

finding **TRUTH & Hope**

February 2017

Serving God's True Children Everywhere - God's Church

A Just Man...Riseth Up Again

Edited excerpts from a message by Bro Rodney Smith

“For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief” (Proverbs 24:16). Be faithful, walk worthy, the Lord sometimes asks us to be stepping out in the water, when the water is not yet parted! This Bible verse speaks of times when we fall. We're tempted to allow our shortcomings and failures to define us. Get up! Ask for His help and keep going. The number seven implies completeness (absolutely failed). Be somebody who keeps getting up! God made a plan for us not to live perpetually in sin. We get where we almost feel like, “I can't do this.” The Lord says, “I'm glad you finally realized!”

The Lord told Joshua, “Wherefore liest thou thus on thy face?” He has battles for us that He wants us to go ahead and face. He doesn't want us just lying on the ground! Elijah, what are you doing? Sometimes we fail the Lord with our [lack of] courage: listless, discouraged, and I can't see the way ahead. What value is there in staying on the ground? We're pretty acquainted with that place. Maybe you just got through being there again!

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.” But if you do, “we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:” (I John 2:1). Jesus says, “That's who I died for; they need help.”

Let's be defined by our perseverance, by getting back up! I'm not talking about a “sinner saved by grace” and just living any “ole” way I want to. We're on a journey! When I finally, utterly realize I can't do this by myself --- the Lord's been trying to get you there for 25 years.

The Lord is a risen Savior and He's looking for a risen people! “But he that endureth to the end, shall be saved” (Matthew 10:22b). Paul said, “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” (Philippians 3:13b-14). “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (I John 1:9). “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 1:24).

VICTORY

www.churchofgodpreaching.com 4176 Bro. Bob Wilson at Guthrie, OK

(II Corinthians 10:3) Take note! The weapons of the Lord are mighty! When we properly apply the weapons in our lives – they work! People are blessed and overcoming that weren't that way before.

Strongholds are areas that are fortified! Maybe in our lives we have territories that cause us difficulties from time to time. Some places look impregnable; this was the way I was raised. The enemy inserts his lies. Wounds always carry a message, they affect the way we respond and react. We run and hide from these

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strongholds – not willing to face those places in our life. I believe all of us have places like that. Jacob had his name changed! He held on, and he wrestled. We don't have to be handicapped all of our lives. We can overcome. Habits are difficult to break once you've done something for years and years. Look out in the pasture and see paths the cattle have worn! The way we think, perceive, and look at things affects our marriage, our relationships, and our relationship with God! Many times we won't deal with the root of our problem!

You can't wear the scriptures out! They are living scriptures. God is love. He loves us as individuals. He loves you. The enemy wants to come in and make you feel that God doesn't love you, care about you. Some people have a hard time believing that God loves them. In the depths of their spirit, they feel second class; they feel second rate. God has a place of victory. It is not based on how well I can perform. We're married to the Lord. We've made some vows to Him. The Lord wants us to be careful, yes, not living loose. But He's not going to chop us off because we fail.

People have walls of emotion... There's times the trials of life make us feel alone and unloved... Many times from our past we can get hung up, and we fail to conquer... it pulls us down.

(Listen to the entire message on-line)

BREATHE ON US

www.churchofgodpreaching.com 4163 Bro. James Bell at Guthrie, OK

...We are so limited until the Spirit breathes upon us. Without the Spirit of God to help us, we can't work through the unknowns. We need the Spirit of God to help us, to inspire us, to do things! The Lord can inspire us--turn things into life for us. "The inspiration of the almighty, giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8). It is something that comes down from above. Folks, you can't get some things out of a book.

Have you been quickened by the Spirit of God? The future generation is counting on us! Phillip got his orders from the Lord without a cell phone; "Go near, and join thyself to this chariot" (Acts 8:29). God is looking for results. God wants us to be faithful, to be led by his Spirit wherever we go. **We need to be infused with the Spirit of God!** "Our sufficiency is of God" (II Corinthians 3:3). **The administration of the Spirit will help us; it will solve our problems.** "You hath he quickened," **made alive** (Eph. 2:1 & Col.2:3). **Let's be people who have been touched by the Spirit of God!**

The flesh leaves a trail wherever it's been. The Spirit leaves an effect also. We need something down from above that generates power to come down in our lives! "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). The reason we're tired and worn out, is that we're doing too much with the flesh! An ounce of our own strength will wear out before the day is over. Elijah got one plate of that heavenly food, and he went in the strength of that forty days! **We're tired because we're doing things in the old fleshly way!** "It is the spirit that quickeneth." What about the inspiration in those words! Sometimes it's how we hear: "Take heed therefore how ye hear!" (Luke 8:18). We're called to be the salt and the light. Sometimes we are in a dormant spirit. The Lord is saying "Get up! I've got things to be done! Get going!"

We let our feelings run wild with us sometimes! You don't have to stay there! You can make it! You can be successful. We have the Spirit of God to come by and quicken us, to help us.

Oh a divine breathing! This is what we need! Lord help us young and old! God wants to do something for us today. He wants to give us inspiration, folks. Jesus said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:22). There's life there! "It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). He doesn't want us to be lying horizontal very long! Be up and in action. God can help us to do more than before.

(Listen to this message and many more on line at churchofgodpreaching.com).

Ezk. 44:23 "...teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."

Assault On Marriage

By Bro. Stanley Dickson

The two most precious gifts given to mankind by a wise and gracious heavenly Father are the gift of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, and the giving of a wife (Eve) to Adam.

By the first gift, man was afforded the opportunity to have fellowship and be made one with God. In salvation a relationship of love, devotion, purity and unity of purpose between God and man is established. Everything that pertains to life and godliness is given by God to this union, and mankind is benefited and blessed beyond their greatest expectations.

In describing the relationship that is to exist between God and man, God, in various places, uses the institution of marriage as an example of how salvation is to bless and affect us. Marriage is designed by God and His blessings and care are extended to it. In marriage, couples find the sweetest experience known to man. The fullness and richness of heart, soul, mind, body and emotions that exist within the confines of marriage by far outweighs and exceeds anything ever invented or imagined. Nowhere else can people find such fulfillment, comfort, strength and purpose as is found in marriage. Marriage is unique and without an equal in human relationships. In it we find a strength and support that will come from no other. The sharing and giving (never taking) of husbands and wives to each other form a bond that will weather the storms of life, and give stability and hope to those they touch. Regardless of how many friends we have, or how much of this world's goods and fame we may acquire, we will never find in them the support and help that comes from the love and care of a spouse.

From within the confines of a happy and devoted marriage comes the very material that the foundation of society is built upon, the family. Without question, when marriages suffer and fail, the fallout of that is a family that, to some degree, is dysfunctional and begins to forfeit the true blessings of life.

God told Ezekiel, when He made him a watchman on the wall,

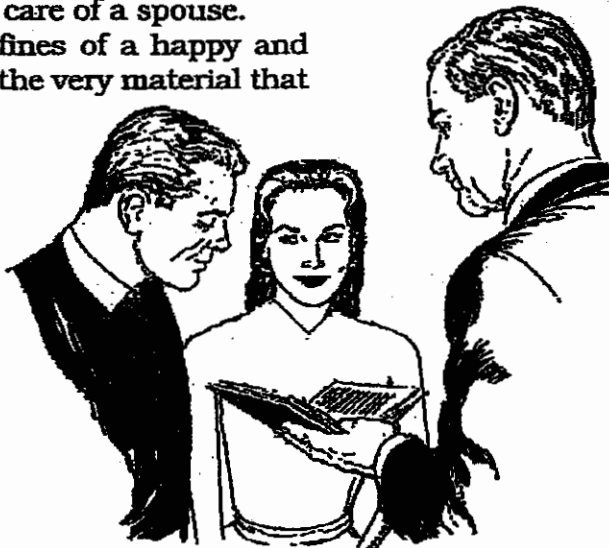
"...Hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me." Ezekiel 3:17. So I would like to point out what I see as an all out assault on the institution of marriage by Satan and the mustered forces of this ungodly world. Remember, you cannot expect any help from the world and the changing rules of society. Regrettably, society is ruled by the god of this world, and his influence is in all aspects of society, even religion. Our help comes from the Lord and from allowing Him to be the center and heart of our life and marriage. Without Him we can do nothing. To the sorrow of mankind, many are trying to establish marriage on a foundation other than the truth of Jesus Christ and His life.

I hope you have a most wonderful marriage, and if so I praise God with you. However, do not take your happiness for granted. By all means be on your guard, and keep your heart and mind clear of the number one enemy, selfishness. With anguish of heart we all know of good marriages that have turned bad. It did not just happen, but some of the things we will discuss found their way into the life of the marriage.

To borrow from the Hebrew writer concerning bitterness, "...thereby many be defiled." Hebrews 12:15. When a marriage goes sour and selfishness begins to reign, not only is the couple defiled, but alas, many are defiled. How many spoiled marriages have you seen that only affected the couple? I will tell you how many—none. There is always fallout and injury to the innocent and to society every time. Never be so bold as to say it should be of no concern to anyone else and that it is your business alone.

When a marriage fails we all lose. Satan knows this very well and rejoices at a couple's calamity and the ensuing effect.

We may want to think that marital trouble is a condition that exists only in the world, and that somehow we, the Church, are exempt. May we never be so naive. The Church is a prime target and Satan has his demonic sights of death set on your marriage. He is just waiting



for you to make a slip and not be on guard. Oh, please, believe this. It is true. I have seen Satan's work too many times and in too many places to believe that it is just an isolated incident now and then.

Remember back to the courtship and the engagement. Remember all the hope, love and anticipated joy you looked forward to? Remember all the dreams and plans, and how you could not for a minute imagine anything so beautiful coming under assault and being exposed to a death blow from Satan? Bitter heartaches never entered your thoughts. Sleepless nights and pillows wet with tears were never considered. How could such a beautiful picture turn so ugly?

How? Because marriage has an "...adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5:8.) To devour means to swallow up. The pain and terror of being attacked by a lion is unthinkable. But it is nothing compared to the terror of a marriage being ingested by Satan. We have all seen the blows and the attacks couples can make upon one another. Maybe you are there

marriage. Please do not expose it to Satan. Hold marriage dear.

Here are some of the devices that Satan can use to get a toe hold in a marriage. What I would like for you to do is read this list very slowly. Meditate on each one. Explore the meaning of each word. Then I would ask you to read this together as a couple and be very honest with yourself and each other. Discuss the thoughts. Pray over your thoughts and discussion. A word of caution. It is inherent in people to want to take a list such as this one and put it on the other person. It is easier than being honest with yourself. But that is not what I am asking you to do. Read the list and apply it to yourself. God is not asking you to change the ways of others. Spiritual lukewarmness; Cares of this life; Different directions; Insensitivity; Lack of communication; Jobs/Careers; Jealousy; Stinginess/Greed; Concupiscence; Worldly entertainment; In-Laws (Remember, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave [firmly attach] unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh."); Indifference; Belittling; Criticism; Lying; A religious spirit (the Bible is never to be

How careful you must be with this priceless blessing of marriage.

now and are fielding or wielding the debilitating blows of Satan's influence. There is no way for there to be pleasure and fulfillment in such a relationship; and to think of such pain coming from what started out as visions of love, joy, beauty and happiness. Why, oh why, would one want to harm and disfigure something so beautiful?

Satan is "seeking." I thought of it this way in trying to explain the seriousness of Satan's desire for people. Imagine that a hired assassin was stalking you. Everywhere you go, he follows, and has the cross hairs of a scope on a high powered rifle trained on you at all times. Imagine how serious you would be in your actions and steps if you knew that he was just waiting for you to give him a clear shot so he could take out your life. Would you be careful? Would you notify the authorities? Would you hold life dear? Yes, of course you would.

May God help each one to see that the devil has his sights set on their marriage. He is just waiting for them to allow their selfishness to give him an opening for a clear shot. How careful you must be with this priceless blessing of

used as an instrument for getting your way); Abuse (sexual, physical, emotional); Drugs/Alcohol; Love of money.

Make no excuse for any of the above. They are poison. You must be willing to allow God to purge you from all of the avenues Satan is using to infiltrate your marriage. Because of Satan's devices, and the looseness of the world, we must be on guard at all times. Resist any intrusion into the sanctity of your marriage.

Redeeming the time is a theme of Christ. I encourage you to make full use of the time you have. This is your time for your marriage; a time to shine out as a beacon of the beauty of Christ and His Church. This is your opportunity to build magnificent memories. A time to be rich in love and the joy of sharing life with someone you love; a time for flowers to bloom; a time to guard against regrets; a time to point and direct children to a healthy perception of marriage and to give them an example to pattern their marriage after. May I interject a challenge here? Do you want your children to have the kind of marriage you have? Be honest. If not, then you must

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Assault on Marriage

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realize you are setting the pattern for their ideas of marriage, and be willing to humble yourself and change (Oh, what a terrifying word that is to the flesh).

This is the time to reject all influences that would harm your marriage. Soon the twilight will be here. So live in your marriage, and with your spouse, that the latter years will not be spent in remorse of wasted years and bitter regrets of how it could have been. Focus on this thought when you want to excuse yourself and blame the other person, "So then every one of us shall give account of HIMSELF to God." Romans 14:12.

Remember God's warning. Your marriage is under assault. Heed the warning and take the necessary precautions. Walk circumspectly, (considerate of all circumstances and the consequences) and not as fools. (Ephesians 5:15.)

FAITH AND VICTORY

To Young Married Folks

One young married couple wants to know how they can get along well together. They do not tell much of their trouble, but they say enough to give us to understand that their troubles are sometimes real serious. A few times the young wife has gone home to her parents.

The first thing needed by the young husband and wife is Christ in their hearts. It is almost useless to go any further in our telling you how to get along well together until you get Jesus in your lives. Very few ever get along well together except they be saved. There will be angry feelings and moods, short, harsh speeches, hurt feelings, tears, etc., in the lives of most all young married folks who are not real Christians. So, the first thing to do is to get the grace of God in the heart. Will this make an end of all trials and troubles? Not very likely, at least not an end of all the trials. You can, however, soon get to a place, by God's help, where troubles have no place in your lives, and trials will be much fewer and weaker. There is something for you to do, both of you. You must have a strong strength of the trial. You must set right resistance. Not a strong resistance against each other, but a strong resistance against the devil, the trial and your own feelings. Yes, we say, against your own feelings. Trials bring unpleasant feelings, and the unpleasant feelings are in proportion to the strength of the trial. You must sit right down on your feelings. Instead of giving place to them and acting like you

feel, resist them and act contrary to your feelings. You may say you cannot do it. Yes you can, and you must. Your happiness in life and through eternity depends upon it. God will help you if you earnestly ask Him and try hard to help yourself.

Some folks are unwilling to resist their feelings. They weaken down and let their feelings express themselves in words and action. Shame! That is weakness. You cannot afford to give place to ugly, unpleasant feelings—feelings of irritation and impatience. Do not trifle with them; give them no place in your life for a moment. If allowed to linger they will rob the soul of that gentleness, kindness, tenderness, and sympathy which you should grow up into through the years. You must want to be a kind, gentle, tender, cheerful, happy, sunny saint when you get old. Now is the time to begin to lay the foundation for such a happy and beautiful old age. Nothing is more beautiful and helpful on earth than a happy, kind, patient, tender-hearted old saint. You will never see as much of heaven anywhere until you get to heaven. It takes years to form a real, deep saintly character. If you give place to your ruffled feelings and say and do something that you should not do or say, you are playing a losing game. If you resist your feelings and smile when you do not feel like it; if you will tell the one that has tried you that you love them greatly when you do not feel like you loved them at all, you are winning in the fight. It is not speaking falsely. Down in your heart of hearts you do love them, but the trial has ruffled the surface of your feelings until you do not feel like you loved them. Do not speak and act according to the prompting of your disturbed feelings, but think a moment, calm yourself and speak and act according to the desires of the deep of your heart. Oh, how this will help you to tenderness of soul, and sunniness of life! This resistance of the agitation on the surface and bringing up from the deep the calm and peace and letting them rule in your life will bring you happiness in your home, and through the years will ripen into a character that will make you such a brilliant reflection of heaven that will linger long after you are sleeping neath the sod.

—C. E. Orr.

BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and palsied hand.
Blessed are they who know that my ears today
Must strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
That my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who looked away
When milk spilled at the table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile
Who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say,
"You've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they who know the ways
To bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known
That I'm loved, respected, and not alone.
Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss
To find the strength to carry the Cross.
Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey Home in loving ways.

FAITH AND VICTORY

—Esther Mary Walker

GOD'S 5 Minutes

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Scent Remained

- Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in to God's 5 Minutes.
- Do you like pleasant scents? I do. By combining a variety of aromas from barks, flowers, fruits and woods an entire industry of perfumes has been created that generates about 31 billion dollars a year world-wide. Today Dior's perfume "poison" is perhaps the best-selling in the world, and for good reason. The top notes of this fragrance are wild berries, orange honey, tuberose and coriander, and it has base notes including Opoponax. What a difference between someone fresh from the shower and lightly scented with this delightful fragrance and the vagabond who has wandered into a grocery store and cleared the aisles by wandering down them and spreading the rank flavor of not having bathed or changed clothing in weeks.
- Perhaps we could think of people's spirits as having a scent as well. Jeremiah prophesied concerning the nation of Moab, in Jeremiah 48, *Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.* No doubt the scent allegory is a reference to the handling of wine casks, and the thrust of the prophecy was that Moab, which had been relatively undisturbed by wars, was soon to experience conflict. But my point today is that God considered the nation as having a scent that was the product of its past and its reaction to the way that past had been. Thinking thus, perhaps we could say that each of us have, as well as a physical, a spiritual scent about us.
- A light, refreshing perfume can diffuse through a room when a lady wearing it enters. Have you ever known someone who is spiritually like that? Some people have collected a spiritual assortment of finest wild fruits, fragrant wood aromas, bark, delightful odors of all sorts - we might call them love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance - everyone is drawn to someone who has those fragrances. Such a life is redolent of virtue, sends out a message that naturally inspires ready trust and respect, creates a living atmosphere of confidence and tranquility that has the capacity to soothe a troubled soul, rest a weary spirit, bring peace to a conflicted heart. These are the virtues of saints.
- So how is one to get these pleasant aromas in his or her life? For they are not simply naturally born there, in any of us. If we are left without heaven's help to develop our own characters, and with them their resultant behaviors, we are most likely to have a scent that is rancid, disgusting, foul. Greed has a scent; so does lustfulness, as well as petty jealousy and rivalry. Perhaps the lust to be the most important smells the worst of all. And although one may wear the most beautiful perfumes ever made, if under them there is heartlessness and selfishness the inner smell makes a mockery of the outer fragrance.
- The scents that make Dior's "poison" perfume come from carefully cultivated and maintained sources, some of them exotic, some of them difficult to obtain. So also the spiritual graces that lend fragrance to a life. They come from afar; they are found around the throne of God, they are too lofty for humans to reach by their own endeavor. And yet, the glad message of this little radio broadcast is that although we can never gather the critical ingredients for a heavenly incense by our own skill, training, strength, they are all about us - and they are, in a sense, free. The condition is that we go to our Creator, the great One Who made both the earthly fragrances and is Master of the spiritual ones, humble to Him, admit our need, seek His divine help. He wants to change those things that are sour and rotting about us, with all the decay of relationships and stench of bitter disappointment and painful rejection that emanate from many a broken heart into something airy, light, beautiful, flavored with the bouquet of heaven. He is the Rose of Sharon, the lily of the valley, in us He will be as fragrant a flower as when He walked the shores of Galilee, with His kind "thy sins be forgiven thee." Have you talked to Him today?

Rule Over Own Spirit

- Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in today.
- Proverbs 25:28 tells us, *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*
- In Bible times a city's walls were one of its primary defenses against enemies, and that is the comparison set before us by this verse. Here we are in a state of warfare which calls for constant shutting out of enemies. Temptations are everywhere. Life is not a playground as much as it is a battlefield filled with grim, earnest fighting. No one does right without a struggle.
- The need for continual vigilance and self-control comes from the very makeup of our persons, for our nature is a kingdom, not a democracy. In us all there are passions, desires, affections, any of which may lead to vice or to virtue. All of them cry out for direction, for cultivation, and often for repression; all of them need to be under control. You see, each of us receives an undeveloped self, filled with traits and characteristics that can be polished into brilliant diamonds or debased into shame and heartbreak. Besides all this, we all carry in us tendencies which are positively, and only, sinful. There would be no temptation if there were no such. Even a small inward glance clearly points out, not only what in us needs to be controlled, but that in us which is *meant* to control. The will is supreme; conscience is meant to govern the will, and its voice is but the echo of God's law.
- But, while all this is true, it is too sadly true that the accomplishment of this ideal is impossible in our own strength. Our own sad experience tells us that we cannot govern ourselves; and our observations of our brethren but too surely indicate that they too are the prey of rebellious, dark powers within, and of temptations, against the rush of which they and we too often are likely to face the black bitterness of failure. Conscience has a voice but no hands; it can speak, but if its voice fails, it cannot hold us back. No one can alone completely control his own nature; no one, unenlightened by God, has a clear, full view of duty, nor a clear view of himself. The walls are broken down and the troops of the enemy loot the city.
- So what are we to do, and how can we possibly rise above ourselves in this vast struggle between right and wrong which we call life? The answer is that when we know Christ we have found the key that can unlock the secrets of knowing ourselves; when He moves into our hearts and is the self of our inner spirit, then, and only then, can we find the power and victory needed to control the inner man. As Paul has it, *"the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*
- He who submits himself to Christ is lord of himself as none else are. He has a light within which teaches him what is sin. He has a love within which puts out the flame of temptation. He has a motive to resist; he has power for resistance; he has hope in resisting. This is the only way by which walls that the yielding to temptation with its resulting sins can be rebuilt. And as Christ builds our city on firmer foundations, He will appear in His glory, and will 'lay the windows in agates, and all thy borders in precious stones.' The sure way to bring our ruined earth, 'without form and void,' into an ordered world of light and beauty is to open our spirit for the Spirit of God to 'brood upon the face of the waters.'
- So salvation through Jesus Christ can help a soul rebuild the walls of his life, thereby permitting purity in safety within. But there will yet be a host of enemies without, and defense must be daily maintained. We Christians have the blessed privilege to look beyond this mortal combat to a city the gates of which are never closed. Jesus has told us He has gone to prepare a place for us, as He said, that "Where I am, there ye may be also." This world, after all, is only a training ground for another, higher life. It is here we have opportunity to build character, to prove our love to the Master in a mortal body which affords us choice. He has promised to create a new world wherein dwelleth righteousness. Let us be faithful here, friends. In a little while it will be "so shall we ever be with the Lord." Have you talked to Him today?

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GOD'S 5 Minutes

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Accuser of the Brethren

- Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in to God's 5 Minutes.
- The Apostle John wrote, in Revelations 12:10, "*Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*"
- Satan, because of his accusations and calumny against people, is here called "accuser," which he is. And although the saints have been accused and slandered by him, as was also Job, yet by their sufferings for the sake of Christ they have conquered him.
- The word here translated "accuser" is from the Greek kategoria, which is the term that would be used to describe a prosecutor in a criminal case; thus meaning Satan brings charges against human souls in the very face of God Himself, seeking to indict, imprison and destroy them over any failure which he can prove they may have committed against the law of God. It is mercy that we have a mediator in Jesus Christ, Who satisfied the requirements of that law with His life blood and thereby obtained the authorization to remit the debt incurred by human sin.
- Satan thus stymied, however, does not cease his efforts to hurt and destroy human kind. He is as quick to rehearse our failures in our ears as he is to God, and he has made many a life miserable by maintaining a steady drumbeat of brutal accusations. The consequence of this ruthless behavior is anxiety, guilt, shame, remorse, feelings of inadequacy, bitterness - these words are the very definition of spiritual darkness. Satan has not one cheering word in all his diabolical vocabulary. Every single thing he does with any of us has at its bottom, like any other thief, a purpose to kill, steal and destroy. He is eager to light on our shoulders and whisper our failures and unhappy inadequacies in our ears. In a manner of speaking, each of us have inner voices that send up a steady stream of messages to our conscious person, and some people carry about in their bosoms voices that are very harsh. It is normal if we spill the milk to think and say, "my bad" before getting the mop, but some people have a voice that shouts, "you fool, you did that badly and you do everything badly. You are a disgrace and no one wants to be around you. You don't deserve to have any happiness in life."
- Nor is that all. If you or I or the other guy make a failure, stub our toe, the accuser loves to broadcast it to as many people as he can. He delights to stir up feelings of unholy glee in anyone who finds pleasure in telling a tale of someone else's misfortune, and we can all be quite certain that when we do tumble the story will be embellished, revised and repeated over and over, spread as far and wide as Satan himself is able to make it go. Such things sometimes will not die with the years, and make us feel like we are being beaten with a whip made of scorpions.
- But the scripture text asserts that this foul accuser of the brethren is cast down. Then if words have meaning, we can use that sacred promise to confute the devil who wants to savage us for any misstep. We have actually the right to say to him, "Yes, devil, I have made mistakes, and I do need to improve. But Jesus loves me, He has forgiven me, and everything else in my life is none of your business. Whatever transaction needs to take place will be between me and my Lord, and you will have nothing to do with it. Ah friends, there is profoundest peace in having the Lord literally step up beside you, gently push you to one side, say something like, "I'm taking over now; let Me handle this." At such times I may think I'm not very impressive, but my Big Brother can make the accuser leave me alone!
- It isn't God's plan for us to go through life downcast and depressed; He wants to bear the load and leave us warm and protected. It is the devil who is accuser of the brethren. Let's not do his work for him. Let's not accuse ourselves, and let's not accuse each other. Have you talked to God today?

Psalm 44

- Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in to God's 5 Minutes.
- No one knows who wrote the 44th Psalm, nor when it was written, but the language in it makes plain that it was when believers in Israel were steadfastly seeking to preserve the hold on God and the heritage that made their nation unique, and that the overall sinfulness of its people had brought serious national trouble to the land. Those circumstances seem to me to resemble the condition of our United States today. So many of our academic and government leaders seem to flout the law of God. We find it impossible not to grieve over the culture that is becoming so starkly devoid of Christian influence. Marriage definitions, moral behavior that would make our ancestors turn over in their graves are broadcast over the media, promoted and defended by money and power; simple, common people are deprived of their livelihood because they purpose not to defile their Christian principles as an angry world demands. Besides this, foreign enemies seem daily to grow in violence and power. So I read you the entire Psalm in the hope that it will inspire our trust as it has so many of our forefathers in time of trouble.
- *We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old. How thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them; how thou didst afflict the people, and cast them out. For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them. Thou art my King, O God: command deliverances for Jacob. Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us. In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. Selah. But thou hast cast off, and put us to shame; and goest not forth with our armies. Thou makest us to turn back from the enemy: and they which hate us spoil for themselves. Thou hast given us like sheep appointed for meat; and hast scattered us among the heathen. Thou sellest thy people for nought, and dost not increase thy wealth by their price. Thou makest us a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and a derision to them that are round about us. Thou makest us a byword among the heathen, a shaking of the head among the people. My confusion is continually before me, and the shame of my face hath covered me, For the voice of him that reproacheth and blasphemeth; by reason of the enemy and avenger. All this is come upon us; yet have we not forgotten thee, neither have we dealt falsely in thy covenant. Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way; Though thou hast sore broken us in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death. If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god; Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart. Yea, for thy sake are we killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter. Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise, cast us not off for ever.*
 - ²⁴ *Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and forgettest our affliction and our oppression?*
 - ²⁵ *For our soul is bowed down to the dust: our belly cleaveth unto the earth. Arise for our help, and redeem us for thy mercies' sake.*
- This holy Psalm, though melancholy in its rehearsal of the suffering of the church, contains not one word complaint. It has mourning, but not murmuring. The Psalmist is free to remind God of the anguish that has befallen his nation: we are sold for nothing, we are a reproach to our neighbors, we are a scorn and derision to those about us. All these things have come to our homeland today. But Christian friend, let us not cast away our confidence because the nation suffers the consequence of its sin. Let us pray and hold fast the covenant, as our spiritual ancestors did, asking God once again to arise for our help. He still loves us, and it's still His world. Have you talked to Him today?

Where Dweldest Thou?

- Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in to God's 5 Minutes.
- John 1:37 describes how two of John the Baptist's disciples heard Jesus speak, and followed Him. *Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day:* The question seems simple enough on its surface, such as anyone might ask on hearing the quiet tread of footsteps approaching from behind. But this is not just anyone, and His question, so innocent and uninformed when we may casually ask it, when framed through the lips of the Son of God contains the implied promise of the hope of the human race. What seek ye? There is power in the words, there is invitation, it is the Christ inviting those who follow Him to divulge all the deepest yearnings of the spirit which have caused them to hear His sayings and to interest in walking in His footsteps.
- The impact of this simple question, coming as it did from the Savior, so forcefully struck the apostle that many long years after, when he wrote his gospel, they still rang in his ears as the bellwether that had transformed his life and defined its meaning and purpose. What seek ye? By recording the three words in his gospel he removed them from being given alone to the two disciples who first heard and projected them into all the world in all its ages for every living soul. Jesus asks it of us all, He asks it of us today. It is good for us to answer, 'Rabbi! where dwellest Thou?' 'It is Thou whom we seek!'
- This conversation underlines the need of having a clear consciousness of what our object is in life. So many have never answered that question, living from hand to mouth, driven by circumstances, guided by accidents, impelled by unreflecting passions and desires, knowing what they want for the moment, but never having tried to shape the course of their lives into a consistent whole, so as to answer God when He asks, 'What seek ye?' Such an incoherent, instinctive, thoughtless life is a shame to anyone's manhood. God has made us for something higher than that we should be the plaything of circumstances.
- Confront this question: 'After all, what am I living for? How sad to do what we would be very ashamed to say, and thus answer the question, 'What are you seeking?' by having to name pursuits that you dare not call by their own ugly names. An example of that shamefulfulness is living for lusts, for passions, ambitions, avarice, all uncleanness and godlessness. The world is full of shabby, low aims which do not bear being dragged out into the light of day. Friends, try to grasp the ugly things and bring them up to the surface, however much they may seek to hide and twist their slimy coils round something in the dark. If you dare not put your life's object into words, should it be your life's object? It doesn't help to use smooth words smeared like cake frosting on mud pies to hide the truth.
- No, all of those things are only chaff; there is in every one of us a longing for deeper, more solid substance. So let me name what you really want: it is rest for your heart, a home for your spirit; perfect truth for your understandings, perfect beauty for your affections, perfect goodness for your conscience. You are seeking for all these, gathered into one white beam of light, and you are seeking for it all in a Person. To the question, 'What seek ye?' the deepest of all answers, the only real answer, is, 'My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.' Well, John's glad message is that the same gracious invitation that met his eager query, "Where dwellest thou?" is still the Lord's answer to you and me today. "Come and see" He calls, come, come away with me, not to some homely adobe building in a far-off Galilean village, but come and see how I have the graces, the forgiveness, the fulfillment tailor-made to your individual need, and stand ready to invite you into My presence where you and I shall build a house together, and you shall inhabit it for all eternity. "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." Have you talked to God today?

GOD'S 5 Minutes

(Log on to listen to 'God's 5-minute Daily Inspirational Message')

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Saints

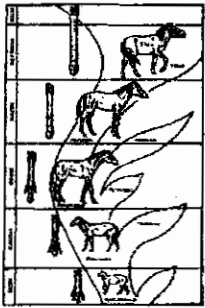
- Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in today.
- The book of Ephesians opens with this: *Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:*
- THAT is Paul's way of describing a congregation. Paul described the whole body of believing people by these two words, which must always go together if either of them is truly applied, 'saints' and 'faithful.' A Christian is a saint. People tend to confine the word to persons who tower above their brethren in holiness and being devout. The New Testament regards all true believers in Jesus Christ as being, therein and thereby, saints.
- The word "saint" at bottom simply signifies separation. Whatever is told off from a mass for a specific purpose would be called, if it were a thing, 'holy.' But there is one special kind of separation which makes a person a saint, and that is separation to God, for His uses, in obedience to His commandment, that He may employ the man as He will. So in the Old Testament the designation 'holy' was applied quite as much to the high priest's miter or to the sacrificial vessels of the Temple as it was to the people who used them. It meant simply that this person or that thing belonged to God. But then you cannot belong to God unless you are like Him. There can be no consecration to God except the heart is being purified. So the ordinary meaning of holiness, as moral purity and cleanness from sin, necessarily comes from the original meaning, separation and devotion to the service of God.
- Thus we get the whole idea of Christian holiness. We are to belong to God, and to know that we do. We are to be separated from the mass of people and things that have no consciousness of ownership and do not yield themselves up to Him for His use. But we cannot belong to Him, and be devoted to His service, unless we are being made day by day pure in heart, and like Him to whom we say that we belong. A human being can only be God's by the surrender of heart and will, and through the continual appropriation into his own character and life, of righteousness and purity like that which belongs to God. Holiness is God's stamp upon a man, His 'mark,' by which He says—This man belongs to Me. As you write your name in a book, so God writes His name on His property, and the name that He writes is the likeness of His own character.
- In God's church there is no aristocracy of sanctity, nor does the name of saint belong only to those who live high above the ordinary tumults of life and the menial requirements of daily duty. You may be as true a saint in a factory than in a hermitage. You do not need to be amongst those whom we often see as "the select few", the prophets of old and the loftiest, whether real or pretended, of more modern times to be a saint. Down among all the troubles and difficulties and engrossing occupations of our secular work, you may be living saintly lives; for the one condition of being holy is that we should know whose we are and whom we serve, and we can carry the consciousness of belonging to Him into every corner of the poorest, most crowded, and most distracted life, recognizing His presence and seeking to do His will. The saint is the man who says, 'O Lord, truly I am Thy servant; Thou hast loosed my bonds.' Because He has loosed my bonds, the bonds that held me to my sins, He has therein fastened me with far more stringent bonds of love to the sweet and free service of His redeeming love. All His children are His saints.
- Christians are saints because they are believers. 'The saints' and 'the faithful' are not two sets of people. The Apostle starts on the surface, and goes down; saints are saints because they are first of all faithful. 'Faithful' here, of course, does not mean 'true' and 'trustworthy,' 'reliable' and 'keeping our word,' but it means simply 'believing'; having faith, not in the sense of *fidelity*, but in the sense of *trust*. The only way by which we come to realize we belong to God, and to yield ourselves to become pure and holy is by humble faith in Jesus Christ. Experiencing the lifestyle changes that humble faith works in our lives makes us - saints! Have you talked to God today?

FOSSIL INVENTORY: SURPRISES FOR SOME

Genesis 1:24

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so."

Everyone will remember those school textbook diagrams showing the ever-upward progression of living organisms, including man. We recall the horse series, found in textbooks and the museum displays showing the evolution of the horse – the first stage as a small mammal and, after several transitions, the modern horse. The claim that fossils in the rock layers show a progression from simple life in the lowest layers to the most complex life at the top accompanies these diagrams.



Recently, the journal *Science*, reported that paleobiologists who study these fossils reevaluated all the fossil-bearing rocks that have been found in the last 180 years. What was their reaction to the meaning of the fossil record after their new inventory? "We may have been misled for twenty years," said one scientist. Another commented, "For the first time, a large group of people is saying paleobiology has been making a mistake." Why are they reacting this way? They have had to conclude, on the basis of the fossil evidence, that there never was an ever-upward progression of complexity of life forms as they had expected. The species that are represented in the fossil record show no evidence of the classic evolutionary development traditionally found in school textbooks.

In short, the fossil record supports the biblical claim that all the kinds of animals appeared about the same time.

Just a Minute | Creation Moments

JUST A MINUTE

Hebrews 9:28

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

According to the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, it takes just one minute of breathing secondhand marijuana smoke to cause blood vessel impairment for the following 90 minutes. That is, if you're a rat. But Dr. Matthew Springer, senior author of the study, noted, "Arteries of rats and humans are similar in how they respond to secondhand tobacco smoke, so the response of rat arteries to secondhand marijuana smoke is likely to reflect how human arteries might respond."



The research team noted that one minute of breathing secondhand tobacco smoke impairs the arteries for the next 30 minutes, making marijuana smoke three times more damaging to those who breathe it.

Dr. Springer added, "While the effect is temporary for both cigarette and marijuana smoke, these temporary problems can turn into long-term problems if exposures occur often enough and may increase the chances of developing hardened and clogged arteries."

The same can't be said of sin, however. Even just one minute of sin can lead to a lifetime of regret. In fact, mulling over the very thought of disobeying God is tantamount to the sinful act itself. Surely, all of us need a Savior to save us from the relentless power and penalty of sin. This is why Jesus came to die on the cross. If you haven't already asked Jesus to be your sin-bearer, don't put it off a minute longer!

WHAT THE BIBLE

Teaches About...

Word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 24:35

Relationship of Love

Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:21-23; 1 John 4:7-11

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10

New Birth

John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:1-4;

Eph. 2:1, 5-6

Freedom From Sin

1 John 5:18; Matt. 1:21; John 8:11

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:2; Acts 15:8-9; Acts 1:8

Holliness

Luke 1:73-75; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16;

Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:22

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; John 18:36

The Church

Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col 1:18

Unity

John 17:20-23; Gal 3:28; Rev. 18:2-4

Ordinances

Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 26:26-30;

1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:14-17

Divine Healing

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

Matt. 19:5-6; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3;

1 Cor. 7:10-11

Outward Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:14-15; Deut. 22:5

End of Time

2 Peter 3:7-12; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10;

Matt 25:31-46

Pacifism

Luke 6:27-29; Luke 18:20

Worship

John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 3:17

Great Commission

Mark 16:15

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God bless each heart, home
+ family is our prayer! Some day
the Lord is going to come + may
we each + every one be ready!

IN THIS ISSUE

**Assault on Marriage
To Young Married Folks**

GOD'S 5 Minutes

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