthians 15:58), to work out his own salvation with fear and trembling by being “blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world, holding forth the Word of Life.” (Philippians 2:13).

God tested the human race, especially Israel, for fifteen hundred years under a program of ‘law-works.’ Then God, in the form of Man, visited his ‘Law’ Nation. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. (John 1:11). Israel’s Messiah, King and Saviour was made under the law (Galatians 4:4), and lived and laboured under the law in the midst of His own in the land of the Jews’. (Acts 2:22—Acts 10:39). He said to His religious leaders, “none of you keepeth the law.” (John 7:19). Peter repeated this in Acts 15:10. Then the Lord’s ‘Law’ Nation said to a heathen ruler concerning their own Messiah Who when in the form of God gave them their ten commandments by writing with His finger on two stones (Exodus 31:18), “we have a law, and

by our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.” (John 19:7). Before that, after Christ had said, “I and Father are one,” they took up stones to kill Him, as they said, “because Thou, being a Man, makest Thyself God.” (John 10:33).

Behold a world of sinners ‘under the law’! Because they knew not, “they crucified the Lord of Glory” (I Corinthians 2:8) (I Thessalonians 2:14 to 16). “Ye denied the Holy One and just, and desired a murderer (Barabbas) to be granted unto you, and killed the Prince of Life, Whom God hath raised from the dead, whereof we are witnesses.” (Acts 3:14 and 15).

The Law is called ‘the ministration of condemnation’ (II Corinthians 3:9). Think of the folly and the tragedy of a condemned human race, in this year 1956 A.D., trying to gain God’s favor and earn His salvation by good deeds and religious sacraments under the ministration of condemnation! By that law God says, “let every mouth be stopped and all the world become guilty before God.” (Romans 3:19).

But the God of all grace (I Peter 5:10) adds ‘GOOD NEWS’ in Romans 3:28 and Romans 3:24: “We conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law” . . . “Being justified freely (without a cause) by God’s grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

When a thief or habitual criminal accepts the grace of God and is ‘justified from all things’ (Acts 13:39), by grace through faith, without ‘good works’ or ‘religious deeds,’ the great transformation or change, by Divine regeneration, seems more radical than the Divine transformation when a respectable, moral, benevolent, sincere, conscientious, unsaved, self-righteous, religious church-member passes out of death into life through faith in the crucified and resurrected Saviour. However, it requires no more of the grace of God to save a criminal than a so-called ‘modernist,’ or ‘Christianized agnostic’ with a ‘reverend’ or ‘doctor of divinity’ title. “If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation.” (II Corinthians 5:17) (Galatians 6:15).

The new creature in Christ Jesus is God’s ‘WORKMANSHIP.’ (Ephesians 2:10). Any and every human being must be God’s ‘WORKMANSHIP’ before God will own him as His ‘WORKMAN.’

## GOD’S HIGH AND HOLY SPIRITUAL STANDARD FOR HIS NEW CREATURES

After the saints at Colosse were told (Colossians 1:5 and 6), that they had a ‘hope laid up in heaven’ by believing the ‘GOOD NEWS’ of Colossians 1:20 and 21, they were thus instructed . . . “Desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in ‘EVERY GOOD WORK,’ and increasing in the knowledge of God . . . unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness.” (Colossians 1:9 to 11.)

When God’s Word said, “we are labourers together with God” (I Corinthians 3:9) the reference was “to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called ‘saints.’ (I Corinthians 1:1 and 2). (I Corinthians 6:11).

To those called ‘saints’, justified by grace through faith, without any religious doings, God says, “yield yourselves unto God, as those who are ‘ALIVE FROM THE DEAD.’ (Romans 6:13). Saved people are spiritually “ALIVE FROM THE DEAD,” as we learn in Colossians 2:13, John 11:25 and 26, and John 5:24. Believe with all your heart Ephesians 2:4 to 7:

“But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were ‘DEAD IN SINS’ hath made us ‘ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST’ (by grace ye are saved) . . . And hath raised us up together, and made us ‘SIT DOWN TOGETHER IN THE HEAVENLIES IN CHRIST JESUS’; that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of his grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

### KINDNESS TOWARD US THROUGH CHRIST JESUS

With this wonderful ‘GOOD NEWS’ read carefully Ephesians 1:6 and 7, that sinners saved by grace through faith, changed from ‘dead sinners’ to ‘living saints,’ are to join with Paul in this praise: “to the praise of the glory of God’s grace, wherein He hath ‘GRACED’ us in the Beloved, in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace.”

The man of God chosen to write this ‘GOOD NEWS,’ which should give to every saved person the absolute and positive assurance of eternal life and eternal glory in heaven, testified in I Timothy 1:12 to 16, that the abundant grace of the Lord and his faith in Christ the Saviour changed him from ‘the chief of sinners’ to the Lord’s spiritual pattern for believers. If you are really and truly trusting in Christ and His redemptive work, God wants you to be “sure of heaven.”

As the Lord’s pattern, the apostle Paul, who said to Christians,” follow me, as I follow Christ” (I Corinthians 11:1, I Corinthians 4:16—Philippians 3:17) testified in I Corinthians 15:10, “by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain: but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” In his farewell message, this man of God wrote, “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.” (II Timothy 4:6 to 8.)

In addition to these words written to his good friend Timothy, the apostle Paul wrote to him, “endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (II Timothy 2:3), “charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in ‘UNCERTAIN RICHES,’ but in the living God, Who giveth us all things richly to enjoy: that they do good, that they be

### RICH IN ‘GOOD WORKS’

“Ready to distribute.” (I Timothy 6:17 and 18). “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.” (I Timothy 6:12).

Timothy, to whom Paul wrote, was a ‘saint.’ How did he become a saint? Hear the most wonderful ‘GOOD NEWS’ any human being ever heard, believe it with all of your heart, down deep in your heart, the Lord’s ‘GRACE’ salvation message:

“GOD, WHO HATH SAVED US, AND CALLED US WITH AN HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.” (II TIMOTHY 1:9).

Will you believe this with all your heart, and let God save you by His infinite, matchless, all-sufficient saving 'GRACE,' believing James 2:5, that God hath chosen the poor of this world to be 'RICH IN FAITH'? God wants you to know how rich is the believer in Christ Jesus. Then He wants you to be 'RICH IN GOOD WORKS,' knowing that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and "ye are not your own . . . for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Corinthians 6:19 and 20).

Of course much of what we have said, according to I Corinthians 1:20 and 21, is foolishness to the wisdom of this world. Think of these words of the infallible, eternal, sinless Christ of Bible Christianity, recorded in Luke 16:15: "ye are they which justify themselves before men: but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

Religious people, who prefer the 'do it yourself' salvation plan, do not highly esteem the truth of Ezekiel 33:13, Romans 4:4 and Romans 11:6:

First Ezekiel 33:13, what God said to some 'do it yourself,' religious people centuries before Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (I Timothy 1:15), "When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live: if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousness (righteous acts) shall not be remembered: but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it." This is not abomination in the sight of God, but in the sight of those who think they are going to some kind of 'hereafter' heaven because of their deeds of kindness and religious doings it is.

Now Romans 4:4 and Romans 11:6 . . . "To him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace but of debt" . . . "And if by grace, then it is no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace."

### WHAT ABOUT 'JUSTIFIED BY WORKS' IN JAMES?

Millions of religious people, who do not know what "The Gospel Of the Grace Of God" (Acts 20:24) is, and the meaning of "the Dispensation of the Grace of God" in Ephesians 3, and think that they have to add religious sacraments and Law works to the perfect redemptive work of Christ to make God's 'GRACE' salvation more efficacious and effective and the believer's salvation more certain and secure, quote James 2:24; "ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." They repeatedly, unceasingly use this Scripture to repudiate, invalidate, negate and annul the most blessed doctrine, the most wonderful 'GOOD NEWS' ever heard by the human race, complete, perfect, justification by grace through faith in the perfect work of the perfect Christ, as set forth in Romans 3:24 to 28, "the blessedness (happiness) of the man, unto whom God impueth righteousness without works." (Romans 4:6).

Any confused religious preacher who proclaims a mixed salvation message, a mixture of law and grace, religious sacraments with the finished work of Christ, perverts God's 'grace' 'GOOD NEWS' for sinners, and the anathema of God will be his portion. (Galatians 1:6 to 12). Those who are their victims are called 'foolish.' (Galatians 3:1 to 4).

As we said 'GOOD WORKS' unlimited should follow salvation by grace through faith. Note in Titus 2:14 who is to be 'ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS'. Those who have been redeemed by the precious shed blood of the Son of God. Note in Titus 3:8, who are to

‘MAINTAIN GOOD WORKS.’ Those who are believers and have been saved without works of righteousness. (Titus 3:5 to 7). The same is true concerning those who are to be ‘RICH IN GOOD WORKS.’ (I Timothy 6:18).

GOOD NEWS AND GOOD WORKS in Paul’s Epistles to Timothy. We have just quoted I Timothy 6:18, “RICH IN GOOD WORKS.” We have quoted I Timothy 1:15, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Before we consider James 2:24

#### HEAR THE ‘GOOD NEWS’ OF I TIMOTHY 2:4 TO 6

“God, Who will have ‘all men’ to be saved. There is One God and One Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus Who gave Himself a ransom for all.” Hear and believe this wonderful ‘GOOD NEWS.’ “God will have all men to be saved and God provided that wonderful salvation in the gift of His Son on Calvary’s cross. “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). No thing, no power, no person “shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37 to 39). “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23), “Eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised.”

#### PETER AND JAMES AND PAUL JUSTIFICATION WITHOUT WORKS

If the writer of the Epistle of James was present when Paul condemned, rebuked and corrected Peter in Galatians 2:10 to 15, James heard the truth concerning God’s work of justification by grace through faith in Christ. Note how Paul faithfully corrected Peter and tried to establish him, in Galatians 2:16:

“KNOWING 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.”

James wrote to the ‘twelve tribes’ (Israel). (James 1:1). The word translated ‘assembly’ in James 2:2 should be ‘synagogue.’ When James wrote of being ‘justified by works,’ he gave Abraham’s offering of Isaac on the altar in Genesis 22:9 as an example. Abraham placed his son on that altar about forty years after Abram believed God, “And He counted it to him for righteousness.” (Genesis 15:6 and 8.) Abram was justified by faith 430 years before God gave to Israel the ten commandments. (Galatians 3:6 to 9—Galatians 3:16 to 18). About twenty years before uncircumcised Abram became circumcised Abraham (Genesis 17:24—Genesis 17:5), Abram was justified, or declared righteous, by God, in uncircumcision. (Romans 4:9 to 11). This was by grace through faith, four centuries before the so-called sacraments of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers were added at Sinai. So the Scriptures, in Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6 to 8, Romans 4:21 and 22, teach us in plain language that Abram (Abraham) was justified by believing and not by working.

During the forty years from Abram’s justification in Genesis 15:6 to 8, because he believed God, until the day he placed Isaac on the altar he was perfectly righteous in his standing

before God, for he had received God's own righteousness by imputation, as God's free gift. God preached the 'GOSPEL' to Abram, the Promise, the Covenant of Promise. (Galatians 3). When Isaac was on the altar God confirmed His covenant with His oath, to make known the two immutable things of Hebrews 6:13 to 20.

No sinner today, religious or otherwise, is made righteous by offering his son on an altar or by offering anything else on an altar. We are made righteous, and completely justified, because God offered His Son on the Altar (Calvary). That holy, sinless Son, Who knew no sin, was there made sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. (II Corinthians 5:21 and Romans 4:5).

Get rid of all of your religious doings and meet God at Calvary. Be justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24). Then go to work in earnest, with untiring zeal and devotion, fulfill the righteousness of the law by walking in the Spirit. (Romans 8:4) Be RICH IN FAITH, be RICH IN GOOD WORKS. Do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus. (Colossians 3:17).

You can have right now a hope laid up in heaven by believing the 'GOOD NEWS.' Then lay up 'GOOD WORKS' in heaven every day and every hour, and you will be crowned and rewarded in heaven. We have been turned to God, "to serve the True and Living God and to wait for His Son from heaven, even Jesus who delivered us from the wrath to come." (I Thessalonians 1:9 and 10). If we must leave this earth before the coming of Christ for His Church, we will depart to be with Christ (Philippians 1:23), we will be absent from the body and present (at home) with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:8).

In closing we leave with you the wonderful, glorious truth recorded in Titus 2:11 to 14:

"THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGETH SALVATION HATH APPEARED TO ALL MEN; TEACHING US THAT, DENYING UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY, IN THIS PRESENT WORLD: LOOKING FOR THAT 'BLESSED HOPE', THE GLORIOUS APPEARING OF THE GREAT GOD, OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US FROM ALL INIQUITY, AND PURIFY UNTO HIMSELF A PECULIAR (PURCHASED) PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF 'GOOD WORKS'."

## **HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE**

We are now preparing for the printer a message entitled "Israel, the Key to the Scriptures." But here we mention some of the facts which will be printed in the new pamphlet.

Some form of the word 'Israel' appears in the Bible about 2575 times. The first time 'Israel' occurs is in Genesis 32:28 when God changed Jacob's name to 'Israel.' In that verse the meaning of 'Israel' is mentioned. 'Israel' means, "prevailing with God; or a prince with God."

Jacob was the grandson of Abraham, the Hebrew. (Genesis 14:13). Jacob, or Israel, had twelve sons, the fourth was 'Judah,' the third 'Levi.' In Revelation 5:5 the Lord Jesus is called 'the Lion of the Tribe of Judah'. (Genesis 49:8 to 10). God's earthly priests came from 'Levi.'

More than 300 times God is called in the Bible, “the God of Jacob” or “the God of Israel.” More than 100 times we read in the Bible of “the house of Jacob” or “the house of Israel.”

Then more than a few times “the house of Israel” was reminded of Israel’s slavery in Egypt, as “the house of Bondage.” (Deuteronomy 5:6). When Israel passed, at Sinai (about 1500 B. C.), from “not under the law” to “under the law” or “Old Testament,” that Law proved to be “The Yoke Of Bondage.” (Acts 15:10—Galatians 5:1).

About 900 years after Israel left Egyptian bondage and went under Law’ bondage (some weeks thereafter), the King of Babylon with his army besieged Jerusalem, did a work of destruction and took many of the Jews to Babylon. They were then under ‘Babylonian’ ‘bondage’. (II Kings 25—Daniel 2).

At the time their Messiah (Christ) was born of the Virgin, in fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 and Micah 5:2, the Jews were in ‘Bondage’ under Rome. (Luke 2:1 to 8).

So the Jews did not tell the truth when they said unto the Lord Jesus, in John 8:33: “we be Abraham’s seed, and were never in ‘bondage’ to any man.” Their Messiah came to deliver them from both the ‘Roman’ ‘bondage’ (Luke 1:68 to 80), and from the ‘Law’ ‘bondage’. (Galatians 4:4 and 5). Also from the ‘sin’ ‘bondage’. (John 8:34). So Christ said to them, “ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32), “if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36).

#### NOTE CHRIST IN THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE ON THE SABBATH

Concerning Christ, we read in Luke 4:16, “He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up: and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day (seventh day sabbath), and stood up for to read.”

Before we quote Luke 4:18 let us not Matthew 2:6; that Christ was born of the Virgin Mary to be ‘Governor’ to rule over Israel. In John 1:49 an Israelite in whom was no guile, ‘Nathanael’ (John 1:47), saluted and worshipped his Messiah in this language, “Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God; Thou art the King of Israel.” (John 1:49). Compare this with Isaiah 43:15 and Isaiah 35:4 to 6: “I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.” . . . “Behold your God will come . . . the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing.” Turn to Luke 7:19 to 23 and behold Christ performing these supernatural miracles to prove to Israel that He was the promised ‘GOD’ of Isaiah 35. (Read Acts 2:22 and 23).

Thirty years before Christ, the Man, was in the Nazareth ‘Jewish’ synagogue, teaching the Word of God, He was in the arms of a faithful Israelite by the name of Simeon, who said that Christ was “the glory of thy people ‘Israel’” and is “set for the ‘FALL’ and ‘RISING AGAIN’ of many in Israel.” (Luke 2:32 to 34). Christ at the age of eight days had been circumcised, because He came into the world to Israel to be the Minister of the circumcision. (Luke 2:21; Romans 15:8). Later on the Holy Child was brought to Jerusalem to be presented and dedicated, according to the ‘Law,’ with a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. (Luke 2:22 to 24). “And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to their own city Nazareth.” (Luke 2:39).



There the Messiah was brought up. There it was His custom to attend the Jewish synagogue on the seventh day sabbath. There, according to Luke 4:18, He declared that He had been anointed to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives.

### HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT

The sad news is related in John 1:11 and John 12:37: “Christ came unto His own and His own received Him not” . . . “Though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him.” Isaiah 53 was being fulfilled, “He is despised and rejected of men, a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.” (Isaiah 53:3). When Pilate asked them the question, “shall I crucify your ‘KING?’” “they answered, “we have no king but Caesar.”

Then Christ on the cross prayed, “Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34). Above the Saviour’s cross were written the words, “Jesus the ‘KING OF THE JEWS’.” (Matthew 27:37).

In John 4:6 to 22 we find the Messiah near Jacob’s well talking to a sinful woman. She knew that Israel was expecting their Messiah; for she said, “we know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ; when He is come He will tell us all things.” (John 4:25). Christ revealed to that woman that He was the Messiah or Christ. (John 4:25). Then He added, this important truth, “Salvation is of the Jews.” (John 4:22). Compare with Romans 9:4 and 5.

### “SALVATION IS SENT UNTO THE GENTILES” “WE TURN UNTO GENTILES.”

When Christ was on earth He instructed His 12 apostles to go to Israel; not to Gentiles. (Matthew 10:5 to 8—Matthew 15:24—Mark 7:27).

After Christ was raised from the dead He showed Himself alive from the dead by many infallible proofs. (Acts 1:3). Last of all, said the apostle Paul, He was seen of me. (I Corinthians 15:8). The resurrected Christ appeared to Paul several times. Christ appeared to Paul in the Jerusalem temple, and said, “I will send thee far hence to the Gentiles.” (Acts 22:17 to 21). It is both interesting and noteworthy that the words ‘Israel and Jews’ are found in the Book of Acts 102 times, whereas the word ‘Christian’ is found twice only.

We learn in Acts 13:23 that Christ was raised up from God and the Virgin Mary to be Israel’s Saviour. We learn in Acts 5:29 to 32 that Christ was raised up from Joseph’s tomb to be Israel’s Saviour.

In Luke 1:27 to 33 we learn that Christ was raised up from God and the Virgin Mary to sit on David’s throne and reign over the House of Jacob. We learn in Acts 2:27 to 33 and Acts 13:34 that Christ was raised from the dead to sit on David’s throne and to give Israel ‘the sure mercies of David’.

When Israel rejected Christ in resurrection, as well as before His death and resurrection (Luke 19:41 to 45), the Lord’s apostles said, “seeing ye put it from you, Lo, we turn to the Gentiles.” (Acts 13:45 and 46).

Then the Lord revealed to and through the apostle Paul, by special revelation, “the ‘grace’ gospel and ‘the dispensation of the grace of God for Gentiles’ (Ephesians 3:1 to 3), having blinded Israel (Romans 11:6 to 9).

Because of the ‘FALL’ of Israel, God sent salvation (in a new way with a new message) to Gentiles. (Romans 11:11). But Israel will ‘RISE AGAIN.’ When? When their blindness shall be taken away by God, “when the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” (Romans 11:25 and 26).

When God set aside ‘ISRAEL,’ His religious nation, He brought an end to Israel’s religious program and the use of the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Several hundred prophecies concerning Israel and the prophesied ‘kingdom of heaven’ are yet to be fulfilled. But not until after God has accomplished His eternal purpose described in Ephesians 2:14 to 16, to make ‘ONE NEW MAN’ by reconciling both saved Jews and saved Gentiles unto God in ONE BODY by the cross.

When God (Ephesians 1:11—Ephesians 5:25 to 32) has accomplished His eternal purpose and completed the BODY OF CHRIST, He will deal again with His ‘KINGDOM’ nation; first in judgment; then in great blessing. He will usher in His reign of righteousness and peace on earth, with the Prince of Peace on David’s throne. (Isaiah 9:6 and 7). The glorified Christ, as Head of His Body (Church) is now far above on His Father’s heavenly throne.

Because of this present unprophesied parenthetical dispensation and age, this present dispensation of grace, with special favor for Gentiles, is called “the dispensation of the Mystery” (Ephesians 3:9), which God wants all Christians to see.

We have touched on a few of the facts which we are to print in our next pamphlet. We have presented these few to show our readers how very important it is to “rightly divide the Word of Truth,” in obedience to II Timothy 2:15.