



International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

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**For where your treasure is, there
will your heart be also.**

Matthew 6:19

Gold, Pearls, Silver.



Money



Elaborate Cars



Worshiping God!



Reading God's Word



Prayer Changes Things



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Editorial:

What are You Focused on?

International Overseer
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~



As I began to prepare for this editorial, my mind was focused on all that is happening around the world this very hour. I think about our people all around the globe and wonder how they are coping in their various situations. Many cities around the world are quarantined, grocery store shelves are empty, medical supplies are in short supply, there are not enough health care facilities to care for the mass number of those who need it, places of business are shutting down causing many employees to lose their jobs everywhere and no one knows what the outcome will be or how long this crisis will last. Then the words of our precious Lord and savior Jesus Christ began to flood my mind as He spoke about the very time in which we are living and the very things that are coming on the earth today. I am only one man, and I cannot be in every place at the same time, as much as I would like to visit all our churches and encourage our people at this crucial time, but I know a God who **is** everywhere at the same time! He knows those who are His and He knows the very number of hairs on your head. He's the one who feeds the sparrows and He can and will through the power of the Holy Ghost be with each and every one. Oh, be refreshed by His spirit today! Because of this world-wide pandemic called the coronavirus-Covid-19, fear is gripping the hearts of many all around the globe and causing a state of panic to set in. This virus is so contagious, we are warned that millions more will catch it and many more will lose their lives because of it, but if this fear is gripping your heart today, I would like to take this opportunity to admonish you to go to the Word of God and read again those reminders that Christ himself gave us in Matthew 24 concerning the last

of the last days and in Luke 21:26 where Jesus said that people would actually have heart attacks for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. He went on to say that some would be so focused on these things that the coming of the Lord would take them by surprise! Folks, I believe that the coming of the Lord is soon! Are you ready should it be today? Aren't you tired of this world that is so full of evil and trouble and sorrow? It will only wax worse and worse, but oh, I pray that the presence of the Lord comes to where you are today and sends peace like a river to your soul. May it be that it overflows around you so that anyone who does not know the Prince of Peace will inquire about the hope that is in you.

What are you focused on today? I know we all want to do what we can to prepare as best we can for the uncertainty of the future, but at the same time, Jesus told us to “...**see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass...**” He spoke in Matthew 24:7 about famines, pestilences and earthquakes in many places. A pestilence is a plague or disease. Now, while we do the best we can not to get this virus, I want to encourage you to look to the Lord during these uncertain times by taking consolation in these words found in Luke 21:28 “**And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.**” When we think about going home and leaving this world of sorrow, how could our focus be on staying here?! Now, I want you to think about this – What am I focused on today? □

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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“Where is Your Treasure Today?”

International Overseer
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~



For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:21

This message title takes me back in time to some friends of ours who were stationed with us on an Air Force Assignment some years ago. My wife always told me that they would never go back home, because they did not want to spend the money to travel back to the United States. They were saving their money for retirement and would be in better shape for the transition back to civilian life once they were free from their military commitment. They finally did retire and about a year passed and he had established a business which was doing well, but something happened, they were not expecting the sickness that came to him and his unforeseen death. Now, not many people plan for death with much forethought and their life is caught unprepared to leave. Another couple we knew attended our Church one Sunday evening and sat on the second pew, left side, the man, his wife and daughter. I preached a message under heavy anointing and the man and his daughter were moved by the Spirit of God, but they made no decision for Christ. It was only a few weeks when we received a message one evening that he had gone to the Philippines and died only with in a short time after his arrival for duty.

I have related these two stories for us to learn that our lives are in the balances and could end at any time with our earthly treasures or our

heavenly treasures built up on our behalf. At this point there will be no worry for or about the things of this life, because all of our worldly goods will belong to someone else and only our things done for Christ will really matter. They truly are ours and no one can take them nor will they rust or go bad but people of all ages act like they are the ones that don't matter and most are concerned with the earthly ones.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Jesus exhorts us not to be concerned about worldly things.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or tmore than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather

into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Matthew 6:19-34

In America today we see how the spiritual and the earthly come together to cause some great problems and almost impossible troubles as the health crisis known as the coronavirus outbreak shuts down our schools, hospitals, churches and other known places where we can no longer do our business as usual. No one alive can say, “I remember a similar medical event like this one and it

was terrible.” There hasn’t been one even close to this since 1918 and it is doubtful if anyone here would remember that one. Our North Carolina Governor has issued a Stay At Home Law which will become effective on Monday at 5:00 PM They have now turned to the law enforcement to try to control this deadly virus. We as Gods people should call upon Him for His help. While the ministry for the most part has refused to even ask for prayer by the churches. This is an interesting attack by Satan, because it has closed our schools, churches, homes and other agencies without much concern from very many people. It has closed our International Assembly down and we can do nothing but wait like everyone else for the Federal Government to give us the all clear. The churches across North Carolina are all closed down by the government to the visits by family members, friends and others who could spread the virus while other places are remaining open. What is next for us?

Isaiah spoke of a time such as these and told us to “wait upon the Lord”.

Isaiah 26: 20-21 *Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.*

We must trust the Lord and totally surrender to God, and our attitude about things will change and we will not see things as we once did. I often meet people who only

treasure things they can see, feel, touch and can hold and their thoughts are about things they can acquire and gather into their possession. They can only think about their wealth and what another worldly passion will mean to them but then I meet some who think very little about such things and they look at God and what they can do for Him.

There is a very familiar story in the Bible about a rich young ruler who faced a challenge regarding his wealth so let’s look at it more closely.

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. When his disciples heard it,

they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved? But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. Matthew 19:16-30

Jesus started to tell him what it would take for him to have eternal life but the load was too heavy for him, he had many great worldly possessions that were pressing him to cling to them instead of tuning loose and allowing the eternal truths to sink in. Many today are doing the same thing and their earthly things are being held on to as the spiritual man suffers the true separation from God. You see there is no Scripture for having to sell everything and turn it all over to God but with this young man it became a requirement as Christ pointed out the fact that he was allowing them to cause his disconnect from God.

Souls are our business, our only business and although we feel many times like total failures we still keep trying to win people’s confidence as we tell them about the goodness of the Lord. He is

our hope in this troubled world and while we were dead in trespasses and sin He loved us enough to come into this world and live an earthly life hanging around father's carpenter shop. Then when it was time for Him to preach, He took off on foot to preach to a world that did not much like Him although He was offering them the keys to the kingdom and eternal life. They would eventually nail Him on a cross and crucify Him before His associates the same death as a terrible criminal on a cross. They forgot one very important thing and that was that on the third day He would come forward from the grave proving Himself and His Deity and every word He had spoken to them. Now they knew that He was and is the Christ and after a short 3+ years of ministry and miracles His words are real and are to be believed in order to be saved from the destruction coming to this earth. Have you believed and received the message yet?

I have spent almost my whole life preaching and telling others about the great message of Christ's forgiveness and love only to have

little success. I think sometimes if only I could convince a few of His goodness and get them to link up with Jesus but just about the time when you feel you have been successful they will hook up with family, friends or other acquaintances and ask them for advice on their life's work. It is okay to seek for advice from others as long as you let Jesus direct you, but He is your boss when you fully turn everything over to Him. He will not lead you in a wrong path nor will He forsake you ever when you fully trust Him. Too much dependence on what others think results in a departure from the true will of God for our lives. I hear people say all the time, I will trust the Lord now and I will follow Him no matter what He tells me to do." They often do not mean it and the first time trouble comes they are back asking their family what they should do and then doing what their family tells them to do.

If only I could learn how to cause people to follow the Lord instead of their Uncle!

How will we ever learn to follow the Lord in everything? This world is not getting better, it is growing more wicked every single day and only a Christ led life can cause change to come. We must learn to

pray and seek the Lord for answers that will bring about change in people's lives. Some in my family need help but the help they need comes from God, and all I can do is pray until God moves them in the right direction and ask for His help in their lives.

Then they will focus on eternal things and their treasures will be on heavenly things not earthly ones.

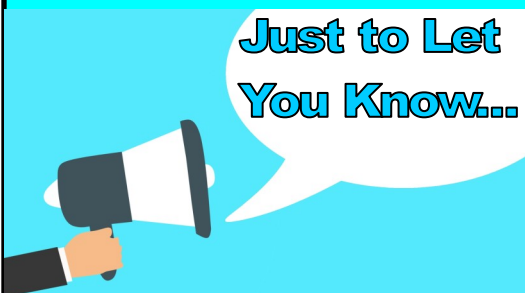
Oh, what a happy day when we quit worrying about earthly treasures and begin to think about those that Jesus has promised us, then death will not be so dreaded. We will think then like the Apostle Paul who said, ***For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing***
2 Timothy 4:6-8

“Where is Your Treasure Today?” □

107th International Assembly

April 22—25, 2020

**At Hamilton Local Church
12024 Street Hwy 19
Hamilton, AL 35570**



WAS CANCELED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS?

Temptation

Thurman Lowe
USA National Overseer



What do you think when asked the question, what is temptation?



Temptation can be peer pressure around us, whether in school, at work or just in a group of people. Temptation is anything that can keep us from pleasing God. Now I will pose another question, who is the tempter?

Genesis 3:1-6 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman,

Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden: 2) And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden? 3) But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4) And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6) And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

James 1:13-14 13) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

God does not tempt us all temptation comes from

Satan and we must be careful lest we be tempted.

Luke 22:33-34 33) And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. 34) And he said, **I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.**

In these scriptures Peter tells Jesus that he would follow him till death and we as the reader learn that Jesus Christ our Lord knows everything before it happens because he tells Peter exactly what he will do after the crucifixion.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 12) Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 13) There hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also made a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

We must stand for God at all times lest we might fall. We don't want to fall from God's grace because we don't know when it will be our time to go meet him, so we must be ready at all times. We must be prepared with the proper armor to succeed.

Ephesians 6:10-11, 16 11) Finally, my brotheren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11) Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

God tells us to put on the whole armor of God so we can become victorious over Satan. The best way to defeat Satan is to know what is in the word of God and to have faith that God will help us through all trials and tribulations that we face in this life.

The way of escape:

Luke 21:36 **Watch ye therefore, and pray always,**

that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Pray always so that we can be accounted worthy to prevail and escape all things. 1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also made a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

There is no temptation that we cant withstand if we pray and seek God for guidance. God is faithful to help us if we have faith in out own prayers. God will not let us be tempted above what we are able to stand.

Job was tempted by Satan but he did not fail God. We must be like Job even if we lose everything, we must put our trust in him, he will supply our needs and strengthen us with his power.

A test of faith:

James 1:2-3 2) **My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;** 3) **Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.**

The trying of our faith works patience in all things. We must believe in our prayers and have faith when we pray that God will change things.

1 Peter 1:6-7 6) **Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptation:** 7) **That the trial of your fait, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**



It is important for us as Christians to be tried as gold when it goes through the fire and is purified so are we tried with fire and God will bring us through the fire like he brought the three Hebrew children. □



What Is Our Hope Today?

Dr. H. T. Spence

**What Hope Today Is Found Within
The Hearts Of Sinful, Wretched Men?
It's Evident They're Filled With Pain,
With Only Hell To Be Their Gain!**

**But Yet, They Boast Of Vaporous Hope,
As Steps Of Darkness Mark Their Grope.
But Christians Have The Hope Of Heav'n!
For Through The Son This Hope Is Giv'n.**

**So Let Us Trust God's Word For Hope!
Not In Ourselves As If We're Pope!
Whatever Comes, May We Be Brave!
Yea, Trust In Him! Our Life To Save!**

Treasures in Heaven

Nothing Is More Valuable Than Souls

No Time for Ease in Our Mission Work

In His "Sermon on the Mount," our Lord spoke some words concerning treasures and mammon which, though they have always been true, are perhaps more meaningful today than ever before.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

"But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:19-24)

I suppose one of the principal thoughts here is the danger of dividing our loyalties between the things that are eternal and the things that are temporal. Mammon is temporal. We are not to become its servants; rather, it must be made to serve us. If our loyalties are dedicated to God's cause, all that we have will be made to serve that cause. We are told that "the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18) "Treasures in heaven" would surely be among these unseen things that have eternal value.

The Word reminds us that "we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." (1 Timothy 6:7) Since we are in this world such a short time, and actually have so little need while here, and, since we can carry nothing of this world's good with us when we depart this life, it seems very important that we deposit heavily in the heavenly treasury. Somehow it just doesn't seem that we could be happy there

with nothing to show for God's wonderful grace in our behalf while passing through this life.

We could never be saved by good works, but we can serve the Lord who saved us by grace. He will not forget our work and labor of love. It will all be credited to us in heaven. No money value can be put on these heavenly deposits. In fact, we give little thought to their worth, but only to the gladness of serving the One who unselfishly gave His only begotten Son because He loved us so! Hallelujah!

The Church does not dictate as to how its members spend their money. We have a big program, of course, and most things we do cost something. But the program is the Lord's, and His Word provides safe guidelines to help us to know what is required of us in financing the work. We are shown the need, and we are encouraged to use sound judgment in our response to that need. We are assured that every heavenly investment is sound; but it is up to each individual to make his own investments. If we keep the eye single, and our loyalties undivided, our concern will be only for the things of "light." But if an evil eye is allowed to crowd out the light, "how great is that darkness" which will rob us of our eternal reward!

I can think of nothing more valuable to our credit than the souls of men. Of course, only God can save a soul, but He has commissioned men to carry the message of His saving grace. In this way, we have a part. It is a responsibility all right, but more than that, it is a privilege. Responsibility becomes lighter when we enjoy what we are doing. Giving is like tithing; if we do it in the spirit of the law, we may lose most of the joy, but if we give in the spirit of grace, the blessing outweighs the gift a thousand-fold.

The Church's missionary Commission is great, but the greater the commission, the greater the opportunity to lay up treasures in heaven. The man who does not have a job is deprived of the ability to make investments. When he gets a job, perhaps

he can save a little. If his pay increases, it is likely that his responsibilities have increased. But the extra work seems light because of his privilege to make greater investments for greater returns. Now, if we did not have faith in an investment company, we would not put money "out of sight," so to speak, with that company. But if we feel that the company is sound, we have no misgivings about leaving deposits there. There is nothing safer than "the bank of heaven." We have already trusted our soul with it, and the soul is our most valuable possession. By faith we can put every other possession there with it. While it is there in the unseen realm of the eternal, there will be no cause for uneasiness about it. It will be working for the greatest cause on earth.

What we do with our earthly "treasures" may speak for or against us before the Lord. It is not so much the treasure itself as our feeling about it, or our attitude toward it. It is written that "the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Timothy 6:10) The eye is not single when the love of earthly possessions lays hold upon one's heart and mind. It will lead one away from the faith and cause him to trust in a false hope. Paul knew of some who had done this—to their sorrow. He adds, "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." I believe we will agree that these things are a far better investment.

What the Prophet Amos wrote of Zion, from the mouth of the Lord, is surely for the Church as well:

"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion . . . That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall . . . That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not

TREASURES . . .

grieved for the affliction of Joseph.” (See Amos 6:1-6)

This is a picture of ease and luxury, being enjoyed by a people with too little feeling for responsibility. “The affliction of Joseph” calls to mind the story of Joseph in Egypt, sold as a slave, unjustly cast into prison, suffering alone while those who were responsible were enjoying the blessings of their father’s house. Until the famine struck their land, they seemed not to have a care. He was their brother, of course, just as those who are laboring in the hard places for the Church of God are our brothers in the Lord.

We hear considerable mention of the Scriptural reference to a famine, not of bread or for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. (Amos 8:11) We tend to think of this as an indication of the nearness of our Lord’s return. Can we face such a famine and remain at ease in Zion? Should we not be grieved more over the hardships of those who are doing the Lord’s work under such limitations and handicaps? Why do they continue on in these difficult places? It is not because they, like Paul, feel

that they are prisoners of the Lord and feel constrained by love to rescue the perishing?

We don’t want to judge anybody, or imagine any wrong accusations. We just want everybody to consider these things. The dark clouds of judgment are boiling up on the horizon, and there is cause for alarm in the face of our unfinished task. If any are at ease, they could be in danger. The Prophet Joel evidently saw our day when he wrote:

“Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the earth tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

“A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains . . .” (Joel 2:1, 2)

The alarm is for “all the inhabitants of the land,” to make them tremble. What then if we who are to blow the trumpet are at ease? Who will awaken us? We are told that the Church is not of them that sleep; that we are children of the day. What could it mean if we are relaxed in the face of this world’s doom, living up our blessings when we could be laying up treasures above?

Of course, Amos’ “woe” was not to

Zion, but to those “in Zion” who are “at ease.” But the Church’s total cause is hindered by any who ride along, eating the best of the flock, and enjoying the Church’s glory without sharing in the “afflictions.” How much better it would be for us all to sing while we labor, “This world is not my home; I’m just a-passing through. My treasures are laid up away beyond the blue!”

Next month will usher in another March World Mission Drive. One of these drives is going to be the last one. In fact, each drive that comes and goes is the last for some who pass on to their eternal reward before time for the next. What would it be like if we all gave in this drive as though it would be our last? What would happen if every member of the body should feel the proper “affliction” for those who have given themselves to the Lord as missionaries? Think what the Church would be able to do if all felt the burden for the lost as our missionaries feel it?

Let’s make the cofers in the heavenly storehouse literally bulge with treasures. Not with the literal silver and gold, of course, but with the true treasures our giving and our labors represent as the Father does the evaluating.

March is World Mission Month...

I trust you have enjoyed this message written February 8, 1975 “TREASURES IN HEAVEN”. It is reminding us that “Nothing is More Valuable Than Souls, and No Time for Ease in Our Mission Work”. Missions are more than raising MONEY, although just as it takes money to keep your home running smoothly it also takes money to operate the Church and fulfill its Great Commission from the Lord to “GO”

Jesus told his disciples... And he said unto them, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.* Mark 16:15-16

As we see the day of the Lord approaching we must sound the WARNING a little louder, work harder, PRAY, PRAY for CONVICTION TO COME so they will not be lost.

Nothing on this earth could possibly be more valuable than a soul being pulled from the pits of HELL. God help us to know that this is our MISSION.

HURRY TIME IS OUT!!





God is a Consuming Fire

Cathy J. Elder
Hartselle, AL



“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12: 28-29)

In the book of **I Kings chapter 18** is recorded the event of Elijah’s test of Baal. The king of Israel at that time was the wicked king Ahab. It is previously recorded that this king did more to provoke God to anger than all who reigned before him. Not only did he walk in the sins of the king before him, he married Jezebel and went and served Baal and worshipped him and even built an altar for him. Needless to say, God was very displeased. The prophet of God, Elijah, went to visit this wicked king Ahab and said to him ... ***“As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.”*** (I Kings 17: 1b) How could he proclaim such a thing except that he did stand before the Lord with open ears to hear what the Lord would tell him to do. He was in constant communion with God. We do not find recorded there where he questioned the Lord about his own survival before delivering that message to Ahab. The Lord said to go tell him and he went bearing the message from the Lord. That is why the Lord took care of Elijah and made daily provision for him. You know how that God commanded ravens to feed him in the morning and in the evening. That was provision of a miraculous kind! I can tell you with utmost confidence today that God will make daily provision for those who will obey him and put their total trust in Him. Elijah moved at the word of the Lord and did not express concern about his survival during the famine.

I and many others have recently experienced something they have never before experienced and that is to go into the grocery stores to find empty shelves everywhere. The places I went had no bread, no milk, and no household items used on a daily basis. This terrible virus is something that is sweeping the whole world! Just as it was in the day of Ahab, wickedness is abounding worldwide. God is being removed from everything and I believe He is proving to this wicked and adulterous generation that He is still in control of it all! Man thinks he is, but God is the one who is in control! The weather is totally out of man’s hands and this is evident anywhere in the world you look.

This is a time that the people of God need to be in constant communion with Him. We do not know what the outcome of this worldwide thing will be, but it is affecting everybody in some way. Life as we know it has suddenly taken a turn. Businesses are closing their doors. Restaurants in the state where I live have been ordered to close, except for carry out. Churches have cancelled services and we are told to practice social distancing. I could go on and on about the different aspects of this, but God is still God as we will observe here.

“And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria. (I Kings 18:1) The greeting that Elijah received from Ahab is found in verse 17 “And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? Elijah’s answer to that is in verse 18 “And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.” What was the doctrine of Baalim? In a nutshell, it was the spirit of compromise which led to more and more sin. Elijah told the king to gather all Israel together unto Mt. Carmel along with the prophets of Baal. When the people were gathered together, Elijah asked the question, ***“...How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”*** (verse 21) In other words, there is only one true God – follow him. It is the same today! There is still only one true God! Are you following Him? Elijah gave further instructions In verses 23-24. ***Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.*** The Bible goes on to say that these prophets of Baal prepared the bullock, and called on the name of Baal from morning till evening and nothing happened.

They leaped upon the altar, cried aloud, cut themselves till the blood gushed out, but there was no answer.

At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah called all the people near and they came. The first thing he did was to repair the altar of the Lord which was broken down. Then he built an altar with twelve stones, made a trench, placed the wood on the altar, laid the pieces of the bullock on the wood and saturated it with water 3 times. It was saturated with the water until the water ran about the altar and filled the trench.

Before going further, remember that at that time, it was very important that the sacrifices be made according to God's instructions. Now, there were many types of sacrifices offered and God outlined very specifically the way for each one to be done. Look briefly to Leviticus chapter 1: 2-9 *Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock. If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD. And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he shall flay the burnt offering, and cut it into his pieces. And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire: And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar: But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.* The first requirement was that the sacrifice be a male without blemish. It was to be offered willingly. It must be killed and the blood sprinkled round about The altar. Next, it was to be flayed and cut into pieces. The inside parts and legs were to be washed in water and then all the parts were to be placed on the wood which was on the fire which was upon the altar, and this was exactly how Elijah prepared the sacrifice.

After the preparation, Elijah prayed. It was not a long prayer, but oh the results of it! Back to I Kings 18:37-38 records the prayer and the results. *"Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and*

consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench." And **all** the people were convinced. They **all** fell on their faces and declared that The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.

We can look at that great event of Elijah's day and apply it to us today. We know that we are living in a very evil time. Needless to say, God is very displeased for sin is abounding on every hand. There are many today who have known, just like the children of Israel, what it is like to have experienced the blessings of God, but now, because of the spirit of compromise, have turned away from Him into gross sin. There are many today who, just like those who cried out to Baal, are crying out to false gods for deliverance. They have turned to the gods of drugs, alcohol, money, perverted life styles, which are all abominations to God, and other pleasures of this world for peace or deliverance from problems, but cannot find it. Just as these Baal worshippers harmed themselves with knives until the blood gushed out, many take their own lives thinking that will solve all. No matter what the problem may be, Jesus is the answer!

We do not bring animals to the altar of the Lord for sacrifices today and thank God we do not have to. Jesus Christ himself became our sacrifice once and for all. I Peter 1:18-19 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:* God willingly offered His son according to John 3:16 and He died. His blood is still sprinkled around the altar today. The altar of the Lord is not broken down. The Lord has done His part, and we must do ours.

We can make an altar of prayer where ever we are and call upon God. But you know what He requires? According to Romans 12:1 we are to present our bodies a *living sacrifice* and just like Elijah saturated that sacrifice three times, we must become saturated with the power of God! First, the inside must be washed with the pure water of salvation which is by the blood of Jesus. Hebrews 9:12 *"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."* Secondly, we must become saturated with sanctification which is by the blood of Jesus. Hebrews 13:12 *"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate."* Thirdly, let us become saturated with the power of the Holy Ghost. Acts 1:8a *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:"* When we are full of the

power of God, it will overflow to all those around us.

But every piece of our life must be placed on the altar. Just as God required all the pieces of the sacrifice to be burned on the altar, He requires that we give to Him every piece of our life. Anything less will not be acceptable. We must put it all on the altar and cry out to God and He will send down His fire and consume us!! The Bible said that the *stones* were consumed. Have you ever tried to burn up a pile of stones? No fire of man will. When a house burns to the ground, the chimney is left standing alone. Many use stones to confine a campfire to a small area, but the fire of God consumed the stones that day. We are facing some hard things this very hour – things which are as hard as stones. We can't burn them up nor dissolve them, but what we can do is to place them on the altar and cry out to God until the fire of God comes down and consumes them! Stones are heavy; stones are confining, and will burden one down and hinder one's work for the Lord. We need the fire of God to consume us. That fire will burn out all the impurities. Our altars of prayer need to be consumed by the power of God.

In closing, Deuteronomy 4:24 says this, ***“For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.”*** □



Power For Service



The King Is Coming!

Verse I

**The Market place is empty
No more traffic in the streets
All the builders' tools are silent
No more time to harvest wheat
Busy housewives cease their labors
In the courtroom no debate
Work on earth has been suspended
As the King comes through the gate**

Chorus

**The King is coming, the King is coming
I just hear the trumpet sounding
And now his face I see
The King is coming, the King is coming
Praise God, He's coming for me**

Verse II

**Happy faces line the hallways
Those whose lives have been redeemed
Broken homes that He has mended
Those from prison He's set free
Little children and the aged
Hand in hand, stand all aglow
Those who were crippled, broken,
ruined
Clad in garments white as snow**



The Victory Leaders



An Otter kind of Love

Emily Colón
International VLB secretary

I like to look to God's many and wondrous creations when thinking of a message, many times what I end up using for my messages are animals, so for this message I chose otters. I'm going to start this message off with a little information about otters, more specifically sea otters, even more specific the sleeping habits of sea otters. Sea otters are often found floating on their backs across the surface of the water. So that they don't drift away while they sleep, they have been known to hold hands in pairs or small groups. These family groups are called rafts and they often tie themselves in place with seaweed that grows up from the ocean floor to the surface. Now one thing we can learn from these otters as humans, is that we need community just as much as these little otters do. We all need to hold hands in order to not float away from God's love and the community and fellowship of the Church. In this trying time of the Covid-19 outbreak many churches are not able to meet so what I mean by holding hands is sending out messages or calling those around you. Phone ministries have always been around, why not take up that mantle when you are closed in your homes? Reach out with encouraging messages of hope and love. Physical contact isn't the only way to encourage or show your love! Mail a letter, facetime a loved one, technology was created so that the people of God could reach much farther than we could have ever imagined!



Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Hebrews 10:23-25

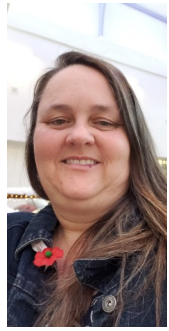
23) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;(for he is faithful that promised;) 24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Matthew 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

God calls us to live in communities whether they are in person or online, with other Christians in order to be held accountable but also for our spiritual growth as his children and to hang on to one another until the very end.

God calls us to be like otters. □



CPMA National
Secretary—USA

**CHURCH OF PROPHECY
MARKER ASSOCIATION**

Such A Time As This!

*Jannece Colon
Alamogordo, NM*



During these uncertain times, even scary times for some, we have to remember our hope is in the Lord! **2 Timothy 1:7** says **“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”** As The Church of God, we must continue to move forward with the work of the Lord. The Church of God is not closed! At this time of chaos and pandemic in the world, we must remember church buildings may be closed, but that is not the Church. The Church is the people of God, the members of the body, that is the Church! We are instructed in **Matthew 28:19-20**, **“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”** He will never leave us or forsake us! We are to be the light of the world, A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. We cannot be the light of the world if we are in hiding and not willing to share the gospel to others. Yes, we are to be safe and protect our health, but there are people in this world that does not know God and they are scared beyond belief and need some kind of hope. We can give them that hope! Remember, **Psalms 121:1-2** says, **“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.”** We are so blessed to be children of the Lord and even better than that, we are blessed to be members of the great Church of God. During challenging times, it is time for us to rise up, think outside the box, and think of new ways to get the message of the Lord and the church out to the masses. We all have a job to do within the body of Christ. If you are a prayer warrior, now is the time to step up the prayers for all the souls that don't know the Lord. If you are a person that communicates through writing or talking on the phone, now is the time for you to not quit, but, reach out and encourage all those around you or within your circle. People need God and his message more now than ever before, they need encouragement and who is better at giving that than The Church of God? Ministers and teachers, lets figure out ways to send the truth out to all our members, families, friends, neighbors, and even strangers, so that no one can ever say, “You never mentioned Him to me.” The Church of God is alive and open and ready for growth in such a time as this. □

Congratulations to these local Churches for being 100% in CPMA for 2020

- 1. Alamogordo, New Mexico*
- 2. Dunn, North Carolina*
- 3. Fallsview, West Virginia*





Exciting

UPCOMING EVENTS

Philippine National Convention

THEME: "My Life A Living Sacrifice"

April 10-12, 2020

**@ San Francisco Local Church
Ilagan**

.....
Romblon Youth Camp

May 7-10, 2020

@ Calagonsao Alcantara Romblon

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