



VOICE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Volume 9 Issue 3
FACED WITH A
CRUCIAL DECISION

March 2002

**PRaising AND WORSHIPING IN GOD'S PRESENCE SERIES
"THE MANIFESTED GLORY OF ZION"**

One of the greatest teachers in life is personal experience. Personal experience takes the hear-say, that's the way it is, and the "you should have been there" out of it. You're on the front line where the bullets are flying while feeling all the heat and emotions. Allow me to explain my recent crucial decision. I was in Monroe recently when I found myself in a line of traffic that was stopped by flashing red lights and a lowered arm at a railroad crossing. The side of the four lane roads that I was on was moving while the oncoming traffic was stopped. Someone in my line of traffic had gone into an oncoming lane and had gone around the lowered arms of the traffic signal. When my turn came to do the same, I stopped and refused to do so. Within one or two minutes the arms raised and the confusion ceased. My assumption is that one person broke the law and everyone felt obligated to do the same until George came along. I'm not commending myself, I'm just saying that following the leader is not always right and that I am not responsible for the actions of others. What were those people behind me thinking, I can only speculate? You and I should never compromise our morals and values at the risk of other people's actions and prompting. I close by saying, "WHAT IF A TRAIN HAD BEEN COMING?"

Pastor George Ferrington

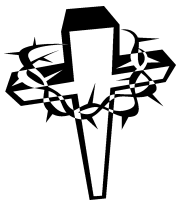
The **Glory of Zion** was the Tabernacle of David established on Mount Zion along with the Ark of the Covenant (the presence of God) located in its midst. It was in this tabernacle that David was instructed to establish a new order of worship that included singing, rejoicing, clapping, lifting up of hands, playing of musical 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. Mount Zion came to be a symbol of praise and worship based on faith and grace, which characterized David's reign as King of Israel.

This Tabernacle carried such a significance with God that He foretold in Acts 15:16 that in the last days He would build again the ruins thereof: **"After this I will return, and will build again the Tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up."** God's promise to restore David's Tabernacle, which foreshadowed the praise and worship, was to come to the Church in latter times. It is a fact that David and the chosen priesthood set forth the pattern of service in the Church for the praise and worship of God. In this Church, God created a Royal Priesthood, which consisted of kings and priests with prophetic anointing, that chose to praise and worship God in service to His Kingdom. This Kingdom was based on faith and grace alone. They had faith to enter into the presence of the Ark, and they received grace when they were not struck dead by God's awesome power.

Before we go any further in this study, I want to take time to explain Zion and relate its spiritual significance. Please recall, Zion was the hill outside Jerusalem on which the Tabernacle of David was erected. But, when the term "Zion" is used in Scripture, it does not necessarily refer to the hill at the edge of Jerusalem. In fact, there are four different Zions in the Bible. The first is the hill on the perimeter of Jerusalem called Mount Zion. The second Zion in the Bible refers to Jerusalem; and the third Zion refers to Spiritual Zion which is the New Testament Church. The fourth Zion is Heavenly Zion and is used to denote Heaven. Most of us understand types and shadows in the Old Testament and Mount Zion, the hill, was only a type or shadow of Spiritual Zion, the New Testament Church. Spiritual Zion (the Church) is only a type or shadow of Heavenly Zion. Therefore, when God speaks of the restoration of David's Tabernacle, He is not referring to a tent on a hill in Jerusalem, but to the authority and power that belongs to spiritual Zion (the Church), as she praises and worships her God according to the pattern established in the Tabernacle of David. Our hope is not that God will restore the type or shadow, but rather the reality of what it stood for. The reality of the Presence of God is always found in the praise and worship of God by the priesthood. The good news is that He has already restored and continues to restore the Church (spiritual Zion), to greater praise and worship of Himself. Why? His desire is for the church to come into His presence so that He can fellowship with His creation once again.

In our next article, we will look at how the believer can operate in the glory of Zion. We will also examine more fully the meaning of the name "Zion", which in Hebrew means sunny mountain or a mountain that shines. Until next month, may our Lord bless each of you with the desire to fellowship God, and to know His peace and love in your lives.

Gene R. Brown, Associate Pastor



**RESURRECTION
SUNDAY, MARCH 31,
SERVICES WILL BEGIN
AT 11:00 A.M. WITH
PRAISE AND WORSHIP,
FOLLOWED BY
COMMUNION AND**

**BAPTISMAL SERVICES. INVITE A
FRIEND FOR THIS SPECIAL TIME OF
OBSERVANCE IN THE ORDINANCES
OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS
CHRIST.**

HE IS RISEN!!!

THOUGHTS

Leaders of today's world, and wannabees worldwide learn to speak English (American) in order to present their case or pitch over US TV. By the time we of the public learn to pronounce their names, they are already killed by their own people, or jailed for stealing, murder or terrorism against their own people, or worse. Look into

the eyes of one of today's politicians as they look straight into a TV camera and tell lies about their opponents. You will see the demonic power. If you seriously believe in Heaven, then you must concede that there is a hell. If you believe in God's Holy Spirit, you must concede that there are demonic spirits. Many of these demonic spirits have chosen political leaders in which to dwell. There are Godly spirits and there are evil spirits. Which one do you think dwells in your husband or wife?

Jesus Himself, while ministering on this earth, concluded that in all probability no more than 25% of all those who hear the Gospel will heed it. He told the parable of the sower. Some seed fell on good places, and some fell on places where it could not grow. But of the seeds that did grow, they produced varying amounts of harvest for the sower. Every farmer is aware of places on his farm that grow things better than other places. We, too, then have to be aware that all of the seed were the same. What was different was the soil on which the seed fell.

Parables, in Jesus's time, were the device that He used to teach vital spiritual mysteries, that no one of that day would have been able to fathom. People then were very much like us today. Caught up in the problems of the day, and mere survival. Some of these parables tell of the grain and weeds growing in the same fields. This is to tell that believers, and those who only profess to be believers, will exist in the same world, from the time of Jesus's birth on this earth, till He returns at the second coming. The weeds will live until the harvest, when they will be uprooted, bundled together, and destroyed in a fire. During this time till His second coming, Jesus is maintaining His people of Israel, and building His church.

Jesus taught in these stories that people could understand because they told of their everyday life. He told of the fishermen, and their net. They pulled the net toward the shore, and then sorted out the good fish from the worthless ones, which would be thrown away. At the second coming then, angels will separate the wicked from the righteous. The righteous will then enter the earthly Kingdom, to rule and reign with Christ.

With these stories, or parables, Jesus answered the question. What will become of the Kingdom? The answer; God's Kingdom will be established on this earth at Jesus's second coming. In the interim, good and evil will co-exist. There are many people in today's world, that would like to begin a social class or order, into which only they would fit or be qualified. Also those of whom they approve. This is not what Heaven is, nor is this salvation. This is pharaseism, the pharisees were a group that Jesus despised. Because of their manipulation of the truth.

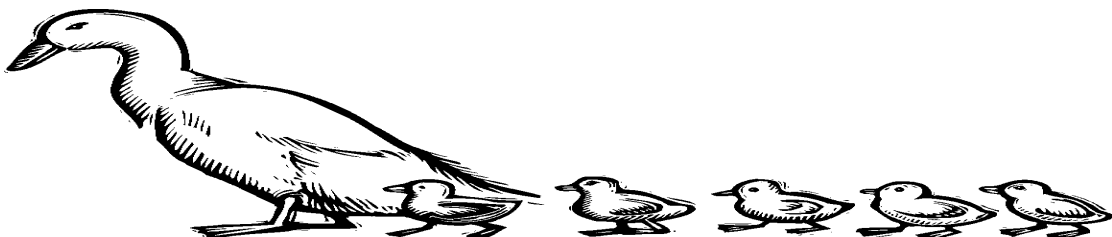
Many churches that exist today are the remnants of a former church where many of the congregation either won or lost a fight. Then they stalked off and started a new church. This does not honor God, and unless the congregation is ready to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and settle all of the petty differences, then the entire number will be doomed to hell. This is the terrible penalty that will be paid for letting self rule lives.

How are we in the USA going to fare in the coming tribulation period? We have become a proud and headstrong nation, largely of unbelievers. There are by comparison just a few that do believe, and they will receive God's blessings. But by and large the vast majority of people in the USA do not believe in Jesus, and do no service to Him when they take His Father's name in vain and fail to follow Jesus' teachings. Like the weeds, they will be gathered and bundled together, and burned like straw. But straw that will never stop burning, that will never be burned up.

There are some, however, that will follow biblical teachings to some degree. Grudgingly at times, but indicating some belief. Of those who believe, there will be various degrees of results from their efforts. Remember that some seeds fell on good ground, and grew. Some produced 30, some 60, and some 100. It depends on how good the soil is. Some soil yields a tremendous crop. Other soil barely returns the original seed that was sown.

Old Testament believers had ten commandments to live up to. And they mostly failed. Jesus reduced those to just two in His ministry. That we should love God with all our hearts, and all our beings, and all of our souls. The next was to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. This is the part that most people have trouble with. First of all, my neighbor is a low-down, no-good so and so. How in the name of God could I ever love him? That is what Jesus uses to separate believers from those who just profess to be believers. But really are not. Lord, help us all to be able to become what Jesus would have us to be, not the vengeance bound beings that we would normally be. God Bless Us All.

Bro. Vic Clayton



RDING THE FAMILY

MEMBERS TOGETHER Ephesians 5:30-32, **“For we are members of His (Christ’s) body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united unto his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the Church.”**

When God made Adam, He formed him from the dust of the earth. When God made Eve, He formed her from one of Adam’s ribs. So then they were one because she was taken from a part of Adam. Then in the same fashion that Eve was part of Adam, we also are part of Christ in that we are all members together in the same body. All members of Christ’s body. Adam’s association with Eve was the beginning structure of what would one day become our relationship with Christ. Each of us joined together, closely knit as one body, sharing in all things, and having all things in common. This is why the Lord said, **“You husbands ought to be very particular to love your wives just as Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”** Then from this, I think, it is quite plain to see that Jesus wants us to come to the realization of what He really died for. Not only that we, His body, would be united together, but perhaps we could understand the magnitude of the love that He has for us. The Word says that, **“No one hates his own body, but feeds it and cares for it, just as Christ does the Church.”**

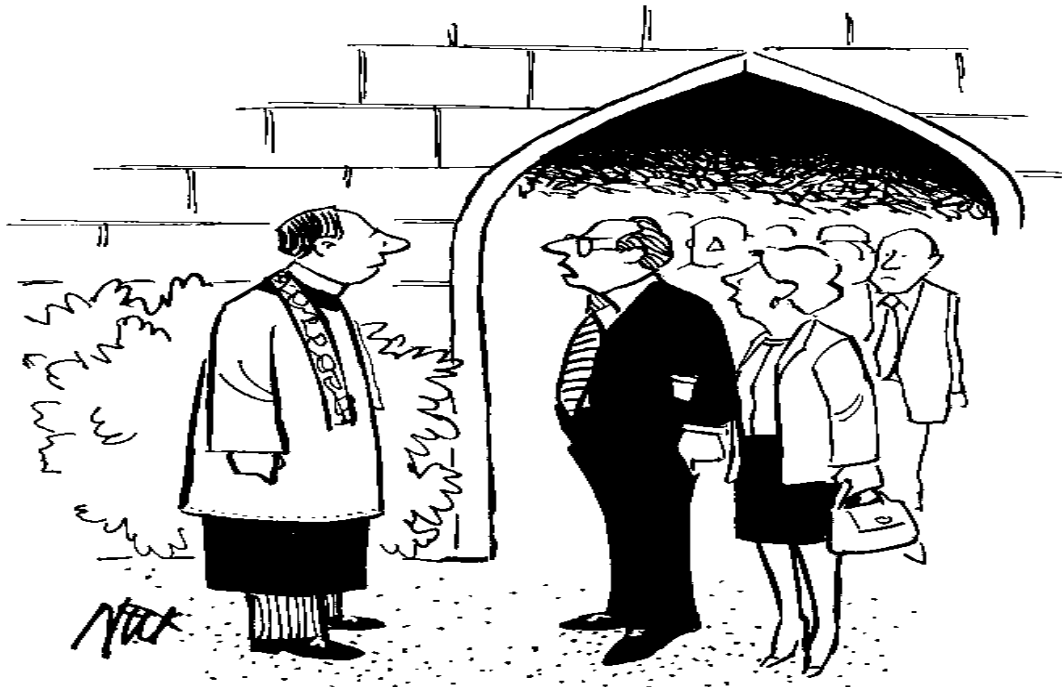
Then it is the Father’s will that we are all cared for and fed with His Word. May we all come to the knowledge of the love that Christ loves us with—**undying love!** May God Bless You!

Bro. Neal Emfinger, Jr.

HOMELESS MAN It was a cold winter’s day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked in the church. As I got closer, I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet, with holes all over them, his toes stuck out. I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all had fellowship for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside. People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me. A few moments later church began. We all waited for the Preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man, walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit where he took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher. . . he was the “homeless man.” No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on his stand. “Folks, I don’t think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today.”


AMAZING GRACE & LOVE As we approach this Resurrection holiday, I thought I might share a few thoughts with you. Whether you want to call this Resurrection Sunday or Easter or whatever, doesn’t matter. What does matter is that you understand just what happened in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. I do not profess to explain this entire situation here, but there is one point that is on my mind. Throughout history, satan has plotted the destruction of God’s creation. Since his rebellion against God in Heaven, satan has sought to defeat man and, therefore, God’s plan. Jesus lived and died as our sacrifice for sin, yes. And He went to hell to defeat satan, overcoming hell, death and the grave for us, yes. And He rose again, as He said He would, on the third day, victorious and glorious, and now seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. All of this is what God did for us through Jesus. But why? None of this is important if you do not understand why. John 3:16, **“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** The key words are “loved”, “gave”, “believeth” and “life.” You see, in God’s plan there are promises, deeds and results. This verse is actually a promise, fulfilling **all** that the Father intended for us. And as is so many times true in God, you have to see His truths in ways opposite of man’s ways. **Life** eternally with and in God is unto those that **believeth** on Jesus and the one who sent Him. It is a gift God **gave** out of abundant grace, and as a result of **love**. Nothing we can do has caused the salvation of the Lord to rest within us. It is not by our works, but by the grace of God. When we consider just who Jesus Christ is, and why this amazing act of grace and love was selflessly fulfilled, we must look at the God of the Universe. You see, God does not just love, **He is love**. God does not just show mercy and grace, **He is mercy and grace**. Just as our Father God is sovereign and omnipotent, every possible word of exaltation that we can imagine will not describe how wonderful and powerful our God is. Why then, you may ask, did not God just do away with satan at the beginning of time? To put it in more understandable terms, God is also **longsuffering**, and just as satan will meet his reward for rebellion, those of the world that do not accept Jesus as Lord, will be judged and cast ultimately in the same fiery hell. Now, at this celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, let us examine our lives. Do you trust the Lord for your all? Do you trust that He has done it all, for you? Trust in His amazing grace and love.

Bro. Mike Woods



“ ... And another thing. Last week I asked *not* to be led into temptation.”

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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Worship the
LORD in the
splendor
of his
holiness.
1 Chronicles 16:29