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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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God Knows

BY THE EDITOR

“But He knows the way that I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold” Job 23:10

AT the beginning of this chapter, Job all but despairs of his lot in life. “Even today is my complaint bitter; my stroke is heavier than my groaning” (Job 23:2). Then in verse ten Job now seeks the calming presence of the Lord in the midst of his calamity — “HE KNOWS”! Job recognizes that God’s (although He be unseen) knowledge of his situation brings him comfort and hope. “Behold, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him: On the left hand, where He does work, but I cannot behold Him: He hides Himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him” (vs. 8,9). If today God notices the fall of the sparrow and numbers the hairs on our head, we can also rest assured in all occasions and situations, that God knows all about us. (Matthew 20:29,39) The confidence that Job held fast to was not only that God knew, but that the end result would be gold.

His Attribute of Omniscience

“For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and He sees all his goings” (Job 34:21). “The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3). This thrilling truth communicates either distress or comfort. If your life is filled with sin, you may justify and seek to deny it, but God still knows. To the genuine Christian (there is no other kind), this fact means real comfort in our trials, difficulties, temptations, and sorrows. All of these positions are promised to us. Our God has full knowledge of such and goes through them with us, and we shall be the better for them. We know that Job did not fully understand the way he took, but God did. Many times God uses heredity and environmental circumstances as powerful influences upon us. They cannot be ignored. So little do we know the way we take. “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walks to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). Job knew the way he took. “My foot has held His steps, His way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandments of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:11,12). Our failures are the result of lightly esteeming God’s commandments.

The Way We Take

Friend of mind, which road have you chosen to travel? Are you on the broad or narrow way? “Enter you in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leads to life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew

7:13,14). The larger crowd that surrounds us is headed toward the gate to hell. Few will reach heaven’s gate. Afraid of being different and separate from this world’s crowd? “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12).

Put to the Test

Remember, it is God Who tries us. He already knows us and needs no further revelation. The fiery trials we go through are for the purpose of revealing ourselves to our personal consciousness. We learn patience in suffering. It is so sad that many accept Satan as the cause of their troubles. This is not so according to the Scriptures. (Have you read our printed booklet, “GIVE NO PLACE TO THE DEVIL”? Write for your free copy today!) Remember, Satan had to secure God’s permission before touching Job. Have you noticed Job’s reaction when he lost his herds, servants, and his children, as recorded in chapter one? “The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord” (Job 1:21). What marvelous comfort comes when we realize that no matter what agent the Lord might choose, it is God who is testing us. Jesus Christ said, “The cup which my Father has given me, shall I not drink it?” (John 18:11) When it becomes our turn, let’s accept the “cup” as from our Father’s hand.

It is easy to question God’s dealing with us. *Why me, when so many are well and healthy? Why should others be spared their loved ones and mine taken?* “O man, who are you that replies against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him

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God Knows (continued from page 1)

that formed it, why have you made me thus? (Romans 9:20) It is a serious sin to question the dealings of our Creator. All of His actions with us must be filtered through His love, grace, and mercy. "Wherein you greatly rejoice (His glorious salvation), though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through manifold temptations (trials): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found to praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:6). "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; but rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that, when his glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Peter 4:12,13).

The Ultimate End

"I SHALL COME FORTH AS GOLD." Job knew he was not gold (perfect). There is much dross in us, but God is working daily within our lives as His children. Notice Job's full assurance and confidence: "I shall come forth shining as gold." Where does that come from? The divine purpose of Almighty God cannot fail. "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me" (Psalm 138:8). Who has this assurance? Those who are willing to be led through fiery trials. The Lord Himself will be with us in the lion's den, the fiery furnace, and the Garden of Gethsemane. There will be no credit to our account, for the glory will all belong to the Divine Refiner. (James 1:12)

The glory of the New Jerusalem will not just be golden streets, but in the golden stamp of the image of God placed within His children. "He did also predestinate to be conformed to the images of His Son" (Romans 8:29). If you end up in this holy City, be sure to look me up, for I shall be there. It will be the consequence of God's work within both of us. (Ephesians 2:8-10) In the meantime, *I say, Oh, God, continue to burn within me Your refining fire. I long to be holy and conformed to Your will, plan, and purpose in the life and ministry of Dwight Porter.*

More Personal Word (continued from page 3)

made aware of, so with this motivation I continue. Other than my pulpit appearances, almost all of our ministry is handled by correspondence. Our postage cost is our second or third largest expense. This medium has become a significant factor in our planning for the future. Because of post office regulations and cost increases, we have already stopped regular overseas mailing of this publication and cassettes. The latest postal increase raised the cost of mailing one cassette or CD from 63¢ to \$1.30. Overseas shipments have *doubled* in cost. Most all mail within the States has increased on the average by 33 percent.

What should we do? The Lord has supplied our needs up to now, so why question a reaction that curtails any present activity of rushing the Word to people in deep distress? Since we are handling the Lord's money, it is wisdom to check carefully who is receiving our cassettes, CDs, and literature. We have no thought of denying any person who requests these items, but we do wonder how many are on our lists who no longer listen or read. Do pray for wisdom in regard to these matters. Let's trust the God Who has brought us this far to enable us to reach many more precious hearts. Knowing our message, we should be mailing out 1,000 cassettes and/or CDs each bulk mailing. It should be 5,000 for this publication. I believe the Lord would have us to possess at least 1,000 people actively enrolled in our Bible Study Course. Pray with us to this end!

The Word of God

The Bible is filled with the importance of our mind. To miss this matter we easily fall into an emotional trap that depends upon feeling or emotion. Here is one of the main

reasons we read and study the Word of God. Let me encourage you to read it daily. There is tremendous power in this Book. Remember the Psalmist's reason for reading the Book of the Law of God (Old Testament) in Psalm 119:9-15. I agree with a preacher of the past who said sin will keep you from this Book and this Book will keep you from sin. Here is the solution to your drug, illicit sex, liquor, disobedience, and rebellious attitude. You must hear God speaking to you and at the same time allow His information to be filtered through your mind. Keep your Bible closed and there is not one ray of hope for you to be rescued from hell. Open your mind to gospel preaching. In these days you can hear it occasionally by radio, television, Internet, the printed page, or in some pulpits. There is no help or hope for you other than the Word of God. Read it for yourself! Believe you are the sinner that God states you are.

Now We Know!

Along with me, have you wondered at the shocking inroads of homosexuality in our society? In the last ten years they have made advances into every area of our society, including church pastors and denominational leaders. There is a major backwash to this horrible action within the religious families. But it has not been adequate to turn the tide of advance to that which God classifies as abomination. We have found an explanation as to how this is happening. I will not go into much detail about this alarming situation. A billionaire homosexual has recruited multi-millionaires to unite with him in swaying the elections in this country. Their staff is watching all elections. If the election is sufficiently influential, millions of dollars will be spent to defeat the one running against the anti-gay candidate. Candidates are thinking twice about running for office when their opposition has such support behind them.

Here is the explanation for so much gay legislation and the judicial system surrendering to their support: The love of money is still the root (source) of ALL evil. (I Timothy 6:10) I am sure you will hear more about these actions in the news media. I am not real sure of this, but I hope so.

Personal Word

Many inquire of our physical condition, so I will reply through this medium. We both are well, without pain or suffering. Personally, I am still attached to a cane but hope to eliminate it soon. I have declared this for some time! I am able to walk, but not too far at one time. I still get around to preach in different pulpits and am able to carry the full load of my personal responsibility. Marian is still actively engaged in our ministry. Without her, we would not accomplish our thrilling coverage of thousands of people with the Word of God. By the way, our web-site continues to expand with more people securing our free literature through www.thehourofgraceandpower.org.

Our son, John, now lives in a lovely home in Sebastian on Roseland Road (about a mile from our home). He is part of the Shiloh Youth Ranch family. They have been most gracious to him. Our four grandchildren live in Nevada, Indiana, and Taiwan. John has been busy of late with his substitute teaching in the public school system in this county. His personal assistance with our computer system is greatly appreciated. Your prayers for all of us are appreciated.

For Our Prayer Partners

We face some decisions concerning our web-site's future. We have done wonderfully well, but can see much more ministry via this method of communication. Pray for wisdom in these future days of challenge. The requests for our Bible Study Course are increasing, but it is nothing compared to the potential. Personal interest in genuine Bible study is fast departing from us as a nation, even among Christians. Pray for the involvement of many more in this unusually good Bible study course. Most people have access to a CD player and can hear our messages on them. Do pray with us for many more to request them on a regular basis, as well as those offered individually in this publication. All of them contain sound biblical teaching, along with wonderful Christian music. Financial solicitation is not part of this ministry.

The Bible Way

Upon arriving as pastor at my first church in Wheeling, West Virginia, I had a passion to build a church the Bible way. I began studying the early Church in the Book of Acts and came to conclusions that it was against tradition. Down through the years I had been taught by tradition that the local church was to be a soul-saving station. People, in order to be saved, must come to church and sit under the pressure of the pastor, with the evening service as the evangelistic thrust. It didn't take long to recognize this action was mere tradition and not biblical. This was not the pattern of the New Testament Church.

Christ instructed the early church people to go into all the world and to preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15) They were not to erect a church building and then witness to the unsaved. They were to preach as they were going. "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable to you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:20,21). "And daily in the temple, and in EVERY HOUSE, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42).

The Ministry of the Church

The local assemblies of believers are to equip the saints to go into the highways and byways, communicating the Word of God. Within the church we find the strength of

fellowship, sharing our burdens with one another, and receive biblical instruction for the purpose of spiritual strength to fulfill God's plan for reaching the lost. Remember that the purpose of Pentecost was for spiritual power to be a faithful witness. "But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you (not within you), and you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Here is the direction for our personal mission field. How can we conclude that our ministry is to be within the four walls of our church? If we cannot personally go around the world, then we are to support those who do go by our prayers and purse. We dare not be satisfied with just our "Jerusalem," for our message must go beyond our church.

Within our first month, we began to mail gospel letters to the unsaved. Our second year, we began the only local broadcast in a community of 150,000 people. In our lovely brick church we had to open wide the windows in the summer-time. Through these windows I could plainly see the porches filled with our Jewish neighbors. On these porches I was preaching to ten times the number in my auditorium. Years later I met one man saved through our window preaching. Friends, we must get our message into homes and hearts outside our churches.

The Lord enabled me to teach this biblical emphasis at ministers' conferences, the General Council of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, Baptist Sunday school conferences, and in many churches. Our church ministry is to equip the Christians, that they may reach the unsaved people, wherever and whenever the Lord sends them across their path. The sinners of today no longer attend our churches. We should not expect them to. This is not the main purpose and ministry of the local church.

I Want You to Know

The purpose of this information is not financial appeal. Things are happening within our ministry that you should be

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THE CULTURE OF DEATH

(continued from last month)

- from American Family Association

- 15. In 1990 the largest Dutch gay organization (the COC) achieved a significant victory: lowering of the age of consent for homosexual sex in Holland to 12 (unless the parents object, in which case it goes up to 15). Homosexual groups in England recently lobbied and were successful in changing the legal age of consent from 18 to 16. Homosexual and Lesbian associations around the world have also succeeded in lowering the age of consent as follows: Canada, 14; Denmark, 15; France, 15; Spain, 13; Germany, 14; Japan, 13; Israel, 16; Costa Rica, 15; Colombia and Paraguay, 14; and Argentina, 12. If adult homosexuals are not interested in minors, why would they want the age of consent lowered? Source: HLI & Human right Campaign
- 16. More people commit suicide in the United States than die of AIDS. Source: CDC
- 17. Eighty-three (83) countries and territories now a fertility rate below the threshold of 2.1 children per woman necessary to keep their populations stable. Source: UN Statistics
- 18. MADD reported that five times more young adults in the United States die in alcohol-related tragedies than all other deaths attributed to illegal drugs combined.
- 19. It is estimated that Americans spend in excess of 12 billion dollars on pornography each year. Source: The Free Speech Coalition

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We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

~ WEB SITE ~

thehourofgraceandpower.org

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"Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord" I Corinthians 15:58

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