

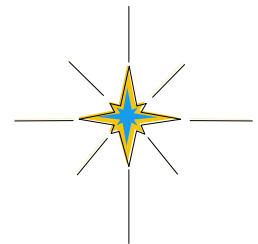


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JOY TO THE WORLD!





Editorial....

“WHY DO WE EXCHANGE GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS?”

International Overseer

John A. Wilkins, Jr.

Did you ever wonder why we exchange gifts at Christmas or where did

this idea come from? The Christian faith can trace this idea of giving gifts back to the gifts of frankincense, myrrh and gold brought as gifts by the three Magi to the Christ Child in the stable at Bethlehem. Please notice there was no exchange of gifts when the magi, three kings from the East, the wise men who had travelled a great distance while following the star that led them to the greatest gift ever known to mankind, Jesus Christ. Their visit was originally celebrated on January 6th during the Feast of Epiphany.

The ancient Church did not “celebrate” Christmas, as we do today, but it was more of an observance of Christmas as a HOLY DAY. It all started to change as the Middle Ages ended and the modern era began. The early settlers in America started the exchange program with gifts during the Holy Day festivities. Then St. Nicholas or Santa Claus was introduced to the new world and this launched the idea to give and exchange gifts at Christmas. This was done by the early Dutch settlers to America and launched a common Christmas culture in which most participate in gift giving at Christmas. Now we can talk about Santa in these businesses but you best not mention Jesus

or say, “MERRY CHRISTMAS!” This is because we have accepted a substitute for Christmas and we must put CHRIST back in **CHRISTMAS**.

The business world quickly adopted Santa Claus as a trademark of commercial trade which has literally rocked the world and today they get started right after Christmas preparing for the next one, to put them on the map financially as the world goes crazy over Santa. While there is nothing wrong with the giving of gifts, there is plenty wrong with forgetting what Christmas really is, the celebration of our Lord’s birth. It is not the birthday of Santa Claus! Santa has become the central theme around Christmas and that is no accident. Santa is the substitute for Jesus Christ at Christmas like the Easter bunny is at Easter in order to take the attention away from the Christ that came to take away the sins of the world. You see there are substitutes for everything it seems but we must not accept one in place of Jesus Christ. Christmas is His day; let’s not allow Satan to steal our joy by making it burdensome as we run crazy through the city to buy gifts for everyone because it has become mechanical or expected of us. Isn’t it time to step back, breathe deeply and say to yourself, “Why do I give gifts at Christmas?”



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CAN YOU IMAGINE LEAVING HEAVEN?

~Written by Sister Melissa Sides~

Can you imagine leaving Heaven,
The father, your home?



To be born on earth with hay for a throne.

The world wasn't watching on that cold,
peaceful night. Just a few lonely shepherds
and star shining bright.

No royal fanfare or parades in the street. Just
a few, that bowed at your feet.

The angels they sang, that the king was here.
But nobody listened not one joyful tear.

Can you imagine? coming to a land, where
people reject you and your salvation plan?

Jesus did more, than we can ever understand.
To bring us eternal life and fulfill God's plan.

Let us not be guilty that we forget and ignore
what Christmas is about and
who it truly is for.



It's not about Santa or
presents or trees.

But a holy Savior,
Born to set us free!

“A WORLD FULL OF SUBSTITUTES”

International Overseer
John A. Wilkins, Jr.



Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. Acts 20:28

Sin and diabetes have much in common; you can't see them with the ordinary eye. Your normal vision will not detect either yet they both have some interesting characteristics. Now let us look at some of them together. Sin is in the hidden man of the heart and diabetes is in the blood stream which we know is too much sugar in the blood. Both are silent killers, one affecting the normal balance of the body and the other the normal balance of the soul. They both slip up by a gradual process which is seldom noticed at all as they prepare to do their deadly work. In the case of diabetes, it begins to take hold a little at a time until it destroys the kidneys, heart and various other organs which sustain physical life. This will result ultimately in death if left untreated for too long. Sin on the other hand works



much in the same way on the spiritual man until it results in spiritual death with the soul ultimately cast into Hell once it has become useless. Satan dishes out sin a teaspoon at a time and as time goes on it takes more and more of sin's darkness to numb the soul and bring temporary relief.

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. James 1:14-15

This is the worst kind of death because it is eternal separation from God and is much worse than physical death yet people continue to play around with sin leaving it untreated. It is like a cancer which continues to eat away and is hardly noticed at all until it is too late to have it removed. Many of the organizations (churches of our day) continue to say nothing about sin until it is too late. They make excuses for sins removal by saying, "Well no one is perfect." They preach cheap grace while they advocate that one must sin every day, instead of preaching about the remedy for sin. The paschal Lamb



of God came to remove sin by His sanctifying blood. A church that will not preach SANCTIFICATION cannot be His Church. Those who have been diagnosed with diabetes say, "Well we have to die with something" and then they eat whatever they want. The ones with un-repented SIN say, "You must sin a little everyday" so they continue in it. When diabetes strikes it must have treatment and special attention in order to stop it from doing much harm to the physical body. Please keep in mind, there is help with both SIN and diabetes. The difference in the two is summed up in a few words. There is no known cure for diabetes, only treatment with insulin or medications wherein SIN has a cure. SIN's cure is the blood of Jesus Christ and is the only cure for SIN. There is no other remedy for it and no substitute that man can get to work. Accept no substitute such as religion. Religion has become a substitute for salvation and many are falling for it but religion will not work on the heart. It is like substituting water for insulin in the syringe for the diabetic. Jesus is the REAL THING for SIN! He paid the penalty for SIN and took all of man's sin upon Himself in order for us to

experience real deliverance from its penalty. Many are receiving religion instead of salvation which does not bother Satan at all because religion will not work when we come against Satan, we must be covered by His blood.

His blood also purchased THE CHURCH OF GOD as it gushed from His side at Calvary. He is also the REAL THING for THE CHURCH OF GOD and we must not accept a substitute for His Church either. I feel the Lord has led me to illustrate this plan for you and to simplify the path to TRUTH. He is the real thing for both sin and the Church! Many people are simply going through the motions and trampling underfoot the mercy and grace of God regarding sin and the Church.

Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth

ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. John 8:28-47

Here the scripture says, "... Ye shall know the TRUTH ..."What will you do with the TRUTH once you know it?

Many have known the truth but it now lies fallen in the street and trampled by men that once preached it and lived by it. They now want us to preach new doctrine and become like them. The liberal views of many will face them at the judgment of God as they say, "Have we not cast out devils in thy name?"

We are living in the "Day of Substitutes" and no one really wants them because they never can replace the REAL THING! Try feeding your bees Splenda in the place of real sugar in order to get sugar-free honey. It won't work; they will not take it and no honey will be produced. There is Splenda to replace sugar, powder to replace cream for your coffee (never passed through a cow), there is powder to go in hot water to make coffee and the list goes on and on of substitutes to make life better. Then there is aspartame which is used in many soft drinks to replace sugar and is recommended for diabetics. It is known to cause cancer in rats so you're okay if you are not a rat so go ahead and drink it. I am sure that you are beginning to get the picture. If it doesn't kill you then it might help you and they are all marketed for our good yet they are not the REAL THING. When it comes to salvation and the Church, accept no substitute, ONLY THE REAL THING will do!

Satan has marketed and is continuing to market "RELIGION" as a substitute for "SALVATION" but like aspartame it is an artificial sweetener for the soul and only seems to be the real thing. The Bible tells us that there is no

other name acceptable than JESUS to cover man's sin yet we hear compromising preachers say all the time that there are other ways for man to be saved. The blood spilled by our Lord Jesus Christ purchased your salvation and THE CHURCH OF GOD. One plan of salvation and ONE CHURCH was God's will, is God's will and will be His will forever. It is man who creates the substitutes not God. There simply is no time for doubting God and His Word; the hour is late and we must be busy about our Father's business. Television Evangelists are helping Satan market cheap grace that has no requirements for those who just want to have "Feel Good Religion" instead of blood bought life changing salvation. They advertise their products on the sets of the world famous TV shows and with news commentators where they brag about their "Feel Good" watered down message. They want you to always feel good when you leave their services but when the famous preacher, Jonathan Edwards preached "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" there probably weren't many who felt good but they received Christ. These preachers could tell you your child has just been killed by a train and smile into the camera all the time. They are not ministers but highly skilled psychologists who will never preach to you TRUTH. They can't keep their jets flying if they preach the TRUTH!

*Then said Jesus unto them again, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but***

the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. John 10:7-16

We have allowed Satan to steal conviction from many of our services by attempting to substitute funny stories for real Holy Ghost Bible preaching. Sometimes it looks like Satan is winning but he isn't. Many will come to the front of the battle in these "Last Days" as Christ builds His Church in the midst of the Socialist Governments, Communist Governments, and other man-made prisons of government. It is time for His Church to shine and preach the glorious Gospel of Christ and His Church. You can count on this, He is only building ONE and Satan is engaged in building ONE also. His is found

in the book of Revelation chapter 17. So beware of that which is big and strong, having exceptional appeal to the world.

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened. Matt 24:21-22

This will not be a good time for the folks having religion but will be a time of deliverance for the People of God. He will shorten the days for His Elect Lady, His Bride. You will not want a counterfeit or substitute in this hour but you will wish someone had preached the truth and that you would have received it. I am preaching the truth in this message for it is coming from the Word of God not my ideas and opinions. The Jews would never have swelled an offering for Jesus after He preached the truth to them but instead they killed Jesus Christ, their hope for the future. These substitutes for salvation and the Church are filling the whole earth and confusing the minds of good people making an easier way for them but there is no other way than to come in by the ONLY door, Jesus Christ. Many are talking about the Bride of Christ but have no concept of what it means to be His Bride. They are busy preparing something that looks like His Church in order to fool the masses because that is where their money is. When God wanted a bride for Isaac, He sent for her but she was to be unique, just any woman

would not do. She was to be special and pure and of the proper lineage in order to be the wife of Isaac. She had to meet all the marks of prophecy concerning her in order to be the ONE bride for Isaac. When Rebekah came out she was no substitute, she was the REAL THING! When the Bride of Christ steps out to meet the Bridegroom she will not be a substitute but She will be the REAL THING arrayed in fine linen (the righteousness of the saints). “Will you be among the Bride or will you not?” She, THE CHURCH OF GOD, is the Lamb’s Wife and has already been espoused to ONE husband and is getting Herself ready for the marriage of the Lamb.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2 Cor 11:2

And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants,

and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thundrings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. Rev. 19:1-8

God’s pick for Isaac was Rebekah and no doubt she was the most beautiful woman Isaac had ever seen but she had the virtues and characteristics that made her God’s choice for him. The Church is God’s pick for His Son and she will have the virtues and characteristics that God requires of Her in order to be the Bride for Christ. Although many substitutes are being groomed man’s way and they call themselves by the name CHURCH OF GOD they are quickly recognized by the scripture as fakes and imposters. If they do not embrace UNITY and LOVE for their fellowman, they are imposters! No substitute will take her place when God says, “Son go get your Bride” She will be pure and undefiled, without spot, wrinkle or other blemishes.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matt 16:18

If it is not built by Jesus,

it’s the wrong one. She will measure to every prophecy spoken of Her. Many hate Her because She is chosen and has never denied His name. They have found fault with Her teachings because of their sin and desire to lower Her standards but She remains a chaste virgin as the Lamb’s Wife.

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph 5:26-27

Many of the substitutes claim to be the Lamb’s wife, the Bride of Christ, but their actions reveal they are imposters and can never be His Bride. Without LOVE they will never be a part of the Bride of Christ. They all claim to have love but upon close examination one learns that it only works if you are part of their flesh controlled programs. They have no qualms about spiritual abuse and destruction of good men and women whom they boot to the curb in the name of perfection. We are aware of several men and women who have given their all to the Lord in unquestionable service out of true love for Christ and His Church but in their late years they are intimidated and abused without mercy and forcibly put out of their organizations. This is not pleasing to God and is unacceptable behavior for mankind not to mention brethren of the household of faith.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if

ye have love one to another. John 13:35

Soon one will find other sins of the flesh among such phonies and they will cover them by speaking in tongues and appearing to be most holy. Please understand that the Devil speaks in tongues but the spirit gives life in abundance and causes us to love our neighbor and in the absence of this the tongues do not matter at all. Please beware of those who cover their behavior by speaking in tongues all the time. Tongues have their place in the life of those who walk in the spirit. If you walk the walk and talk the talk that is what matters most.

Let all things be done for edification

I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are

mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. 1 Cor 14:18-28

This abuse of tongues is another sign of a counterfeit church and they resist government and understanding. The amount of messages and interpretations is not a good measurement by which to measure any group calling themselves God's Church. These are tactics used often to confuse people's minds because many believe if it is tongues with interpretation it is from God but please remember the message and the messenger must be measured by the Word of God. If they are not in sync then the message must be disregarded. When people say, "The Holy Ghost gave this message" and it conflicts with God's Word then you can know it did not come from God. When the message says it is okay for you to have your brother's wife or your brother gives the message while he lives with his brother's wife, it will be safe to discard that

message. You see these are the things happening in the substitute Bride and must be rejected. He, the Holy Ghost only speaks that which He hears from the Father, He does not speak of Himself.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. John 16:13-15

When counterfeit money comes into town the banks will let the businesses know so they can look for it; when the counterfeit churches come into town the true shepherds will let their people know to beware. The good shepherds warn the sheep and the hireling goes along where the most money is being distributed.

Accept no substitute, there are many out there and like "Fools Gold" they look real until the heat is applied and then they fizzle and smoke and let off foul odors. The real gold will take the heat and its impurities will come to the top. We must take the heat in order to be God's Church and then when we are tried and tested we will come through as pure gold.

A WORLD FULL OF SUBSTITUTES BUT, WE'LL TAKE JESUS AND THE CHURCH OF GOD □

“HEART OF THE SHEPHERDS”

World Mission Secretary
John A. Pultz



“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying

in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”
LUKE 2:7-18

God chose not to give the revelation of the birth of the Savior to the religious leaders of the day. But, instead He chose to give the news to lowly shepherds. Shepherds who were willing to fight off wild animals and thieves to protect their sheep. Most of the religious leaders of that time put on a hypocritical display of righteousness, to make the people believe that they were the chosen of God to be Shepherds over His flock, when in reality, they were looking out for themselves and I doubt that many of them would fight to protect those under their care. Jesus called these Scribes and Pharisees *“hypocrites, serpents, vipers.”* MATTHEW 23:23-33.

Such it is today, many think themselves to be the chosen, the apple of God's eye and can't imagine that God could possibly speak, teach or preach His truth through anyone other than themselves. But, God has proven time and again that He searches the hearts of men and He chooses whom He desires, to work through. David's father Jesse didn't think that God would possibly use his youngest son to be King of Israel. In fact,

he didn't even bring David to the meeting with the Prophet Samuel, but left him tending the sheep while he brought his seven older sons. But, God, who searches the hearts of men, had chosen this little shepherd to be King over His people, because his heart was after God's heart. He sought to know and do the will of God. *“...the LORD looketh on the heart.”* I SAMUEL 16:7b.

Getting back to the night of our Savior's birth, we find God's angel revealing to the shepherds the news of the birth, the location and the way to recognize Him: *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”*

Then the Lord gave witness to the words of the angel: *“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”* Then those shepherds made haste to go and find the Savior. After

they found Him, just as they had been told by God's messenger, they began to tell all who they saw the things which the angel had said **"concerning this child"**.

It is amazing how often one person can say something, but it is interpreted by different individuals to mean something entirely different than what is meant by the speaker. Usually someone interprets what they hear according to how they think or feel about certain things. Often, even as Christians, we don't hear the same thing, but rather we hear what fits into our mindset or opinions. The HOLY GHOST has said: ***"My people have erred greatly, because they think with the mind of man and the mind of the world!"*** We can't afford to think or reason with the natural (carnal) mind. The natural mind reasons with man's thoughts and ideas, the thoughts and ideas that come from people of the world, not from God. The natural mind has ideas, political views, opinions, etc..., that come from the world around us, not from God.

God's Word makes this clear: ***"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned:"***

I CORINTHIANS 2:14.

Would the Scribes and Pharisees have received this message that their Savior had been born to lowly parents who were not of the priestly tribe of the Levites and that He was born in a stall where the animals lay round about Him? So it is today; Many

are proud of their heritage and think that God will only reveal something to them or at the very least, to one in their chosen group. But God searches the hearts; He knows them that are His and He chooses whom He desires, to reveal His truth to.

These shepherds probably did not spend their time forming opinions of how, when and where the Savior would come, but no doubt their hearts were right with God. Just as the proud Scribes and Pharisees would later reject Jesus' message of salvation, they probably rejected anything these shepherds had to say. After all, these were just lowly shepherds and God couldn't possibly use them or even speak to them. That's the same mistake Jesse made and it is the same mistake we are prone to make, at times. It has probably been about twenty years ago, that the HOLY GHOST gave the message, through a former pastor of mine, but part of that message was written in my heart and I still have it there today: ***"...You must get rid of your preconceived ideas and notions (opinions)."*** Many of us are prone to hear only what we want to hear, when God speaks, because we have preconceived ideas and opinions about how God will speak or how He will work or who He will use or how He will gather His sheep into His fold, etc...

Don't you want to be like these shepherds and hear and speak exactly what God says, without making it fit into your mold or my mold or anyone else's mold of thinking? The Lord has said through the HOLY GHOST that He is going to reveal things

in these last of the last days that: ***"...men have desired to hear, but have not heard, and have desired to see, but have not seen since man has been upon the earth."*** He has also said, in at least two different countries that I know of, ***"...I am coming VERY soon."*** I believe that all of us have heard Him say in times past that He is coming *soon*, but now He has said *VERY soon*.

It is time for us to humble ourselves before our God and lay all of our ideas and opinions on His altar of truth. We must cry unto Him and ask Him to help us see all of our wrong ideas, opinions and misconceptions, that are in our hearts. We must desire for Him to reveal anything that is amiss and for Him to help us to confess it and receive His forgiveness, so that we can clearly hear everything that He speaks and clearly see all that He desires to show us.

On the morning of SEPT. 11, 2008, the HOLY GHOST spoke to those in attendance at the United States National Convention of The Church of God of NC, in Dunn, NC, through Sister Eunice Foster and said: ***"Yea, My people. I am calling you today (to) humble down and walk in My Word, My people. Yea, I will shine on you, I will lead you, I will be your God and you will be My people, if you will be obedient and walk in My Word. Seek My face, My people, listen to My voice, hearken when I speak. Yea, o My people, this is My promise to you, I will be your God, you will be my people, yea, I will be in the midst of thee, yea, I will lead you. 0,***

humble my people, humble and walk with Me."

When you take into account how many times the Lord has spoken through the HOLY GHOST, in the past several years, telling us to **hearken** to His words, then we must realize that we are not all hearkening (listening diligently, intently, with unbiased hearts and obeying). If we were, then He wouldn't keep repeating the same message for us to humble and hearken to Him. When you take this message given through Sis. Foster along with a message that I mentioned earlier **"My people have erred greatly, because they think with the mind of man and the mind of the world"**, it seems to me that

God is admonishing us to humble ourselves and submit ourselves wholly unto Him, so that He can impart His heart into our hearts and His mind into our minds.

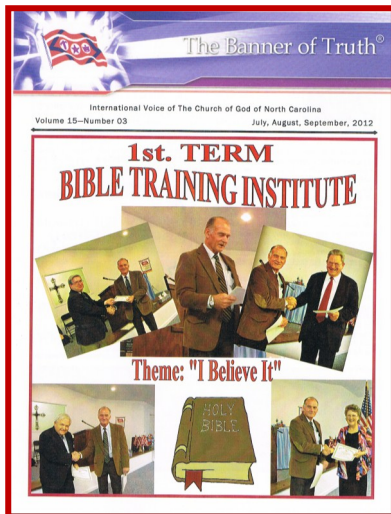
The HOLY GHOST even spoke to us at the first Spiritual Summit, at Brown's Summit, NC and said: **"...This fighting amongst yourselves must stop... All I require of you is to obey Me and to walk together with Me. If you obey Me and walk with Me, then you have nothing to fear..."**.

Let's be like those humble shepherds on that blessed night of more than 2,000 years ago. Let's not let our hearts and minds be clouded by pride or self

righteousness, so that we may all clearly hear the same thing and walk in the same true light of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us hearken and obey His message to "Walk together with Me". Then, as He told us, we will have nothing to fear, because we will be in one mind and one accord, and the scripture penned by the Apostle Paul so many years ago:

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." **I CORINTHIANS 2:16** will be fulfilled in us. And just as those shepherds telling what the angel said concerning the Savior, we will all hear and speak the same message. □

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On Unto Perfection

~ Hillard Foster, Sr. ~
Crab Orchard, KY

Hebrews 5:9-14 *“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec. Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

Hebrews 6:1-2 *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”*

This is not a popular doctrine. It goes against human nature. It goes against society. It is not accepted by the world and especially the so called Christian world. It is, however, a very viable Bible doctrine.

As The Church of God, it must be an ever present preached message and lived doctrine. We have witnessed in these past several years, a turning from perfection. It began when we quit preaching perfection and holiness.

It seemed that to preach perfection or even holiness was looked down upon as we think we are better than anyone else, and this is a haughty spirit. Jesus said in Matthew 24: 4 *“... Take heed that no man deceive you.”*

Preaching Bible doctrine such as perfection and holiness is alright. It can and must be done, without thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. If in us there is perfection and holiness, it is not us, but Christ who is in us.

As the church, we must lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily besets us; even the weight of our past and run the race that is set before us, endeavoring to keep the faith and unity of the church.

Ministers, we must be pace setters in our going on to perfection. We must discipline ourselves to be doers of the Word. We must not use the old cliché “Don’t do as I do, but do as I say.” We must say as Paul, *“Follow me as I follow Christ.”* We must set the example and others will follow.

Members and friends and fellow Christians, God has not drawn you to Christ to be like the world, but He has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. The darkness of this world – hurt, pride, selfishness, untruthfulness, and a humanistic way of life has darkened and overshadowed the light of the Lord in the lives of many, but let us go on to perfection.

God has called us and placed us in the body, “The Body of Christ, The Church of God” as it pleased Him. Now, let’s please Him in our commitment to perfection. This has to begin again to be preached and lived by all members and ministers.

Philippians 3:11-14 *“If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Our advice to members starts out, “as a member you count one.” Let’s count one that would not be entrapped by this world, but count one that will put on the Lord Jesus Christ and press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- Dare to be different – dare to be a square in a round hole

- Dare to be peculiar – dare to be Christ-like
- Dare to be holy – dare to be a pace setter

We can't perfect others, but we can perfect ourselves. Holiness and perfection are like humility and silence; once you mention them, they are gone.

Perfection is letting the inner man rule the outer man, but the inner man must be filled with the spirit and presence of God. Luke 6:45 says "...for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." We sometimes put all the emphasis on the outer man, but the real need is the inner man- that is where the problem lies. There should be no root of bitterness, envy-ing, strife, pride or lust, covetousness, thievery or

murdering (tongues), no evil speaking ourselves.

Deuteronomy 10:12 says "*And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,*"

Romans 12:1-2 says "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not con-formed to this world: but be ye transformed by the re-newing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

God Bless you all. □



All Powerful God

International WMB Director

~Shirley Michael~

Isaiah 50: 2-3 *Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.*

Dear, Dear, Ladies:

I want you to please read *Isaiah 50* several times and ask the Lord to give you revelation. We need hope that only comes from God; hope and assurance of redemption and deliverance for our friends and loved ones-pray, pray, pray!

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26

Thanks to all of our churches that helped to make our October World Mission Drive the best we have ever had. Your willingness to make and sell things, give, receive special offerings and give of yourselves has really paid off and we are getting better results. There is a place for all of you in the mission work and six new countries are presently

engaged in becoming a part of The Church of God of prophecy at this time. One of them has already done their papers and will be having a National Convention soon. Bishop Dumas Joseph Raynold Michel is their new overseer and will be leading the convention in the Dominican Republic.

Let us work to make our Women's Missionary Band strong in the Spirit and Power of God. Remember, mission work for you might consist of reaching across the backyard fence and helping a neighbor find Jesus precious to their soul; it doesn't have to be across the sea.

Your love of missions is reflected many times in your giving to help others reach the distant lands for Christ and His Church. If you want to know more about how you can help please call on me at any time and I will help you find a place to help, support with your Church of God dollars and we will work together to build His Church around the world.



Philippines District 2 Revival

“An Awesome One”

Central East, Poblacion, Santol, La Union
July 17-18, 2012

~Jussella Cara Esguerra~

Revivals are made to boost the Spiritual life of a person individually. It is not only for the ones that lay low on his Spiritual Aspect but more for the Local Body (Church) itself. Annual Revivals are held depending on the decision of each Local Church or District so this year instead of doing the event per Local Church, we had it as a District. And we never knew that it will become so remarkable.

The first night message was given by our National Evangelist Pastor Robert Turqueza with the theme: Wake Up! All delegates from different Local Churches were all ears to the preacher. Nobody fell asleep except for the babies of course. Altar call was presented and the congregation obeyed. It went nice but the Moderator Ptr. Adonis Bautista still had feeling of strong conviction to stir up the congregation. He told us that God wanted to say something that night so we must continue to adore and worship, and as soon as the Music Director sung another song (I wish we're all been Ready) the Holy Ghost moved and Ptr. Adonis was used as the instrument. He spoke in tongues after which Ptr. Robert Alfredo was used as the Interpreter. The manifestation lasted almost an hour. It is not like any other manifestation, because we had a Conversation with Him through Ptr. Adonis and Ptr. Alfredo. I used the word “conversation” because I for one asked Him a question intellectually then answer were said through tongues and interpreted in words. And here is the interpretation:

“I the Lord is in the midst of you do not be doubtful. Humble yourselves and do not be afraid my small pasture because I have chosen you. This is the True Church, no other Church; this is the only True Church. Do not be afraid for I am with you. The fearful will have a part in the Lake of Fire. I have given back the Spirit to you; even the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. I am with

you always. Be merry and rejoice, sing Praises since I have given you Victory. Pray one for another. I have chosen you. I am coming very soon, now is the time for the Church to show its Brightness. Go to all places, to every town, to every barangay, inform all the people that I am coming very soon. I have chosen you, this is my True Church. Be observant of the field, the Harvest of the earth is Ripe. You are now acceptable to be a Living Sacrifice, worry not for I will supply all your needs. Those of you who doesn't had the covenant yet, accept it now, can't you see the days become shorter. It is now time to leave, I must go, but remember I am coming back very Soon.”

The manifestation happened so smoothly, the amazing Power of God was felt enormously. Ptr. Adonis with closed eyes ran so swiftly around the congregation who were all kneeled on the altar without bumping or stepping on any of them. Our God really is an Awesome God. **“Halleluiah”** was the only word spoken by the congregation as the manifestation was going on.

The Spirit commanded us to **“be merry and rejoice”** so the second night was a Festive scenario. During the praise and worship the congregation was so vigorous, other danced in the Spirit. The Message was still about Waking Up. And for the second time the altar was opened, this time the National Evangelist's spouse was baptized with the Holy Ghost. And Prayer of thanksgiving of a marvellous Revival was offered to our Great God.

(“ Four hours after the 1st night of the revival had ceased, God gave me the Best Birthday Gift ever, that time I can still feel the Spirit so I prayed to God for Gratitude suddenly as I ended my prayer I was Baptized with the Holy Ghost inside my Room at my bed on my 25th Birthday. To God be the Glory.”) □

"Let us Rise UP and Build"

The Church of God of North Carolina/Hamilton, AL Ground Breaking Ceremony



~Pastor James Miller~

The Tremont church (presently of Tremont, MS) had a groundbreaking ceremony for a new church building September 23, 2012. There were 25 people in attendance, all excited about bringing the Lord's Church to Hamilton, AL.

We thank the Lord for our church officials who did the Lord's work. Our pastor, Brother Wayne Miller, Brother Lebert Lucas, Brother Danny Humphries and Rev. Peterson did the preparation for this wonderful and glorious event. We also appreciate their wives who supported them in this good work.

We were much honored to have Mrs. Judy Miller, Marion County Probate Judge, her husband Mr. James Miller and their family with us for this happy occasion. She spoke about how thankful she was for the Lord bringing His people and the Church to Hamilton, Alabama.

From Left to Right

Doyle Peterson

Matt Lucas

Lebert Lucas

Judy Miller (*Judge of
Probate of Marion County*)

James Miller (*Pastor*)

Mickey Michael

Danny Humphres



The meeting opened with Brother Humphries reading Matthew 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Then prayers were offered and the congregation was led in song by Sister Angie Brown. We sang “Amazing Grace” and worshiped the Lord as the Holy Spirit bathed our hearts in a sweet, sweet spirit.



Then we had a short message by Brother Humphries from the Word of God from I Samuel 2:35 and Psalms 127:1.

And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.
1 Sam 2:35

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. Psalms 127:1

Brother Humphries went on to explain, “The Church is a body of people and not the building”. Now it was time to hear from our pastor, Brother James W. Miller. He read from Nehemiah chapter 2, where the walls of Jerusalem were torn down and they said, “*let us rise up and Build*”, so they strengthened their hands for the good work. The people had a mind to work and they worked with one hand and held the weapons with the other and that weapon for us is Jesus, the Word.



Brother Peterson then talked about building a church that teaches all that Jesus is and feeling secure that the people will hear the truth. Oh, Church, Let us proclaim the message “**Rise up and Build**”.

The Tremont Mississippi church is on the move to “RISE UP AND BUILD”. We will by the help of the Lord, each member and friend. We will soon be located on this new ground in Hamilton, Alabama, but the spirit of unity will be the same-on new ground in a different state.□

Bible Training Institute (BTI)

USA, BTI Superintendent

~Keith Murphy~



We lovingly refer to this arm of instruction as BTI, but what does it mean? It is understood, by those of us familiar with the acronym, that it is the highest level of learning sponsored by The Church of God, but how do others perceive it? Our desire is to have them know that we do not seek to establish a doctrine but rather to establish IN THE DOCTRINE the doctrine taken directly from the Bible. This sums up the purpose of Bible Training Institute and this is why we must stick to a strict discipline which requires us to teach the same thing in BTI all over the world. Jesus gave us clear and explicit instructions as to how this should be done.

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. Matt 28:19-20

This passage lets us know how serious Jesus was about BTI and our responsibility to it. No one else can do this; they can assist, but the responsibility cannot be removed from The Church of God because it was placed there by Jesus. I have been in contact with the Philippines Victory Leaders Director who is also involved with BTI, and she tells me that they are very serious about BTI.

The Bible Training Institute here in the United States was started this past year, and was the greatest that I have ever attended. I keep asking why? The answer is that our people prayed and fasted long before it ever began. They were hungry for a move of God and to know about the great Church of God of the Bible. There was chapel every morning during BTI for one-half hour where people poured their hearts out to God for His help and direction. It was not just for students, but the teachers were all involved, and that is why we saw such a move of God. We are already preparing for BTI/2013 which will be held at our headquarters in Dunn, North Carolina on July 12 – 23, 2013. This will be for 1st term and 2nd term, so make plans now to attend by marking your calendar. If you start now by laying aside a special amount each month, it will not be so hard to come since your transportation will be your major expense. There will be low cost housing available here at headquarters, and those without much money will be able to take part in this feast. Our plans are for you to enjoy BTI without much cost. So begin now to pray and seek the Lord for the greatest and most rewarding experience you have ever had.

If you are a former BTI student who has completed at least one term of BTI and would like to teach, please contact me as soon as possible and we might be able to use you this year since we will have two terms being taught. Please e-mail me at keithmurphy@thechurchofgodofnc.com or call me at 1-541-401-1290 to discuss these positions for 2013 BTI.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Tim 3:16-17



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Take my Son.....



A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and

admire the great works of art.. When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son. About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly... He often talked about you, and your love for art." The young man held out this package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home, he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?" There was silence...



Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?"

Another voice angrily said, "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, the Rembrandts. Get on with the Real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued. "**The son! The son! Who'll take the son?**" Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting..." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20? "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel.. "Going once, twice, **SOLD for \$10!**" A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!" The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over." "What about the paintings?" "I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will... I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!"

God gave His son over 2,000 years ago to die on the Cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: "**The Son, the Son, who'll take the Son?**" Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything!

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...

THAT'S LOVE!

Remember ALL our Military
Serving Around the World!



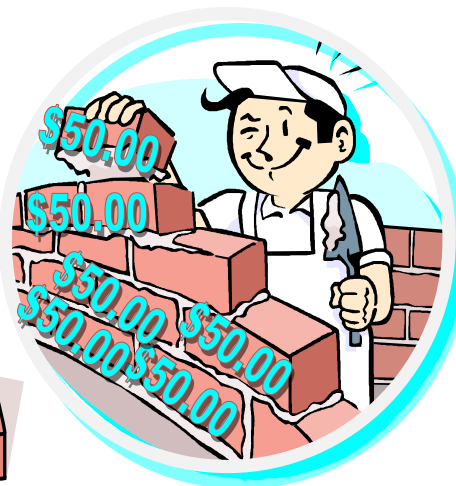
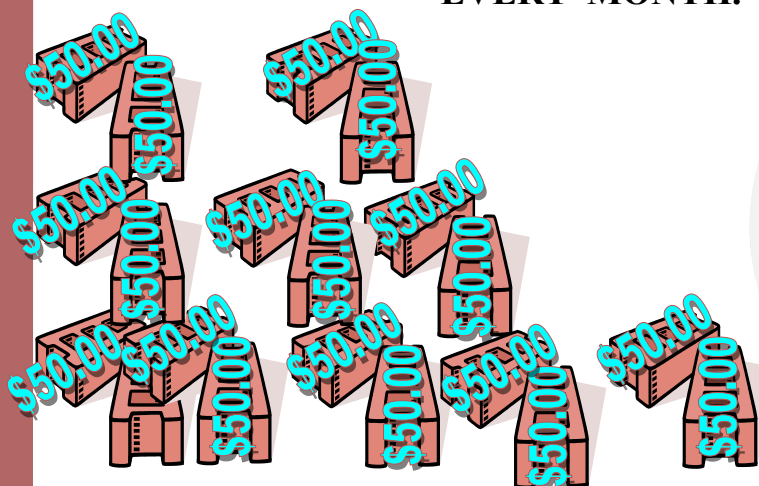
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