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CAN WE KNOW THAT WE'RE SAVED? **PRaising AND WORSHIPPING IN GOD'S PRESENCE SERIES** **"God Reveals His Manifest Presence to Man"**

This article is in response to a conversation that I overheard a couple of days ago. The gist of the discussion was that no one could know that they are saved until they went through the Pearly Gates. To me that would be like throwing darts at a dart board in a dark room just hoping to hit the target but never knowing the outcome. The thrower would have to become quite delusional, and at some point think about giving up the game of dart throwing. Jesus said, **"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish, and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."** To say that none can know their status in salvation is to say that they don't really know the Father or His teachings. This would indicate to me that man has introduced theology contrary to the Word of God. The Apostle Paul stated in the book of Romans that the Spirit of God bears witness with my spirit that I am a child of God; therefore, I can know that I am saved. The only way I could not know would be for me to depend on my own works and holiness to provide my salvation. If this would be possible, then the Blood of Christ would be of no avail. My Christian life would be one big hope-so instead of know-so. When religion traps a person in such beliefs, it robs that person of an intimate relationship with the Father and denies one the privilege of joy and happiness. Even if they do make it to Heaven, the journey was one of no hope and fear. I thank God that I am not trapped in such a torturous prison and I thank Him every day for His one-on-one relationship with His sheep. Having said that, I feel much better!!!!!!!

Pastor George Ferrington

In this month's lesson we will discover God's plan to reveal Himself to mankind. This revealing of God's manifest presence came through the establishing of the Tabernacle of David. In the Tabernacle of David we find two of the seven furnishings that once resided in the Tabernacle of the Congregation (Moses). The inside court of the Tabernacle of David contained the Ark of the Covenant and the covering Lid of Atonement. There is little doubt that God had a wonderful plan to restore fellowship with mankind when He ordered David to establish the new tabernacle with these two holy furnishings.

The Tabernacle of David soon revealed certain spiritual manifestations of God. Through the tabernacle, David and certain priests discovered God's **method** of unlocking the gates that allowed them into His presence. The word **method** in the above text is defined as the means of procedure that allows an orderly arrangement of steps to accomplish a specific end. Part of the **method** involved the taking of the **Ark of the Covenant**, and the covering **Lid of Atonement** (Mercy Seat) and placing it in the tabernacle and praising God around it.

This study is not about the Ark of the Covenant; however, there are important truths represented in the Ark that may help us understand the importance of these holy items along with this very special place the tabernacle provided for praise and worship. The Ark represents the Fullness of the Godhead Bodily that was to be revealed in Jesus Christ. The Ark also represented the Glory of God revealed in the camp of the Saints. To this camp of Israelites it came to be the Manifest Presence of God among them. We find support for the idea that God's manifest Presence had always been with Israel through a tabernacle with the Ark inside. This is shown in 2 Samuel 7:6, **"Whereas, I have not dwelt in any house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a Tabernacle."** It is also revealed in 1 Chronicles 17:4-5, **"Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the Lord, Thou shalt not build me a house to dwell in; For I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up Israel unto this day; but have gone from tent to tent, and from one Tabernacle to another."** There isn't any doubt that our God is a mover, and is always moving on, leading His children in a progressive revelation of Himself. A tabernacle or tent is temporary and transitional, a fitting place for the Spirit which is comparable to the wind. Any building that is immovable will not become a dwelling place for God for long.

The Bible relates a story of the Ark being brought up to Zion and being placed in the Tabernacle of David as a joyful event of praise. As it was being placed in the Tabernacle of David as a joyful event of praise. As it was being brought up, it was accompanied by singing, shouting, and the sound of musical instruments. David played and danced with all his might before the Lord. The women, the singers, and the musicians sang, played, and danced with all their might before the Lord. It was not a quiet service. The Ark was the inspiration and center of attraction, and God was in their midst. This is a good place to ask, how many of God's children would respond correctly to God's presence in such a praise and worship service today? To many today it would not be considered as being "decent and in order." For all that think that way, the Holy Spirit had a man to record in the Bible a tragic story of Michal, (Continued on Page Three)

ZION

The entire total of Palestine is smaller than our smallest state. Nearly everything that is located in the Bible can be reached within walking distance. After World War II, General Dwight Eisenhower, on a visit to the Holy Land, remarked that it is all so “compressed.” Yet within this tiny compressed land are people that typify all of us today. Their responses and greed and needs and hopes are exactly the same as ours today. What is worse, the penalty forever for doing or not doing what God requires of us, is still the same. If we are conscious of such things and we succeed in getting

to Heaven, we are going to meet and see and talk with all of the people that are told about in the Bible. The rewards for living right and doing the right things on this earth, will be received in the after life. Those who have lived in a wealthy and lavish life on this earth, will spend eternity for their terrible acts in a Hell that will never stop.

History tells us only a few names of the people that lived in the time of Jesus, but they are prominent. High positions in government or the temple or some other enterprise. But the fact that they are mentioned prominently does not alter the fact that most were criminals in charge. Take Herod the Great. What was great about him was that he rebuilt the Temple and a few minor acts. What he did was to murder nearly all of his family, if they represented even a tiny threat to him. He also had countless babies killed in the hopes of killing the baby Jesus. He failed. The next Herod (the tetrarch) killed John the Baptist, and contributed to the death of Jesus at the time of Jesus’ trials. Both of these rather well known men as well as many more, will spend eternity in Hell. But what is so amazing is that they were the kings of a tiny small territory smaller than most of the small parishes in Louisiana. Imagine acquiring the wealth and power that these monarchs once had, in an area so small and of such poverty. The vast majority of these people barely had enough to eat on a day-in day-out basis. These kings also amassed armies on occasion and fought wars of some magnitude. The people of these kingdoms feared for their very lives on a day to day, hour to hour basis.

Today, and every day since the death of Jesus in that infamous city, there has been no peace. And the lack of peace will not get better—it will worsen. Why should a tiny, near desert-like region such as this be so important to anyone, let alone the entire world? For just two reasons, one of which is that Jerusalem is “The City of God,” the other is that God chose the Hebrews long ago, to be His chosen people. They will continue to suffer the terrible penalties that they long time ago brought on themselves by crying out against Jesus, **“Let His blood be on us and on our children.”** So on this basis alone, Israel is going to all but disappear under terrible battles, before Jesus steps in and destroys her enemies. What will be so incredible about this tiny parcel of land is that in the not too distant future, all of the military might of all the world’s nations will be concentrated there. The occasion will have changed from just a military confrontation, to one of religious importance. Us against them, and eventually, God’s army against the armies of satan. All wars are terrible because of the massive number of dead young men. But this war will be beyond all reason. The destruction will boggle the minds of all those who sit and wait.

How is all of this going to end? First of all, nearly all of everything that has any mechanical base will have been destroyed. In one war, the population of the world will have sent us back into the stone age. The good part is that all of the bad guys that have brought on such a mess will have died. All that will be left will be either God’s people who have made it through the tribulation in one piece, and then when Jesus comes to reign on this earth, He will have brought back with Him to the earth all of the saints that have died as Christians since His crucifixion. About 2000 years ago. There will be no one to stir up any trouble, or start any new conflict, and even the animals will be at peace. All of this will come about after a terrible time on this earth. No one alive today will probably live to see all of this happen, although it could be. Things are moving at a furious pace. The daily news shows that things are happening rapidly.

To know how this political situation developed, it goes back to Abraham’s time and his wife Sarah’s impatience with God for not moving quick enough. Her servant Hagar was given to Abraham and she produced an heir named Ishmael. When Hagar ran away in protest of Sarah’s mistreatment of her, God told Hagar to return and that she would have a son. (Gen. 16:12) **“But your son will live like a wild donkey, he will be against everyone, and everyone will be against him. He will live apart from all his relatives.”** You see, God knew all about what the Palestinians were going to be saying over the US news more than 3500 years ago.

God has consistently told us the truth. He sent His Son Jesus to this earth to emphasize that truth so that none should be lost. Jesus died to start an even lower base requirement for being a child of God. It consists simply of believing that Jesus Christ is the coming Messiah and He is the Son of God. You and I can’t believe this simply by saying it out loud. We have to know that we are sinners, and know that Jesus will forgive us if we ask Him to do so. Zion is the ancient name of the city of Jerusalem, the City of God. At some time in the near future, Jesus will rule the earth from this now torn city. He will rule it in peace and honor and justice and, yes, with love. All this that has gone before was because God loves us so much. He wants us to learn how to love Him, and each other. God’s love, not the world’s. Now is the time to get things straight and right. Now is the time to seek salvation. God’s Holy Spirit awaits your decision. May God Bless Us All.

Bro. Vic Clayton

BEST FRIENDS

I heard someone say once that in this life we usually have one or, at the most, two best friends. I have found this to be a true statement. For the most part, at least where I am concerned, I have plenty of people I can call friends. Most of these friends I wouldn't ask a favor from because I wouldn't feel comfortable.

But someone who is a best friend, now there is someone you

can count on to be there when you need them—that's not all; he or she understands that they can count on you as well.

I believe the Lord allows us to come in contact with these best friends because they are people we can relate to and feel comfortable around. And usually I've found it to be true that they have a lot of things in common. Everyone needs at least one person besides their spouse they can talk to and listen to as well. I've noticed that when I get around someone who is a close friend, I'm certainly more relaxed, and much more comfortable around that person—I believe that being around your close friends and just having them to talk to and listen is nothing short of a gift from God!!!

Sometimes it helps to have someone to talk to. At least to have someone who will listen without offering anecdotes. Over the years, as we grow older, it seems that our friends move away, or we lose touch with them. But somehow our path usually crosses with someone else that becomes a best friend. And you know, I believe the Lord intended it to be this way. The Father understands that we need companionship. I'm not just talking about your spouse. A person needs to have time with someone they can relate to or feel comfortable around. Maybe just someone you only see in the morning at a coffee shop. Whatever the case may be, people need other people to talk to, someone you can relax around and be yourself around. Just by having a simple conversation with your best friend will sometimes relieve stress and strain from your mind as well as your body. Thank God for our close friends. Be Blessed.

Bro. Neal Emfinger, Jr.

PRAISING AND WORSHIPPING IN GOD'S PRESENCE (Cont. from Page One)

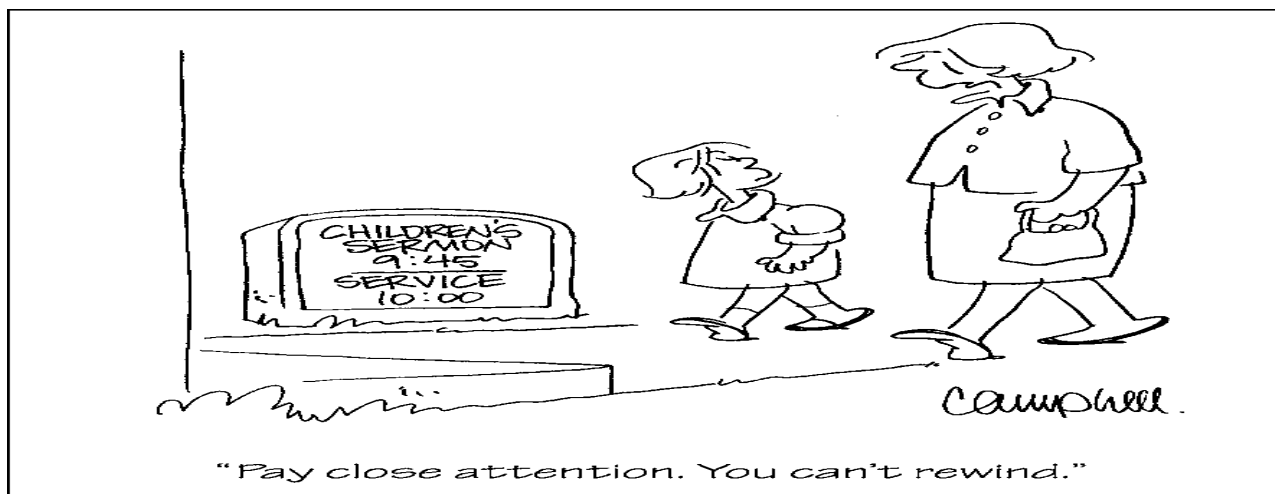
daughter of former King Saul, and wife of King David. In the midst of all the joy, gladness, clapping and singing as the Ark moved toward its destination, Michal was not praising and worshipping God with the multitude, but was looking out her window and despising all that was going on. She even despised her husband in her heart, and ended up reproving

him for his joy and dancing over the Ark coming to Zion (2 Samuel 6:16; 20-23). All that she could see was "flesh." She missed the significance of what God was doing. She refused the Presence of God and **barrenness** became her portion from that time on.

Such a thing may happen individually as well as corporately today with God's children who reject the principals set forth in the Tabernacle of David. I personally believe that the Bible relates this tragic story in order to exhort us to be willing to praise and worship our Lord as the Spirit moves. Are we not bought with the blood of our Lord, are we not children of royalty, joined to the King of Kings? Yet because of the despising of the different and even strange manifestations of the Holy Spirit, and the sometimes strange expressions of worship, many today are smitten with spiritual barrenness. The Tabernacle of David was God's way of inviting mankind into His manifest Presence. God has even promised to restore this tabernacle with its praise and worship of Him in the end days.

In our next article, we will look at the Manifested Glory of Zion. The Glory of Zion was the Tabernacle of David established on Mount Zion with the Ark (manifest presence of God) located in its midst. It was in this tabernacle that David was instructed to establish a New Order of Worship that included singing, rejoicing, clapping, lifting up of hands, playing of instruments, songs of the Lord, all types and modes of praise, worship, and most importantly the moving of the Holy Spirit in power and presence. Until next time, it is my prayer that each of you at the Fellowship be blessed as you take the time to praise and worship your God.

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor





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ONLY JESUS SOME
PEOPLE EVER SEE!!!**
