

# THE WORD OF TRUTH

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*"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"—Jno. 8:32.*

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*"Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures" (James 1:18).*

## SET FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL

### COMMENTARY ON PHILIPPIANS

By Richard Ebler

*Chapter One (cont.)*

*(v. 6, cont.) "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."*

Last month we labored to define this "good work" in order to distinguish it from the many counterfeits of Satan. In short, true conversion issues forth in the continued pursuit of godliness. This month we will deal with the second part of this verse showing that once God has begun the work, He continues it unto the end and causes genuine saints to persevere in the way of holiness and inward godliness.

Paul's confidence in this matter did not rest on the weakness, instability, fickleness, folly, spiritual blindness, and innate perversity of man, but upon an infinite, sovereign, righteous, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-sufficient, only-wise, ever-loving, gracious, and faithful God. In fact, this whole earth is but the stage on which the drama of our redemption is being enacted so that God might display all His glorious attributes before angelic hosts (Eph. 3:10). The true saint is in a sinful world (including the religious segment) which exerts a tremendous, subtle, conforming pressure (Rom. 12:2). He retains that part of himself which is powerfully bent toward sin. He must face an invisible, powerful, and supernaturally intelligent foe, Satan. Yet in spite of all this opposition and suffering the righteous hold on their way by the inward powerful working of God through faith and thus bring Him glory (1 Peter 1:5, Job 17:9). Indeed, God will do this because His honour is at stake, His faithful promises in the Word are at stake, and the enormous price of our redemption (the precious blood of Christ) means nothing if the elect are not kept by the power of God. The Diety would then appear to be unfaithful, fickle, and changeable. This is unthinkable.

Perseverance is a necessity for the Christian lest he perish, for it is written that they who draw back do so unto perdition (Heb. 10:39). Not that he will always travel with equal speed, for it is not said that he shall hold on his pace but on his way (Job 17:9). Nor will he be exempt from occasional stumbling, yet he shall rise up again (Prov. 24:16), and the tenor of his life will be toward holiness.

Having been washed and made clean every whit he needs only to have his feet washed betimes as he tramps through a defiling world. Hating sin and aspiring unto perfection, he holds on his way (Phil. 3:12-14).

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## The Word of Truth

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## COMMENTARY ON PHILIPPIANS

(From page 1)

Some may object that the Biblical warnings against falling away must presuppose the possibility that a true child of God may do so. But no one is to **assume** that he is a child of God. "Give diligence to make your calling and election sure," Paul said (II Peter 1:10). Genuine assurance is the fruit of genuine experiences with the Lord as they are understood by Scripture.

Scriptural warnings against falling away are the means in the hand of God used to keep His own elect from wandering. Remember that in the epistle to the Hebrews which contains the most solemn warning against apostasy, the apostle always takes care to add words which show that he did not believe that those whom he warned would actually fall away (Heb. 6:9, 10:39). Those who apostatize are spoken of in the Word of God as having been more **professors** and not **possessors** of divine life (I John 2:19). Branches in Christ (by profession) which bear no fruit are certainly cut off and burned (John 15:6), but then can we imagine a true saint who does not bring forth **any** fruit? "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:20). When false professors in that day shall say "Lord, Lord," He will reply, "I **never** knew you," not "I have **forgotten** you" (Matt. 7:23). They were never really His disciples.

The life which the saint receives at regeneration is eternal in nature, and therefore it can be said, "he shall never die" (John 11:26, John 3:36). Furthermore he cannot be at rest living habitually in sin for the general bent of his life is toward holiness. The new life (inner principle) in him cannot sin and wars against his old nature, prevailing against it (I John 3:9).

Faith, the outward sign of this life, is also a conquering principle (I John 5:4). Surely those who are truly in Christ are safe and no man is able to pluck them out of the Father's hand (John 10:27-30). In fact, it is even impossible to ultimately deceive the elect (Matt. 24:24). Christ's present intercession is effectual and saves his people to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25), even as it was for Peter (Luke 22:31), who, though he experienced a measure of sin and sorrow, it was the ex-

ception to the great rule of his life, and he was kept from total apostasy. Christ's character is so unimpeachable that his work is perfect, and He fully succeeds in keeping those that were given to His charge as a faithful steward by the Father before the foundation of the world in the everlasting covenant of grace (John 17:12, 6:39, 40; II Sam. 23:5) wherein the Father declares "I **will** not turn away from them . . . and they **shall** not depart from me" (Jer. 32:40). There are no "if's" here as there was under the old covenant (Rom. 10:5), the covenant of law which depended on man's works and thus failed. Here we have a certain and sure thing, the "sure mercies of David" (Isa. 55:3). This love is called an "everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3), and indeed if Christ died for us when we were His enemies, certainly He will continue to save us now that we are His friends (Rom. 5:9, 10). Yea, nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:29-29), for we are now joined to Him in spiritual union as His bride and members of body (I Cor. 6:17, Eph. 5:30-32). Can He then be amputated? Is He fitted with new limbs as old ones are lost? The thought is repulsive as well as false. Nay, rather he has sealed us with His holy Spirit as an earnest and pledge of this certain salvation (Eph. 1:13,14)!

## DEMONOLOGY

(Conclusion of article in October Issue)

The subject of demons must be approached with great caution of soul and spiritual understanding - not because of its peculiar depth and profoundness, but because there is in this subject something that summons forth carnal curiosity. This inquisitiveness of man must always be kept within its proper boundries in order that we intrude not into those things which we have not seen (Col. 2:18). It is good that we always remember that themes that delight our intellects, become areas where deception may assault us with alarming waves of rapidity and power.

Once again, I would set forth two words of caution concerning the study of demons. (1. Do not be hasty to credit all strange and unexplainable phenomenon to demon-activity. (2. Never suppose that a believer may be inhabited or dominated by demons. Unless these two points are kept constantly before us, the knowledge of demons shall become an instrument whereby schism and division can be fostered. We are speaking, in the case of demons, of a group of spirits that have been "spoiled" by the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 2:15), and "made a show of openly." Their power has been utterly cast down, so that they may only exercise authority over people by the means of delusion. While their delusion is "strong", yet the truth, when known, makes one free from their perpetrations. It is upon this point of delusion that we left off our discussion in last month's issue - showing that demons use men to delude others by seducing them and convincing them of the validity of their demonical, or devilish, teachings.

The cunningness with which men deceive others (whether knowingly or unknowingly) is borrowed from the world of evil spirits; men are not by nature so wise. When, therefore, the Lord speaks of those who "lie in wait to deceive", who

have "cunning craftiness" and are noted for their "sleight" (Eph. 4:14), we are to understand that such are under the influence of the "prince of the power of the air." We are to be aware of such activity, and arm ourselves accordingly with the "whole armor of God" (Eph. 6:13-18). If we do not do this, we shall become vulnerable to those who "beguile with enticing words" (Col. 2:4), who "spoil through philosophy and vain deceit" (Col. 2:8), and who "consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness" (I Tim. 6:3). To clarify these things, let it be clear that I am not teaching that all false teachers are demon-possessed. Rather, that such teachers have been "seduced", whether from within or from without, the Lord knoweth. Their minds have been subverted by powers and influences that have their root in hell. Such men are often set forth before the faithful as examples of heresy, and the saints are warned concerning them. Paul so instructed concerning Hymenaeus and Philetus in II Tim. 2:17-18. He warned concerning Alexander the coppersmith who did much evil unto the saints (II Tim. 4:14), even associating him with that evil Hymenaeus, having consigned them both into the hands of Satan that they might learn not to blaspheme (I Tim. 1:20). These men were the instruments of Satan, and therefore were so set forth, lest naive believers be caught unawares. We do well to so instruct the people of God today in wisdom and discretion!

The "doctrines of devils (demons)" of which the Spirit speaks are "divers and strange doctrines" (Heb. 13:9); i.e., they are not in harmony with the sphere of spiritual reality; they are disassociated from that "kingdom which cannot be shaken" (Heb. 12:28). They do not serve to orient men for glory, but rather equip them to comfortably live in sin and the world. Let us, therefore, beware of their doctrines, lest we too become seduced and depart from the faith. It appears to me that the fundamental means of guarding our souls against these spiritual seducers lies within the revealed Word of God - the Scriptures. For those who walk by faith and lean not to their own understanding, the Scriptures prove to be the "Sword of the Spirit" with which they may wage effectual warfare against these adverse influences from the spirit-world. Isaiah spoke on this wise concerning these things; "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20). That he was speaking in connection with delusion brought in from the nether world is evident from the preceding verse; "And when they shall say unto you: Seek unto them which have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep and mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead" (Isa. 8:19). Jesus put Satan to flight by wielding the sword of "IT IS WRITTEN" (Matt. 4), and the same advantage is given to those who "believe and know the truth."

**Demons have a real, but unlawful knowledge.** For instance, they believe that there is "one God", and they fear and tremble in that knowledge (Js. 2:19). Yet, their announcement of that God is not lawful to receive; they are not warranted to be His representatives, ever so true as their testimony might appear to be. By way of illustration, we have in the book of Acts the woman who pos-

sessed a "spirit of divination" - i.e., a demon that divined through means of this woman. This woman followed after Paul and Silas, when in Philippi crying; "These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto the way of salvation" (Acts 16:16-17). There were never any truer words declared than these, but they came from an **unlawful** source; a source which tended to bring disrepute upon the Lord and His Gospel. Thus, Paul summarily dismissed that "spirit of divination" from its victim (Acts 16:18). Because, therefore, a person speaks truth, does not necessarily mean that he possesses the "Spirit of Truth", or that he is justified by faith and a child of God by grace. We are to "**try the spirits**" to see whether they be of God, for many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1). Mark that! We are to try the "SPIRITS." These spirits are associated with "false prophets" which are gone out in great number into the world. The word "try" involves examination, testing, meditatively perusing the contents and implications, together with the fruits of the message! Satan himself quoted Scripture to Christ - in context, and with an element of discernment. But his understanding was primarily utilized for deception, and not for the advancement of truth (Matt. 4). His activity in relation to the Scriptures depicts for us the nature of all demonic activity- it is designed to hinder and obstruct the truth, and given heed to, it shall do precisely that! This is seen in James' comment concerning the wisdom that proceeds from devils, or is of the devilish, or demonic, order: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, DEVILISH from daimonios-"demonic") (Js. 3:15). The fruitage, therefore, of such wisdom as comes from the realm of evil spirits bespeaks its nature.

Once again, I would hearken the people of God to great sobriety upon this theme. This is not an intellectual toy to dote upon, but rather something to cause sober-mindedness and serious thought. We are engaged in mortal combat against these spirits, which are not so easily dissuaded from their evil intentions. We must fight them by indirection - by cleaving to the Lord, glorying in our Savior, adorning ourselves with the whole armor of God, and leaning not to our own understanding but rather trusting in the Lord with all of our hearts. May the Lord direct your hearts into that patient waiting for Christ which shall find you faithfully waging war against all opponents of our Savior; the chief of which are those unseen spirits that reside in the air, and seek to influence the sons of men by means of seduction.

—o—

I cannot conceive of a starving man with all his proper faculties deliberately and persistently refusing food made available to him. Yet, many would have us believe that spiritually they are altogether such as this. What can we say, but that they are surely foolish, and bound to receive the reward of a fool.

—o—

A wise man will bear witness to the truth while he is endowed with righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit, and while he himself is being good--affected by the truth!

## THE INFLUENCE OF FALSE TEACHERS

I see amidst the church of God mean men --  
Wolves, who in sheeps clothing come nigh,  
Pretending teachers for to be,  
Intruding into unseen things,  
Consuming men for gain.  
Like wand'ring stars - no orbit fixed- their path,  
They go from place to place in haste  
Their hearts not fixed by Sovereign Grace,  
So ravening in character,  
Unstable in their ways.  
Defilement follows them where they are found --  
Heresies that damn, they spew forth,  
And vomit from the pit of hell.  
Their doctrines are demonical --  
Seduced, they too seduce.  
Ordained of old to condemnation, these --  
Blackness of darkness is served  
For these who change the Grace of God  
Into license for their flesh --  
Lascivious they be.  
Corruption follows their influence-spread  
Vain conversation is produced,  
Departures from the faith are seen,  
Division in the saints is found,  
Simplicity abounds.  
The sphere of their influence marked by flesh:  
Men are held in admiration,  
Advantages - the higher aim,  
Men are merchandized privily,  
Opinion sits enthroned.  
Saints who once occupied a higher realm  
Are seen to tumble to the ground;  
Brought down to elemental views --  
Obscurement of what once was seen  
Because of fleshly thoughts.  
Such pain of heart as grips the soul of those  
Who see infection such as this  
Can scarce be placed in human speech --  
'Tis seated deep within, where lies the grace  
Of love for truth and light.  
Fair speeches filled with eloquence deceive  
The hearts of simple ones in which  
The truth not yet has fully grown --  
Where Christ uniformed doth yet remain,  
Not yet the full grown corn.  
What need there is for rudimental things  
To be left for the higher truths --  
In quest for full maturity,  
And aspirations for the Word,  
Displace the mind of flesh!  
For those who live upon the Word of God,  
Who for the milk of it do yearn,  
Whilest turning from confusing things  
Which gender strifes and questionings,  
There comes perfecting growth.  
To such as have the Scriptures in their blood --  
Not thoughts spawned by mere mortal men --  
To such as have an appetite  
For what is written in the Word,  
False prophets have no lure.  
Their cunning trickery and frothy words  
Lose all appeal to perfect ones,  
Who wise unto salvation are,  
By knowing what the Lord hath said --  
Who the "whole counsel" know.  
But to all such as feed upon the husks  
Of vain philosophy of those

Who strive to speculate in flesh  
What means the oracle of God --  
False prophets have a lure.  
Beclouded by their ignorance of truth,  
Susceptible to these assaults,  
They prove repeatedly to be  
Mere merchandise for inward wolves  
Who seek to feed themselves.  
Oh that my tongue were more with pow'r, my God,  
To sure dissuade benighted ones  
From giving ear to reasonings  
Which lure them from the faith of Christ  
Unto delusion strong.  
Empower all my feebleness, that I  
Might stand a watchman on the wall  
To summon forth with piercing sound  
The sheep to truth that standeth sure --  
Give faith substance to hold.  
Confusion, Father doth not Thee exalt,  
But jars the door for backward trend,  
Where Satan, like that Amelak,  
Doth snatch the slower plodding ones,  
And thus cause Thee reproach.  
Oh, Holy Father, rise now to defend  
The Name which we so much revere,  
By scattering these wicked ones  
Who cast the veil of ignorance  
Upon the weaker sheep.  
Their ministry, restrict to those who have  
No love for truth which maketh free.  
Bu t'ward Thy sheep, let them not come,  
Lest roots of bitterness spring up  
With which we cannot cope.  
Break out their teeth, who bare their ugly words  
And sink them into naive hearts;  
While yet they object to the ones  
Who question all their niceties --  
I say, break out their teeth!  
Like troubled waters flowing o'er a bed  
Of filth and dirt of many years,  
Doth in its waves cast forth such shame --  
So these suave speakers belch a stinch  
To those who know the truth.  
Bedarkened clouds, they hide the light of day.  
Their persons spread before the truth  
Doth hide the liberating things,  
While summoning the flesh to work  
Ignoring Thy free Grace.  
Can sights as this do nought but trouble me?  
Aye, that they do, I now confess.  
They strive against my renewed mind,  
And pestilential they do prove,  
Unsettling quietness.  
I cannot bear to see Thy Truth maligned  
Which Thou hast given me to love,  
Nor can I find it in my soul  
To quick excuse these things I see --  
Look now into my heart!  
If such a hate for error be wrong, my God,  
Upbraid me e'er I stray away.  
Yet, if I fellowship with Thee  
In this my heart is made to feel,  
Speak comfort to me now.

The above prose was written after the Lord had granted me a gracious meditation in the book of Jude. Therein I was once again made to sense the great danger of false teachers - how they dissuade men from the faith once delivered to the saints. Even as it was needful for the ancient

Jude to write to the believers of his day concerning an earnest contention for the faith, even so it is imperative today. Brethren, fight the good fight of faith, for many false prophets are gone out into the world as it is written (II Pet. 2:1ff; I Jno. 4:1ff). As the Lord Jesus admonished us, "Beware of false prophets" (Matt. 7:15). May the Lord grant all of our readers a spirit of discernment and understanding in these things that they may truly keep themselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (Jude 21).

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## A WORD ON THE "NEW CREATURE"

The "new creature" (II Cor. 5:17) will manifest himself only to the measure or degree that the "new man" is "put on" and the "old man" "put off" (Eph. 4:20-24); only to the degree that the "flesh is crucified together with the affections and lusts" (Gal. 5:24), and the "sincere milk of the Word" is "desired" (I Pet. 2:2). It is quite possible for the "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4) to become so obscured by the "flesh" that its reality may be soundly questioned. Thus, no child of God is to take his sonship for granted, but is rather to "examine himself to see whether he be in the faith" (II Cor. 13:5), and "give diligence to make his calling election sure" (II Pet. 1:10), while "taking heed unto himself and unto the doctrine" (I Tim. 4:16). Our knowledge of our standing before God is primarily evidencial, faith showing itself forth in expressions wrought by the Holy Spirit. Advancement in this manner is aptly referred to as "growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18). Once a person becomes a "new creature in Christ Jesus" he is to understand the nature of the warfare in which he is now engaged; it is to believe God, thereby coming into a sphere where righteousness may express itself in our members. This whole activity is called putting on the new man, and putting off the old man. Let none be so deceived as to think that the new creation is so abstract that it is not to put on, or hold nature so weak and vacillating that is it not to be put off! And also, let it be perceived that faith is the means whereby both are effectually accomplished.

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## THE IMPERATIVE OF AFFIRMATION

It is vital that each believer see the necessity of affirming the truth "in the midst of a wicked and perverse nation" (Phil. 2:15), whether by word or by deed. Because one of the qualities of truth is its eternality, a constant affirmation of it is as the dispersement of good seed. This truth makes free (Jno. 8:32) and sanctifies (Jno. 17:17), and "accomplishes that where unto it is sent" (Isa. 55:8-11). Though there is place in the kingdom for reasoning (Acts 17:2; 18:4; 24:25), persuasion (Acts 26:28; 18:13; 19:8; 28:23; II Cor. 5:11), and disputation (Acts 9:29; 17:17; 19:8,9; 15:2) - let none deny the ministries which these fulfill - yet, there is an abundant provision also made for affirmation, i.e., proclamation and announcement! In a day when intellectuality is being vaunted beyond measure, it seems that simple proclamations

are no more in order. But sound appeals to the mind must be made upon the foundation of eternal fact. Affirmation provides such a foundation!

The Scriptures use the term "declare" to describe the ministry of which I speak. Paul "declared" the Gospel (I Cor. 15:1-3), and John "declared that Eternal Life" which he had both seen and handled (I Jno. 1:1-2). Upon the completion of our Lord's earthly ministry, He prayed to the Father; "I have declared Thy name" (Jno. 17:26), and Isaiah enjoined; "Declare His doings among the people" (Isa 12:4). The forthright pronouncement of what the Lord hath said and done, therefore, is the primary substance of sound preaching, for it provides the basis for faith, which "comes by hearing" (Rom. 10:17). Paul, in addressing Titus, commanded; "These things I will that thou affirm constantly" (Titus 3:8), declaring that the end of such affirmation would be this; "That they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works". One of the means, therefore, of securing the maintenance of "good works" is the affirmation of the Word of God. Let each believer see that he affirms, therefore, in his own measure, what the Lord hath said.

The truth stands upon its own foundation - it needs no support from men. Though we use reasonings and persuasion in the Spirit, yet it is not for the support of the truth that we use such, but only for the breaking down of the strongholds of human reasoning, which is faulty to the core. The things of God are reasonable in the Spirit, and as they are proclaimed in the Spirit, there is a certain beauty and luster that adorns them. Until, however, they have been proclaimed in power, there ought not to be any reasoning with the carnal. It is the Word of God that is the "Seed" of the Kingdom (Luke 8:11). Be diligent, holy brethren, in the dispersement of this precious seed - even though explanations may not always be available to you!

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To contemplate earth while rising into heaven tends to impede and eventually halt upward progress. But to look steadfastly into heaven brings a disdain and despite for those lower regions of the earth which have to do with lust and sin, and shall pass away into insignificance in the bright glory of God.

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Many who experience the real life of God for the first time tend to neglect earthly and domestic affairs, becoming slothful in business and dilatory in everyday relationships, supposing these things to be unworthy of their diligent attention. And yet, the Holy Spirit emphasizes these matters with the utmost care to let us know that in these things we are serving the Lord, and therefore ought to do them unto Him with all of our mind and might (Eph. 5; I Thess. 5; Matt. 5, etc.) Let none fall into the devilish snare of thinking before the Judge of all men.

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Some men cavil about how we ought to sing; others about what we ought to sing; still others about where we ought to sing. But while these babblers cavil, we who love the Lord with liberated spirits enjoy spiritual singing, which renders such glorious benefits as no amount of cavilling may give us!

# The Vanity of Temporality

by Sister Beverly Brunner  
Oakley, Ill.

"I have been thinking quite a lot about the Lord coming and taking us away from all that is temporal. I long for that day, as well as all of His children do. I hear so many people say that they are not ready to leave this earth; they say they have a lot of living to do and a lot of things they want. Well, I have a lot of living to do and a lot of things I want, but I prefer to do my living and to find what I want in a place where there is no more temporality. This life is so short and so swift; but those all around seem to think that they have all eternity to spend on this earth. But I find, praise God, that my days are growing shorter and shorter; I have already lived half of my allotted time that God has given to man. I praise God with all my being that He has given me to be able to see what is beyond this earth, that through the eyes of faith we see and look for better things. The precious words of the apostle Paul: "While we look not at 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 Cor. 4:18). Praise the Lord.

"Temporality, temporality, O how deceiving thou canst be; but to those who are of like precious faith you fade away and are replaced with things eternal which cannot perish with the using thereof Amen! Praise the Lord!"

With anxious anticipation I look for the "end of all things"--blessed thought. Forever with the Lord, free from ALL that defiles, removed from the sphere of trial and temptation, away from the ungodly, no more vexation and sorrow, no more contempt for my own despicable unworthiness. Oh, I long for the Lord to come quickly and take me to Himself, for I perceive that He hath wrought me for this selfsame thing (II Cor. 5:1-10).

Many are the times that such heinous and wretched thoughts pass through my mind as strike fear into every fiber of my being. The very contemplation that such filth and rot can pass unsolicited through my mind, at most inopportune moments, staggers my imagination. Surely, grace is great to keep us from being overrun by such devilish thoughts, and how I rejoice in the new creation within, which loathes these natural trains of thought that "war against the soul." Never must I make peace with such vain imaginations, but rather cast them down, waging relentless war against them in Jesus' Name; casting them down and dethroning them in order that the throne of my mind might be occupied by King Jesus that fills "all in all."

Pygmy men have pygmy gods --  
small as they.  
Weigh they circumstance and thought--  
in little way.  
Their conceptions shall remain --  
cannot grow  
Beyond their sphere of little things  
they do not know.

gob

From the institutions of "higher learning" (whatever that is) today (both religious and irreligious), there flows a continual stream of mental garbage and spiritual blasphemy. Young minds are in constant defilement because of subjugation to the damning works of Freud, Spencer, Wells, Bernard Shaw, Bertrand Russell, etc. These men verbally and vehemently attack the faith "once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3), deny Christ, ridicule those whose faith and hope is in "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ", and offer to men the human intellect as a cure-all for all social and individual evils. Theirs is a philosophy of earth that is bent upon destroying the faith. They speak boldly and fearlessly, and yet they speak lies "in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:2), and "glory in their shame" (Phil. 3:19). It is interesting to me to observe that the seminaries of our day, which lay claim to the culturing of the mind religiously, have not only failed to meet these blasphemies with a becoming defense of Truth, but they have actually used the works of these infidels and skeptics in their religious curriculum. We challenge those with such wisdom and abilities as are necessary, to engage these wicked men in such mortal combat as will find truth openly triumphing in the hearts of men over these lies and delusions of the flesh. It is no glory to the Lord of hosts, nor becoming to His children that such fearless attacks are made upon the foundations of the faith without so much as a word or confession of faith from the ones being attacked!

It is the tendency of the unlearned to call faith unbelief and unbelief faith - but that does not alter the truth of the case. A leaning upon sight is still unbelief, while a trust in the unseen Lord is true faith!

## A CONDITION, A NEED, A PRAYER

Men often have a nature low as dogs  
that cannot bark  
They dumb remain in crises times  
and cannot speak  
While all about them terrors rise and swell  
in fearful thund'rous roar  
Yet they impervious to these loud sounds  
conceive not nature of true war  
The sheep lie slum'ring neath delusions sound  
While evil spirits and demons gather 'round  
And soon attacked by many foes  
The hearts are faint and dreadful woes  
Doth come upon the blind ones led  
Into the ditch while yet in bed.  
Oh Lord, set watchmen on the walls --  
who see the case  
Who sound the trumpet 'ere the foe  
Thy church disgrace  
Fearless men, with Spirit, filled  
and faith quite strong  
In whom Thy love is shed abroad  
who have a song  
See Thou, my God the greivous sore  
now creeping o'er Thy church  
Apply the balm, send forth Thy wind  
to cleanse and purify us first  
Then send us forth with battle cry  
With power from on high.

gob

## SHORT POETIC THOUGHTS

### To Sufferers

Difficulties **sift** the wheat  
That drossless they the Lord might meet  
While ease the reprobate doth cure  
And into hell enticing lure.  
\* \* \*

Opposition fortifies the preacher of the Word  
For strength in weakness **truly** lies --  
the both with good accord.  
\* \* \*

Within us rages warfare great  
the old man warring constantly  
Nor yet doth all of this abate--  
be not alarmed if **men** fight thee.  
\* \* \*

You need not have all answers now  
for all rests not on **you**  
The secret things belong to God  
just let Him guide you through.  
\* \* \*

Observation of the world  
doth cause me great vexation,  
Because there evidence I see  
of God's great condemnation.  
\* \* \*

Downheartedness your plight today?  
Hear what Christ **THE LORD** doth say:  
"Let your heart be trouble free,  
Believe in God? **BELIEVE IN ME!**"  
\* \* \*

Evil thoughts attacked your mind?  
Escape's way you have failed to find?  
Then cry for mercy to the Lord,  
To rid you of that evil word.  
\* \* \*

Do you wonder why must come  
these days of trial sore?  
Because the Lord is teaching you  
to trust Him more and more.  
\* \* \*

Felt weak today - you know not why  
You've been bowed down and made to sight?  
A test has come, your faith to try;  
So ask the Lord to show you why!  
\* \* \*

An up and down affair?  
First you're here, and then you're there?  
A token that you need more grace  
To find in Him a secure place.  
\* \* \*

Christ has pledged Himself to keep  
All the little and weak sheep  
A Shepherd true to you is He  
His sheepdogs--"goodness" and "mercy."  
\* \* \*

If your heart condemns you--  
To conscience a goad strong,  
God, greater than your heart,  
Can abrogate all wrong.  
\* \* \*

Understanding coming hard?  
to see right you desire?  
Then ask the Lord for wisdom,  
and of asking never tire.  
\* \* \*

Tempted to give up the fight  
to wrestle - you are through?  
Remember God is on the Throne --  
'tis He that rules - not you!

Those circumstances 'round you  
that seem to loose your hold;  
When finished with them you will be  
refined as pure, tried gold!  
\* \* \*

Think of past deliverances  
when hope is dim and vague;  
He brought you forth in faithfulness --  
now, for that same grace beg!

## CHARACTER EVINCING LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I have read your monthly edition, "The Word of Truth", and I would very much like to receive a copy of it each month if possible. I read every article and every word with great enthusiasm. I feel that the edition I read was very worth-while and very interesting. I am sure that all the copies will be interesting. I would really appreciate it if you send me a copy each month. Thank you very much!

Miss Mary Angelov  
Gary, Indiana

\* \* \*

Dear Brethren:

I have appreciated the deeply spiritual nature of the article which I have read in some copies of **THE WORD OF TRUTH** which friends have loaned me. Please add my name to your mailing list. Thank you very much.

Rich Deighton,  
Eugene, Oregon

\* \* \*

Dear Brother Blakely:

Greetings in that everlasting Precious Name of Jesus Christ. I appreciate **THE WORD OF TRUTH** and use it in preaching and daily life. I thank God for the thoroughness of the subjects upon which you write. I see you have some literature available. Send me: God and Man, Seeking The Lord, The Election Of Grace.

Thank you very much. In Jesus Christ!

Joseph C. Talley  
New Carlisle, Indiana

\* \* \*

Dear Friends in Christ:

I just finished reading the . . . issue of **THE WORD OF TRUTH**. This is the first time I read or even heard of this periodical, but hope it won't be the last. My soul was very much edified by the holy teaching contained in it. But what makes a good Christian periodical? Of course, one that proclaims the truth, "the word of truth!" The light and truth taught in this periodical seem to be the same truth the Lord has been showing me the past few years.

Please put me on your mailing list and send a few back issues if possible. I will send you a list of names to put on your mailing list.

A Sinner Saved and Kept by God's Power,

Derwood Fetherbay,  
Berkshire, New York

\* \* \*

Dear Brother Blakely:

I have just finished reading the latest issue of **THE WORD OF TRUTH** and so enjoyed it that I feel I should let you know that I greatly appreciated it. Especially challenging was the article entitled "What Is The Flesh?" . . . I think you have

## DESIRES FOR HOME

Oftimes the world presses sore upon the soul of the believer, and he has especial longings for the Homeland; to be with the Lord and behold Him face to face. It is during such times that the soul is wondrously refined, and the dross of earth is sifted out, and we are made more fit for heaven. Before the presence of the Lord can truly become precious to us, the sight of earth and the things of earth must come to be despised by us - that is an immutable rule of the Kingdom. Let none of the righteous despair when such weighty times of soul come upon them, but rather take heart in the fact that things shall not always be the way they are in "this present world." "Yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry", and "then shall we forever be with the Lord." It is with this in mind that the following verse was written:

Oftimes methinks a dove I'd be  
with snowy wings make flight  
Away to rest would fly this one  
no more to war and fight.  
Yet if this be true cowardice  
remove it, Lord, from me,  
A soldier strong in heart and mind  
is what I seek to be.  
And yet the battle presses oft--  
discouragement looms out  
Inherent weakness shows itself  
midst enemies about  
With sabers brandished comes the foe,  
and hatred's in their eye,  
I'll not deny I sometimes seek  
away from them to fly.  
Aye, heart of mine, cease now to pine  
a soldier thou art called  
To wage relentless war against  
the Devil's wicked throng;  
Now bolster up thyself in faith  
and raise the Spirit's Sword  
Be not dismayed by evil looks  
nor faint at rebel words.

gob

—o—  
A dynamic presentation assisted by good oratory and pleasing appearance and manners is of no assistance whatsoever to the truth! The truth of God does not variate in its effects with the use of gestures and other mediums of communication. Unless these be a natural display of one's character and nature, they ought to be left off, for they are more distracting to the message of truth than attracting when they are performed out of harmony with the spirit of the speaker.

—o—  
We summon the children of God to rally around the truth of Christ and boldly set themselves for the defense of the Gospel. God's people are being attacked from all sides today, and pressure is being put upon them to conform to the world and its faulty trends of thought. Resist the Devil, holy brethren, and fervently pray the Lord of the harvest, that He may send forth true laborers into His harvest who will not be corrupted by the desire for fame and fortune, who will be gifted by the Holy Spirit to see the needs of His people, and who will possess the power of the Holy Spirit within whereby they may be able to wage a warfare to the consternation and ultimate defeat of the wicked one!

put your finger on an urgent problem in most believer's lives. . . . As you have so well stated it is difficult - yea, nigh to impossible (apart from the Lord's revelation) for men to see the flesh as God sees it.

Maranatha,  
Floyd Markler, Editor of ABIDE

\* \* \*

### A Letter From a Church Member

"Please take our name off your mailing list as on reading The Word of Truth we find it is just some more junk mail and we get too much of that already.

Mrs. Wm. Bales  
Bigfork, Minn.

P.S. We suggest you read God's Word and learn the plain truth."

\* \* \*

### A Letter From an Elder

"I praise our Lord daily for your ministry of truth. May it reach more hungry souls until His blessed eminent return. How we love the messages that are inspired by the Holy Spirit. May He continue to use you is our prayer."

Elder Lester Brush  
St. Petersburg, Fla.

\* \* \*

Dear Brethren:

I recently saw a copy of "The Word of Truth." In my estimation it is one of the most profitable pieces of literature that I have ever seen. I am a student minister and the material presented in "The Word of Truth" is of great value to me. It is getting to the point where a person has a hard time trying to find printed material concerning the Scriptures that isn't slanted in some way or another.

I would love to receive a copy of "The Word of Truth" each month, if you would please send it to me.

Sincerely,  
Ben F. Pennington  
New Salisbury, Indiana

We are glad for all letters that are sent our way, whether forward or favorable, for we recognize with the Apostle of old this truth; "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish. To the one we are a savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?" (II Cor. 2:16-16). So, keep those letters coming, both friend and foe, for you are both an encouragement and confirmation to us of the work of grace wrought within and through us to His glory.