



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Issue 43

Jesus Loves Me This I Know!

Does It Get Any Better Than This?

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Most of us are familiar with the line from the children's hymn, "Jesus love me this I know for the Bible tells me so." This phrase conveys a truth that Paul, the apostle of God's grace, declares in his epistle to the Romans:

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (5:8).

What is Love?

Before we can really appreciate the love of God we first must understand what love really is. Is it an emotion, a sensation, a passion, or a feeling? Although any or all of these things could be, and often are associated with love, I would suggest to you that love itself is actually more than these things. I would propose that love is a value system.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgement, that ye may approve things that are excellent" (Philippians 1:9-10a).

Who Does God Love?

The answer to the question is really quite simple. Another look at Romans chapter five will clearly reveal the answer:

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet SINNERS, Christ died for us" (:8).

God values sinners. It is not that the sinner has inborn self-worth or self-value. No, it was God Himself that chose –B out of his own purpose to place value upon sinners. It was **HE** who made sinners valuable. Our value was not intrinsic, instead it was imputed to us.

The actual value of anything is determined by the price someone is willing to pay for it.

Let us illustrate. Consider the price of land. Why can dirt vary so greatly in price? An acre of soil could go for millions of dollars, or it could sell for a few hundred dollars or less. All things naturally considered equal, what really makes the difference? Is it not what someone is willing to pay?

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Identification

As promised in the last issue of the B.S.N., we are bringing you the first in yet another series of lessons – this time on *identification* in Christ. We trust that the truths presented will impact you as much as they have come to impact us. We believe that the importance of these truths cannot be overstated or overemphasized. Be watching for more lessons in the future.

Thanks

I want to send a special thanks to the saints who faithfully labor together with us in the production of the B.S.N. Of particular note are Andy Sneidar who does the layout, Nadine Sneidar who maintains the mailing list, and Tom West who assists us with our *much* needed proof editing. And of course, there is my son Clyde III who prints the B.S.N., and the rest of our family (with the help of a variety of others) who assemble it and prepare it for mailing. To each of you, "THANKS!"

Conference

We have learned of a *Spring Bible Conference* to be held May 14th - 16th at the Earl Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, MN. The guest speakers will be Tom Bruscha (of Warren, MI) and Tracy Plessinger (of Glasgow, PA). This year's theme will be *Charismatic Miracles, Signs & Wonders, and the Bible*. For more information you may contact Heavenly Hope Ministries 3471 West Broadway Ave. #301, Minneapolis, MN 55422, Phone: (612) 522-4341; e-mail: Heavenlyhope@ISD.net

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One of the wonderful privileges of having a Bible bookstore is that we are able to meet dear fellow members of Christ's Body. Rich benefit indeed! Occasionally we even have saints from other countries find their way to the small Central

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Bible Student's Notebook™

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This biweekly publication (24 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7)
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11)
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25)
- true freedom and liberty apart from the law (Galatians 5:1)
- the organic nature of the church, the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12)
- the distinct ministry of Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13)
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15)
- the recovery of *rich* Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13).
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with ...
 - total forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14)
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6)
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4)

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "Movement," "Organization," "Mission," or separate body of believers, but is sent forth to and for all "saints."

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PATRIARCHS

Remember that it is our responsibility as husbands and fathers to take the truths we learn from God's Word, the truths that we hold dear, and impart them to our families.

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Land value on a single parcel of land can rise or fall – all depending on what an individual is willing to exchange for it. One may say that a certain acre of land is worth, say, \$500,000. Yet it is only worth that price if someone is willing to exchange \$500,000 dollars for it; thus its *actual* value, at least for the time being. It is important for us to note this price is not necessarily its *intrinsic* value.

Let's say that a farmer has five hundred acres. This land has been in his family for generations. It has been assessed by local authorities for years at a very low value rate, resulting in a minimal tax burden. For "ages" the value of this land went relatively unchanged, but over the last few years the value had continued to escalate at a rate that he had not seen before.

One year he receives an assessment that is almost unbelievable. It is nearly twice the value of the previous year alone. He appeals to the local authorities for justification of such an "unrealistic" increase. He learns that there has been a trend developing over the last few years. Folks from urban areas have been slowly migrating to their rural area. He further learns that within the past year the property on all four sides of his farm has been sold in a like manner.

The prices paid for all four farms was, at least from local values, unprecedented. The assessment, authorities explained to the farmer, is that land is only as valuable as what people are willing to pay for it. "If a one hundred-acre farm is sold for a certain amount of money, then that is what it is currently worth." How much was the farmer's land worth? Whatever anyone was willing to pay for it! The farms around his – land exactly the same in characteristics – were valued at the price for which they had been purchased. How could his land, in the center of all the others, be worth any less? Thus enters the principle of exchange-value.

Just how valuable does this make *sinners*? They are valuable because of what He was willing to spend.

*"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us**" (Romans 5:8).*

*"... Christ also hath loved us, and **hath given Himself for us** an offering and a sacrifice ..." (Ephesians 5:2).*

"... Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it ..." (Ephesians 2:25).

"... the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20b).

What, then, is the exchange-value of *sinners*? It is *CHRIST* Himself!

Think of it! God loves man. You will never see a man that God does not love, for He loves *sinners*. That means that when we share the "gospel of grace" we can never share it with the wrong person. Ours is an everyman gospel!

This means that **every** night, when you lay your head on the pillow, you go to sleep in the love of God, and **every** morning that you wake up, you wake up in the love of God. There is never a day that God does not love **you**!

This wonderful truth has not always been revealed to mankind.

A Dispensational Perspective

It is important for us now to compare what we have seen in Romans chapter five with the statement of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" John 15:13-14.

Now, that is quite a different statement from the one that we read in Romans. Do these statements contradict each other? No, of course not!

First, it must be understood that quotation of Jesus Christ in John is taken from His *earthly* teaching ministry (as a minister of the circumcision – Romans 15:8); whereas Paul (as a minister to the gentiles – Romans 11:13) is revealing truths from the *heavenly* teaching ministry of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:1-12), which had been kept secret since the world began (Romans 16:25). In Romans, our Lord Jesus Christ is revealing things never before known. The extent of God's love is one example of these unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8).

Secondly, what Jesus Christ is discussing in John is "greater love hath no **man**." This is a record of the love of natural man. This is the extent of his value system. However, Christ reveals through Paul that there is a GREATER love, not a greater love known among **man**, but the love of GOD!

*"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **But** God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (John 15:13; Romans 5:8).*

Man's love can extend to friends, but God's love extends to sinners! It is Paul's gospel that reveals this wonderful truth (Romans 16:25).

Sinners? or Saints?

The world is made up of **saints** and **ain'ts**: those who are in Christ and those who are still in Adam. One is either saved, or lost, righteous, or unrighteous; a son of God, or a son of man.

Now, we have determined that God loves **sinners** – Calvary is the proof of it, proof positive in fact. Nevertheless, does this mean that there is no difference in the value that God has for the

saint and the value that God has for the sinner? Well, let's see.

First, we must consider what the dividing line is between **SAINTS** and **SINNERS**. That dividing line is trust in the finished cross-work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Once a sinner trusts what Christ accomplished for him on Calvary's cross, he is *changed*. Part of what that change entails is found in the following passage.

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new** creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17).*

This is a result of **The Great Exchange**.

*"For He [God the Father] hath made **Him** [God the Son] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (I Corinthians 5:21).*

Who is this Christ that We Are In?

Who is this Christ? That is, who is He to the Father? Now, we're considering the subject of love. What is God the Father's love for His Son? How much does He value *Him*?

At the beginning of our Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry we hear a voice from heaven answering that question!

*"... This is My **beloved** Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17b).*

Then, toward the close of His earthly ministry, again we hear the answer,

*"... This is My **beloved** Son, in whom I am well pleased ..." (Matthew 17:5b).*

Now, did you notice something? He did not say, "This is my **loved** Son." NO! He said, "This is

my **BELOVED** Son.” Are “loved” and “beloved” the same? Or does the “be” somehow change something? What does this “be” mean?

BE is obviously a prefix. It is defined as meaning “completely, thoroughly, excessively.” Oxford states that the prefix **be** “naturally intensifies the sense of the verb.”

Sinners are loved by God the Father; but the Son is **beloved** of the Father! He is “**completely, thoroughly, excessively**” loved of the Father. The Father’s love is **INTENSIFIED** toward His Son!

Whom does God the Father love more, with greater intensity? The sinner? or His Son? The answer is quite clear, is it not? The greatest value that the Father has is toward His Son.

What Does All this Have to Do With Us?

Now, we might ask ourselves this question. What does all this have to do with us? Well, maybe another look at the Scriptures will bring these truths to bear upon our souls.

“... He hath made us accepted in the beloved” (Ephesians 1:6b).

Being “in the beloved,” we are thus **beloved**! How could it otherwise be? That is why **we** are now (after having been placed into Christ) called **beloved**.

*“To all that be in Rome, **beloved** of God ...” (Romans 1:7a).*

*“... Brethren **beloved** of the Lord” (II Thessalonians 2:13a).*

God now views us (those of us in Christ) in a totally new way! He sees us as ...

“... Saints in Christ Jesus ...” (Philippians 1:1).

Our Past

*“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we **were** yet sinners, Christ died for us” (5:8).*

Sinners are what we used to be. That is our past. We are now saints!

Still, how is it that we have actually become **so** valuable, so excessively, so completely, so thoroughly loved? It pleased the Father to do so!

*“According as He hath chosen us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy [saints!] and without blame before Him **in love**: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children [adult sons of God!] by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to **the good pleasure of His will**, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us **accepted in the beloved**” (Ephesians 1:4-6).*

This means that **every** night – as a saint – when you lay your head on the pillow, you go to sleep as the **beloved** of God. Likewise, **every** morning that you wake up, you wake up as the **beloved** of God. There is never a day that you are not God’s **beloved**!

Well, I’ll **BE**!

Are You Loved, or Beloved of God?

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **new** creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).*

Are you loved of God or the beloved of God?

Everyone we meet is either loved of the Lord, or beloved in His Son. What an effect this truth can have on our attitudes toward others! ■

The United States: Is It a Christian Nation?

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCTRINE OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT AND THE BELIEVER'S RELATIONSHIP TO IT TODAY

Part VI

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The whole idea of a “*Christian nation*” is based on Dominion and Reconstruction theologies.¹ Concerning this query of a “*Christian nation*,” Albert James Dager helps “clear the air” as it were. Concerning the famed “Mayflower Compact,” he writes:

“Some of those aboard the Mayflower were Protestant Separatists which had fled England to Holland to escape persecution from the reformed Anglican Church prelates (an example of theonomy [i.e., Dominion and Reconstruction Theologies] at work), but the principals were men commissioned to further the business of the Virginia Company.

“The Mayflower Compact was an afterthought designed to keep the colony intact after they were blown off course from their intended landing at the mouth of the Hudson River, having landed instead at what later became Massachusetts. When they set sail, it was not a part of their original intent to draft the Mayflower Compact and form a Christian colony under its terms.

“Although the document that the Mayflower passengers drew up did have some *influence* on the charters of a few colonies prior to the

Revolutionary War, it had no *official* bearing on the federal government or on any of the colonies or states created either prior to or after the American Revolution. If we are going to call America a *Christian nation* we must see if its founding body, the Continental Congress, purposed to establish it as such. Did the body, in fact, ‘covenant’ with God to form this nation?

“When the Continental Congress drafted the Declaration of Independence and, later, the Congress formed under the Articles of Confederation drafted the Constitution of the United States of America, no mention was made of *Jesus Christ*. Rather, the only references to *deity* in the Declaration were to ‘God’;² none are in the Constitution. In fact, many of the framers of these documents were anti-Christian, being comprised of Masons, and deists of many persuasions... .

“It is apparent that the Western European influences that shaped America were part of what had become known as ‘*Christendom*.’ But ... the history of Christendom is an ugly history fraught with tyranny and the enslavement of those who are ‘enlightened.’ If God gave the knowledge and means to subdue the earth and take dominion in the name of Jesus Christ, then that privilege has been terribly abused. If, on the other hand, Satan gave that knowledge and means, his purposes have certainly been accomplished. The fruit of Western Civilization, in spite of its

1. These are the same theologies that have influenced the “Christianization” of the American Revolution. They have at their root the Calvinist view of government, which teaches “The mission of the church is to renovate the world, including the state, according to Christian concepts. And the state is to assist the church in Christianizing the world. Consequently Calvin served as a political leader as well as a church leader in Geneva, and he saw no problem in using the machinery of the state to further his version of Christianity by punishing heretics, etc.” Eidsmoe, p. 14.

2. The term “God,” standing alone in a context, sits well with religions of the world.

enlightened accomplishments, demonstrates that no attempt to institute the Kingdom of God on earth before Jesus returns can succeed. So the idea of a covenant between *any* nation and God is a fantasy.”³

THE BELIEVER’S RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Hartzler has some interesting comments regarding the believer’s responsibilities toward human government:

“NOT IDENTIFICATION: Jesus told Pilate, ‘My kingdom is not of this world ... now is my kingdom not from hence.’ If Jesus’ kingdom were presently of this world, His children would take an active part -- ‘then would my servants fight’ (John 18:36) ... No New Testament Scripture instructs the Christian to take part in or be a part of the civil power. Though he is a citizen of an earthly country by birth, he is a citizen of heaven ... (Philippians 3:20) and that takes priority ...

“NOT REFORMATION: Some people feel strongly that the Christian should help elect better men, clean up politics, vote out evil, and help put a Christian into office. From the moralist’s viewpoint this sounds good. How does this square with the New Testament Scriptures?

“This approach to effect a ‘good’ society takes a dim view of the seriousness of sin ... It approaches sin as a social problem that can be dealt with by a good civil government and courts rather than as a spiritual ill that only the blood of Christ can cure. This is not to say that sound laws and dependable men in office will have no restraining influence on sin. But the church has a higher calling than to effect these conditions by election. When the church becomes involved in politics to reform society, it is only helping to patch up sinful nature to make man a more respectable servant of the devil. Voting ‘good’ men into office or voting

out liquor will never put sin away from the heart of men. ‘He [Jesus] appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself’ (Hebrews 9:26). In the New Testament days the apostles did not put on a campaign to abolish slavery. Neither did they try to clean up Roman politics and straighten out civil injustices. This is not the church’s approach to the issues, neither will it solve the problems. Only the power of the Gospel will penetrate to the root of man’s need. And if the church becomes involved in community or national reformation attempts, it will lose its power to snatch souls from the grasp of sin ...”⁴

POLITICS

Paul was a focused man:

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (II Corinthians 4:18).

“... 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” (Philippians 3:13, 14).

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Colossians 3:1).

Paul admonishes us to follow him and mark those believers who follow him. He then warns against the dangers of *not* following his example and focusing on other than our heavenly purpose:⁵

4. Hartzler, p. 5, 6.

5. Some believers, even some “Christian ministers” lose sight of their heavenly purpose and focus on earthly things. One “church,” for example, publishes a monthly periodical that passes through my mail box. It is not sent out by a political organization, it is clearly marked: “published monthly by _____ Church.” The latest issue that I have on my desk will serve as an example of its focus. There are

3. Albert James Dager, *Vengeance is Ours*, (Redmond, WA: Sword Publishers, 1990) pp. 220-221.

“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:17-20).

Hartzler states that “as an alien living in a foreign land is disqualified from taking part in politics, so the heavenly citizen disqualifies himself in view of his higher allegiance.”⁶

John Coblenz goes further to say that “we cannot pledge allegiance to any government or flag which would be in conflict with our superior allegiance to the Lordship of Jesus Christ ... We cannot support movements which use hatred, emotionalism, extremism, and nationalism in attempting to correct social or political problems. Our response to social injustice is symbolized by sacrificial service rather than by marches, demonstrations, and obstructionism.”⁷

TO WHOM DO WE OWE OUR LOYALTY?

Loyalty and allegiance are gripping words, are they not? They represent a concept that most of us were introduced to at an early age. Take the common “Pledge of Allegiance” for example:

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God,⁸ indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”⁹

thirty-four (34) articles in this church publication, twenty-five of them are political/governmental in nature. That means that seventy-five percent (75%) of its contents are devoted to these issues.

6. Ibid., p. 6

7. Coblenz, p. T18.

8. Once again, the term “God,” standing alone in a context, sits well with religions of the world.

9. “The pledge was once an obligatory public school ritual, but

Now, let’s take a look at some words from Ray Boltz as he writes concerning loyalty of another kind:

I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb

I have heard how Christians long ago
Were brought before a tyrant’s throne.
They were told that he would spare their
lives
If they would renounce the name of
Christ.
But one by one they chose to die.
The Son of God they would not deny.
While the great angelic choir sings,
I can almost hear their voices say,

I pledge allegiance to the Lamb,
With all my strength, with all I am.
I will seek to honor His commands,
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.

Now the years have come and the years
have gone,
But the cause of Jesus still goes on.
And now our time has come to count the
cost,
To reject this world and embrace a cross.
One by one let us live our lives,
For the one who died to give us life.
’Till the trumpet sounds on the final day,
Let us proudly stand and boldly say,

I pledge allegiance to the Lamb,
With all my strength, with all I am.
I will seek to honor His commands,
I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.

To the Lamb of God who bore my pain,
Who took my place, who wore my
shame.

I will seek to honor His commands,
I will pledge allegiance to the Lamb.¹⁰

state laws no longer require students to recite it. A 1943 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court (*West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*) reversed a previous decision that had justified the expulsion of students who refused on religious grounds to pledge themselves to a flag.” *New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, Release 6, 1993.

10. Ray Boltz, *The Concert of A Lifetime*, (Nashville: Ray Boltz

NATIONAL PRIDE AND PATRIOTISM

Prior to his conversion Paul was a man who had great pride in his nation (Israel). We read:

“Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of ISRAEL, of the tribe of Benjamin, an HEBREW OF THE HEBREWS ...” (Philippians 3:5).

If ever there was a nation to be proud of would it not have been the one that God established, God’s nation? However, upon meeting the Lord Jesus Christ, his attention was captivated and his pride and allegiance changed!

“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ” (Philippians 3:8)

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14)

“CHRISTIAN” MILITIAS

In recent years one phenomenon that has taken place among some of the ‘patriot’ movements in the United States is the formation of so-called “Christian” militias. So much for Paul’s instruction and plea:

*“That ye may be blameless and **harmless**, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world”* (Philippians 2:15).

OUR REALM OF VICTORY

Our realm of victory is not to be found in an earthly focus,

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (II Corinthians 4:18);

Or in a carnal battle,

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (Ephesians 6:12);

Or by a fleshly means,

“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3).

No, our realm of victory is in the spiritual. It is found in that realm totally in the person of Jesus Christ! He is our victory and triumph!

*“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph **in Christ**, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place”* (II Corinthians 2:14).

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Corinthians 15:57).

If all this is true (and it **is!**), then we cannot lower ourselves to the earthly, physical, carnal, fleshly means of the political-warfare system of this evil world’s course. Indeed, we have been marvelously delivered from such a plight, and called into a far higher realm!

Well has T. Austin-Sparks written:

“If you are going to be effective in the realm where the prince, the Lord of Death holds sway, you cannot be effective by the means and resources in which he has got a stronghold; and he has that in all the resources of our

Music, Inc., 1995).

natural life, however fine and splendid they may be from the natural standpoint. The only thing that can be effective in that realm is the Life whereby Jesus conquered death. In order that that Life might have full sway and free course, and the utmost and fullest fruitfulness of that Life as triumphant over death might abound, all that in which the enemy has any hold whatsoever – our natural life – has got to be put out.”¹¹

On a later occasion, Sparks wrote,

“Let us recognize ... and settle it once and for all ... that the Church, the Body of Christ – or members thereof, are not here in this world to have anything to do with the systems of this world, as such; and insofar as we become involved in the matters of the kingdoms of this world, we lose our magnetic vocation, and we shall involve ourselves in chaos from which it will take a very great deal to extricate [*i.e.*, disentangle] us.

“That has been the historic tragedy of Christendom: it has in various ways become linked up with the kingdoms and interests of this world, and that is the secret of its spiritual ineffectiveness. The Church, which is Christ’s Body, is a heavenly thing since Christ, its Head, has ascended [up far above all heavens], and all that comes down into and through His Body is heavenly in source and nature. This is utterly different from the things of earth ... and cannot even be known by ‘the natural man.’

“Moreover, the Church is not here now to establish or extend the Kingdom of Heaven in the earth. It is here to testify ... of Christ, to establish a testimony in the nations, and to gather to itself ... members. The ... Kingdom [of Heaven] is for a later time.”¹²

Richard Jordan reminds us:

“The Church is here to save men *out of* this

world system, to deliver men *from* the ‘present evil world.’ *This is the way to make our ministry relevant to the realities of our time.* We are not here to save the wreck man has made of society. We are here to save perishing souls from the wreck doomed to destruction.

“Tragically, when needed most the Church has become totally irrelevant and ineffectual in the culture of our day as it flounders in confusion. Seemingly aware of its impotence, movements abound to seek social and political power in order to gain attention to causes dear to it. Yet for all the effort in everything from political action to new, contemporary methodologies, the world about us rushes forward largely untouched by the truth deposited in our care.

“Why is this? What is the problem? Answers abound: lack of prayer, absence of real separated living, indifference to the lost and the task of world evangelism, disregard of the felt needs of those about us, etc. But wait: these are really the *symptoms*, the *results*. What is the *core cause*? It isn’t really that difficult to identify.

“*Departure from God’s message and program for our day as revealed through the epistles of Paul* -- this is the real root of the trouble. My friend, just as it was departure from Moses’ law that constantly got Israel into trouble, with the Church it has been departure from Pauline truth. Just as surely as the dispensation of the law was committed to Moses, so surely was the dispensation of grace committed to Paul (Ephesians 3:1-9) ...

“The greatest single thing you and I as believers can do for our generation, for our nation, is to have Christ live through us in our own everyday lives ...”¹³

(This is part of a continuing series on Human Government.)

11. T. Austin-Sparks, *A Witness and a Testimony*, July 1927.

12. Sparks, December 1927.

13. Richard Jordan, *The Grace Journal*, Can America Be Saved, Vol. 10, No. 1., 1997.

Coverture and the Daughter

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOME

Part XVII

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

As we have learned in our previous studies, the wife is under the coverture of her husband during the period of her marriage. This headship of the husband is clearly demonstrated in Numbers chapter 30, though the coverture described in this chapter is not limited to the wife alone. This protection is fully extended to the daughter:

*“If a woman also vows a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her **father’s** house in her youth; “And her **father** hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her **father** shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand. “But if her **father** disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her **father** disallowed her” (:3-5).*

Therefore, we can see that coverture starts with a female at birth,¹ under the protection, identification² and authority of her father. Then coverture is transferred by the father to the husband when he gives her in marriage.

When a betrothal (or espousement) occurs, the father **gives** his possession, and then the husband is free to **marry** her. Note the role of the father in the following passages:

1. This is the standard beginning of coverture. But this coverture extends to all unmarried females within a household. Not all females enter under the pre-marriage coverture by birth. For example, “step” and “adopted” daughters are full-standing daughters, and are therefore equally under the coverture of their father (i.e., the family head). In other words, the term “daughter” is not limited to “flesh and blood” offspring.
2. Therefore the woman bears at first her father’s surname, and then her husband’s. And the functional prefix Miss. or Mrs. distinguishes whether she is under the coverture of her father or her husband.

“**given** in marriage” (Psalm 78:63).

“**give** your daughters to husbands” (Jeremiah 29:6).

“marrying and **given** in marriage” (Matthew 24:38).

“they married wives, they were **given** in marriage” (Luke 17:27).

“marry, and are **given** in marriage” (Luke 20:34).

“**giveth** her in marriage” (I Corinthians 7:38).³

Clearly the unmarried daughter is under the coverture (i.e., the authority, protection and identification) of her father. He is the responsible agent for her safeguard, guidance, and welfare. He is the foremost authority⁴ in the formation and establishment of the new family unit.

The real sense of special responsibility of the father toward his daughter has been largely lost in our modern, *liberated* culture. His authority in her life has become little more than a *token* one. Nevertheless, it is *not* society that sets the standards for the lives of believers. Our sense of real responsibility and accountability in relationships must come from God and His Word. Fathers need to return to their God ordained position and function.

(This is part of a continuing series on the Home.)

3. Notice that the preceding two verses refer to the daughter as “**his** virgin.”
4. The groom’s father is the *other* authority in espousement and marriage. “...*Take* wives for your sons, and *give* your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished” (Jeremiah 29:6).

What a Gospel!

by – James McGranahan

It is finished; what a gospel!
Nothing has been left to do,
But to take with grateful gladness
What the Saviour did for you.

It is finished; what a gospel!
Bringing news of vict'ry won,
Telling us of peace and pardon
Thro' the blood of God's dear Son.

It is finished; what a gospel!
Here each weary laden breast,

That receives God's gracious offer,
Enters into perfect rest.

It is finished; what a gospel!
Jesus died to save your soul;
Have you taken His salvation?
Have you let Him make you whole?

It is finished; Hallelujah!
Christ the work has fully done;
All who will may have their pardon
Through the blood of God's own Son.

(continued from page 462)

Virginia town of Amherst. Recently two such opportunities came our way.

We had a missionary from Canada stop in a few of times during a recent US visit. He was so excited with the content of our store. He said that ours was the best Bible Bookstore he had ever seen. He is, among other things, involved in trying to reestablish the circulation of the long forgotten French translation of the Textus Receptus. We enjoyed good fellowship and he left with materials, including the B.S.N. and our catalog.

We also had a couple from Holland who were equally thrilled to find our store. They were on a two-week visit to the States. He is a worker with Youth for Christ. They had been to see the Blue Ridge Mountains and their car had broken down at the Amherst traffic circle right across from our store. We invited them to come home with us for supper and to stay the night. We had wonderful fellowship in Christ, and he gave our children a great lesson on the history, geography and culture of the Netherlands. He too left with literature and we will be sending a packet of more material to him, as he had limited space on his return flight.

How these experiences cause us to long for the day when all of the Body of Christ shall be together with our Living and Praise-Worthy Head. What a day that will be!

Internet

Speaking of saints in other lands reminds me to share with you that we have, over the last few months, been able to send literature to a number of other countries because of the *Internet*. We have sent books to: England, the Netherlands, Canada, Germany, Austria and Australia. But the most interesting foreign order that we have received was from Cairo, Egypt. A Roman Catholic Monk ordered several books!

I will close for this issue. Remember that each of you are beloved of the Father.

Grace and peace,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.