

**12th Annual  
BIBLICAL VIEWPOINTS  
LECTURESHIP**

**November 4-7, 1992**

**THEME:  
HALLELUJAH  
PRAISE  
JEHOVAH**

Directors:  
**Eddy Craft  
Clayton Winters**



**12th Annual  
BIBLICAL VIEWPOINTS  
LECTURESHIP**

**November 4-7, 1992**

**THEME:  
HALLELUJAH  
PRAISE  
JEHOVAH**

**Directors:  
Eddy Craft  
Clayton Winters**

**Church of Christ  
137 East C Street  
Elizabethton, Tennessee 37643**

**Robinson TypeSetting**  
304 Ripley St.  
Corinth, Miss 38834  
(601) 286-6575

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Our God, He Is Alive</b> <i>Jim Laws</i> .....	5
<b>Things Connected With Singing</b> <i>Eddy Craft</i> .....	10
<b>On Zion's Glorious Summit</b> <i>Clayton Winters</i> .....	12
<b>What A Savior</b> <i>Robert R. Taylor, Jr.</i> .....	15
<b>Take Time To Be Holy</b> <i>Wesley Simons</i> .....	17
<b>Amazing Grace</b> <i>Leon Cole</i> .....	20
<b>Old Testament Singing: Its Example To New Testament Christians</b> <i>Jerry Brown</i> .....	21
<b>Have Thine Own Way, Lord</b> <i>HaliBurton Greer</i> .....	24
<b>Blest Be The Tie That Binds</b> <i>Lawrence Couch</i> .....	27
<b>The Old Rugged Cross</b> <i>James R. Lewis</i> .....	31
<b>Standing On The Promises</b> <i>Tracy Dugger</i> .....	33
<b>Faith Of Our Fathers</b> <i>Kent Bailey</i> .....	35
<b>How Beautiful Heaven Must Be!</b> <i>Larry Hendrix</i> .....	39

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”

Ephesians 5:19

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”

Colossians 3:16

# OUR GOD, HE IS ALIVE

*Jim Laws*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. The writer of this hymn, Aaron Wesley Dicus, was born May 30, 1888, in Festus, Missouri. He died September 2, 1978 in Tampa, Florida.
2. He was baptized in 1908 and soon began training to preach the gospel.
3. He began teaching in a one room rural school house, and then on to a technical high school; then on to receive his PH.D. Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tennessee.
4. In the 1940's brother Dicus helped train graduates for nuclear studios in connection with Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
5. He later became academic dean of Florida College.
6. He wrote 35 songs, the most popular and, indeed, one of the most popular of all songs is "*OUR GOD, HE IS ALIVE.*"

## BODY:

- I. **OUR GOD DOES EXIST: "There is, beyond the azure blue, a God, concealed from human sight..."**
  - A. One may come to know that God does exist by reasoning from the existence of the world to the existence of God.
    1. The world by its design implies a divine designer (Psa. 14:1; 19:1-6).
    2. The world by its contingency implies a noncontingent being — God (Rom. 1:18ff; Psa. 104:1-5).
  - B. One may come to know of the existence of God by a reading of the Bible, the word of God.
    1. The Bible teaches that it itself is a divine product of God (II Tim. 3:16-17).
    2. The Bible teaches of God and His divine nature (Psa. 19:1ff).
  - C. One may come to know of the greatness of God.
    1. The universe declares His glory.
    2. The Bible teaches of God's greatness (Eph. 1:19; Psa. 31:19; 103:11; Zech. 9:17).

D. One may come to know of the nature of God.

1. God is eternal (Deut. 32:40; Psa. 9:7; Jer. 10:10; I Tim. 1:17).
2. God is omnipotent (Gen. 17:1; Rev. 19:6).
3. God is omniscient (Job 37:16; I John 3:20).
4. God is omnipresent (Jer. 23:24; Psa. 139:7-10; Acts 17:27-28).
5. God is immutable (Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6; James 1:17).
6. God is omnibenevolent (I John 4:8; Rom. 5:8).
7. God is just and morally perfect (Psa. 92:15; Isa. 5:16; Rom. 3:5; Titus 1:2).
8. God is holy (Ex. 15:11; Psa. 99:9; Isa. 6:3).

II. **OUR GOD'S CREATIVE HANDIWORK: "He tinted skies with heav'nly hue and framed the worlds with His great might..."**

- A. The world as God created it.
  1. Nature's home: the universe.
  2. The law of causality: for every material effect, there is an adequate cause.
- B. Man as God created him.
  1. Nature's human inhabitant: man.
  2. Man's place in the universe.

III. **OUR GOD HAS GIVEN MAN HIS DIVINE REVELATION — THE BIBLE: "There was, a long, long time ago, a God whose voice the prophets heard..."**

- A. The Bible, the inspired Word of God.
  1. What inspiration does and does not mean.
  2. Matt. 22:31; I Tim. 2:13; II Tim. 3:16,17.
- B. The archaeology of the Old and New Testament as an argument for the inspiration of the Bible.
  1. The five books of Moses; are they genuine?
  2. The life and times of the patriarchs.
  3. Luke as a reputable historian.
  4. Paul as an ancient traveler.
- C. Fulfilled prophecy as an argument for the inspiration of the Bible.
  1. Prophecies referring to ancient Babylon.
  2. Prophecies referring to Tyre.
  3. Prophecies referring to the Jews.



4. Prophecies referring to Christ.

D. The unity of the Bible as an argument for the inspiration of the Bible.

1. The unity of theme found in the Bible.

2. The unity of the structure of the Bible.

3. The unity of teaching about Christ.

4. The unity of teaching about man, sin and salvation taught in the Bible.

**IV. OUR GOD'S DIVINE REVELATION IS BOTH KNOWABLE AND APPLICABLE: "He is the God that we should know, who speaks from His inspired word..."**

A. The Bible, as the Word of God, is the perfect revelation from God to man.

1. God's work in revealing the Scriptures to man was perfect just as God is perfect.

2. All Scripture is "God-breathed."

B. God, the Holy Spirit, inspired certain chosen men to write, making the truth which they wrote knowable and applicable.

1. The origin, truthfulness and authority of Scripture is due to God's power.

2. Men can read and explain to others what they have come to understand from the Bible (Acts 17:1-3; 17:11).

C. The Bible itself teaches that it is knowable.

1. John 8:32.

2. John 17:17.

D. Man is to use his knowledge of the Bible to distinguish between what is true and false.

1. I Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:11,12.

2. Rom. 16:17; Eph. 5:11.

E. Man must use his knowledge of the Bible by standing for the truths of God's word without regard to the cost.

1. Rev. 23:23; Acts 21:3.

2. Rev. 2:10; Luke 14:26-33.

**V. OUR GOD KNOWS ALL THAT CAN BE KNOWN ABOUT LIFE AND DEATH: "Secure, is life from mortal mind, God holds the germ within His hand, Tho' men may search, they cannot find, for God alone does understand."**

A. God is infinite in knowledge.

1. God is infinite in all his attributes.

2. God has infinite knowledge of all that can be known; otherwise He would not be God.

B. Man does not know all that can be known about life and death, nor is he capable of such knowledge.

1. All things have not been revealed to the mind of man. He is unable to ascertain all truth.

2. Some things are capable of being known but are not known due to the fact that men have not reasoned about the evidence properly.

**VI. OUR GOD HAS GIVEN MAN THE DIVINE SCHEME OF REDEMPTION: "Our God, whose Son upon a tree, a life was willing there to give, that he from sin might set man free..."**

A. The scheme of redemption was eternally "purposed."

1. Eph. 3:1-11; God's plan is an eternal plan.

2. God's plan of salvation was always in His omniscient mind.

B. The scheme of redemption was "promised."

1. Gen. 22:18; The promise to Abraham.

2. Gal. 3:16; The fulfillment in Christ.

C. The scheme of redemption existed in "preparation."

1. Matt. 3:1-3; John prepared the way for Christ.

2. Luke 16:16; The kingdom was in a state of preparation.

D. The scheme of redemption existed in a state of "perfection."

1. Acts 2; The king (Jesus Christ) is spoken of as having come.

2. Eph. 1:22,23; The kingdom/church is the fullness of Christ, the glory of God.

**VII. OUR GOD HAS MADE HEAVEN, THE HOME FOR THE SOUL POSSIBLE FOR MAN: "...and ever more with Him could live."**

A. God has made salvation possible.

1. Titus 3:3-8; "He saved us."

2. Eph. 2:8-10; We are sinners saved by grace through faith.

B. God has made salvation conditional.

1. Matt. 7:21; Obedience is required as the condition of our salvation.

2. Heb. 5:8-9; "For those who obey him."

C. God has prepared a place called heaven for his people.

1. John 14:1ff; God has prepared a place for his people.
2. Rev. 2:10; Matt. 25; Rev. 20.

**VIII. OUR GOD, HE IS ALIVE: “There is a God, He is alive, in Him we live, and we survive; from dust our God created man, He is our God, the great I am.”**

- A. By this study one can see what God has done for man.
1. God has created both man, giving him life, as well as the world in which to live, giving man the means to sustain his life.
  2. God has given to man the scheme of redemption (the gospel plan of salvation).
  3. God continues to care for and provide for man here in this life providentially.
  4. God will reward each one (all those who obey Him) with eternal life in time to come.
- B. Man's response is to be one of praise to the glory of God.
1. Man is to recognize who and what God is.
  2. Man is to learn to love God supremely.
  3. Man is to follow the teaching God has given man in the Bible.
  4. Man is to teach others of His wonderful way.

# THINGS CONNECTED WITH SINGING

*Eddy Craft*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. In Matthew 19:6 the latter part of the verse states, “...*what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*”
  - a. When we think of this statement in regard to singing it emphasizes and magnifies the importance of singing.
  - b. Singing, you might be surprised to find out, is connected with some very important things.
2. One of the greatest blessings we have is being able to sing praises unto God.

## BODY:

### I. THINGS CONNECTED WITH SINGING.

- A. Singing and Prayer (Acts 16:25; Acts 45:31; Matthew 26:30-31).
- B. Singing and Scripture (Colossians 3:16).
- C. Singing and Grace (Colossians 3:16).
- D. Singing and Heaven (Revelation 15:3).
- E. Singing and Redemption (Revelation 5:9).
- F. Singing and Attitude (I Corinthians 14:15).
- G. Singing and Joy (James 5:13).
- H. Singing and Sadness (Acts 16:24).
- I. Singing and Victory (Revelation 5:9).
- J. Singing and Indwelling of Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
- K. Singing and The Lord’s Supper (Matthew 26:26-30).
- L. Singing and Knowledge (I Corinthians 14:15).
- M. Singing and Self (Ephesians 5:19).
- N. Singing and Teaching (Colossians 3:16).

### II. CONGREGATIONS CONNECTED TO SINGING.

- A. Ephesians 5:19
  1. The leading thought of this section is in verse 18 “*be filled with the spirit*” (be filled, *plerousthe*, second person plural present imperative). This passive imperative is followed

by five plural participles, which agreeing with the verb, also have imperative force.

2. Because of the preceding construction the Ephesian brethren were instructed to be filled with the Spirit and to make that manifest by "*speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and Spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*"
  3. The plural imperative, amplified by the plural participles embraced ALL of the saints at Ephesus to whom the apostle was addressing.
  4. The force would be: ALL of you speaking; ALL of you singing; ALL of you giving thanks; ALL of you submitting yourselves.
  5. The preceding constructions would do away with solo's because the singing would be reciprocally, mutually one another (*heautois*), according to Thayer.
- B. Colossians 3:16 has some significant parallels.
1. "*Let dwell*" is *enoikeito*, third person singular present imperative.
  2. "*In you*" is from *en humin* plural which signifies "*in all of you.*"
  3. Gerhard Delling points out that *en humin* is commonly used by Paul to refer to the assembly.
- C. We are able to see from these passages of Scriptures that we have authority for congregational singing.

### III. A SCRIPTURAL PRACTICE.

- A. Congregational singing is scriptural.
- B. It seems that some today want to abandon and even bring attack upon congregational singing and want to have special music in the assembly — solos; quartets; choirs; and even vocal bands for which they have no Bible authority.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Singing is very important because of what it is connected with.
2. We need to do as Jeremiah did in the Old Testament and cry for people to seek the old paths.
3. What a blessing to worship God in Song!

# ON ZION'S GLORIOUS SUMMIT

*Clayton Winters*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. The promised land, as a whole and in its various parts, has been celebrated often in song: (a) *Beulah Land*; (b) *I Am Bound For The Promised Land*; (c) *On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand*; (d) *Jesus, Rose of Sharon*; (e) *On The Jericho Road*; (f) *Lead Me To Calvary*; (g) *I'm Not Ashamed To Own My Lord*; [Jerusalem]; (h) *Wonderful Man of Galilee*; (i) *In Gethsemane Alone*; (j) *O Little Town Of Bethlehem*.
2. Zion is a very popular hymn theme: (a) *On The Top Of Mount Zion Is A City*: "...And the earth with glory it doth fill..."; (b) *We're Marching To Zion*: "...Beautiful, beautiful Zion..."; (c) *There Is A Habitation*: "O Zion, lovely Zion, I long thy gates to see..."; (d) *Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken*: "...Zion, city of our God! He whose word cannot be broken, Formed thee for His own abode..."; (e) *I Love Thy Kingdom Lord*: "...Sure as thy truth shall stand, To Zion shall be giv'n, the brightest glories earth can yield, And brighter bliss of heaven..."; (f) *Let The Lord Be Praised, O Zion*; (g) *O, Zion Haste*; (h) *On Zion's Glorious Summit*.
3. *Zion* is used 153 times in our KJ Bible (165 times in the NIV), appearing first in II Sam. 5:7, and last in Zech. 9:13). *Sion* is used 9 times in the KJV (none in the NIV): 2 times in the Old Testament (Deut. 4:48; Psa. 65:1), and 7 in the New (Matt. 21:5; John 12:15; Rom. 9:33; 11:26; Heb. 12:22; I Pet. 2:6; Rev. 14:1).
  - a. *Sion* is the Greek spelling for the Hebrew **Zion**, and in our New Testament is the result of KJ translators transliterating names as literally as possible (for example: Isaiah — Esaias, Elijah — Elias, Zechariah — Zecharias).
  - b. The Old Testament *Sion* in Deut. 4:48 is spelled differently from *Zion* in the Hebrew and designates Mount Hermon (Deut. 4:48). The usage of *Sion* instead of *Zion* in Psalm 65:1 is unique with the KJV. All other times (37 of which are in the book of Psalm) they rendered it *Zion*.

4. New Testament usage of *Sion* consists of: five quotations from prophecy pointing to the coming of the Messiah (Matt. 21:5; John 12:15; Rom. 9:33; 11:26; I Pet. 2:6), one designating the Church of Christ (Heb. 12:22), and one depicting the Lamb on the heavenly Sion with the 144,000 as the firstfruits redeemed from among men (Rev. 14:1).

## **BODY:**

### **I. ZION AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

- A. At the time of Saul's death the Kingdom of Israel divided, David reigning in Hebron and Saul's son Ishbosheth over the rest of his father's kingdom (II Sam. 2:8-11). David grew stronger and eventually took over the whole kingdom (II Sam. 5:1-3). Acting wisely, as did our forefathers in selecting Washington, D.C., David chose as his capital the neutral territory of Zion, a mountain fortress which he had captured from the Jebusites (II Sam. 5:8,9).
- B. Zion became the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.
  1. The ark of the covenant was a chest-type box, roughly 2 feet wide, 4 feet long, and 2 feet in depth (Exo. 25:10). Over it was the mercy seat where God met with His people (Exo. 25:17-22). Within were the tables of testimony, God's covenant with his people, symbolizing the fact that man could not approach God except through the terms of the covenant (Deut. 10:1-5; Isa. 59:1-3).
  2. The ark containing the covenant went before the children of Israel, serving as their guide day and night (Num. 10:33-36; Joshua 6:11-13; 7:6); but when the covenant was violated, the ark lost its power (I Sam. 4:3-11).
  3. King David moved the ark of the covenant from the house of Obed-edom to Zion, thus making it the most sacred place in Israel (II Sam. 6:12-19; I Chron. 15:25-17:36; Psalm 48:2).
- C. The term *Zion* eventually expanded to include all Jerusalem (II Kings 19:21; Psalm 48; 133:3).

### **II. ZION, THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.**

- A. The New Testament concept of Zion.
  1. The King of Glory made His triumphant entry into Zion (Matt. 21:5).

2. The Stumbling Stone, the Rock of Offense, was to be laid in Zion (Rom. 9:33; 11:26); and while this certainly has some reference to the physical, earthly Zion, it far supersedes any Palestinian real estate as may easily be seen from I Peter 2:6-10.
- B. Zion is the Church of Christ (Heb. 12:22,23), the Temple of God (Eph. 2:19-22), the Holy Priesthood (I Pet. 2:5), God's Holy Nation (I Pet. 2:9), and the recipient and guardian of the Holy Covenant (Heb. 8:6-13; I Tim. 3:15).

### III. THE HEAVENLY ZION.

- A. The Kingdom of God is certainly a reality and has been since the first Pentecost after the resurrection (Col. 2:9; Heb. 12:23; Rev. 1:9).
- B. There is, however, an eternal kingdom (though perhaps in a sense just an extension of the earthly stage) composed of those redeemed from the earth (Matt. 13:43; Acts 14:22; I Cor. 15:50; Gal. 5:21; II Tim. 4:18; II Pet. 1:11).
- C. It is in this context that John saw the redeemed of earth praising God with a new song from Mount Zion. Let Zion, the Church of our Lord, continue to be our hymn of praise until that day when we stand *On Zion's Glorious Summit* with that heavenly choir.



# "WHAT A SAVIOR"

*Robert R. Taylor, Jr.*

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. This good and great annual lectureship in beautiful and charming East Tennessee is to be commended for the eloquent emphasis given this year to the saintly songs we sing, which grace our worship and do so much to build us up in that fundamental faith most holy.
2. Most songs sung today are anti-God, anti-Christ, anti-Spirit, anti-Bible, anti-gospel, anti-church, anti-spiritual and anti-family.
3. How grateful we should be that we have great, good and glorious songs that enhance our concepts of the Sacred Three (The Timeless Trinity), the Bible, the gospel, the church, true spirituality and the home as Jehovah, Jesus and the Holy Spirit desire it to be and demand it to be.
4. My assigned song is "What A Savior." Marvin P. Dalton wrote both the words and music. It bears a copyright date of 1948. Hence, it has been one of the great songs of Spiritual Zion sung in this generation of God-fearing worshippers.
5. Five major areas will depict this Glorious One who is our Lord and Savior (Acts 5:31).

## **BODY:**

- I. **BACKGROUND LEADING UP TO HIS COMING TO EARTH.**
  - A. His eternal nature (John 1:1-3; Micah 5:2; II Pet. 1:16-18; John 1:15,30; 8:58).
  - B. His creative powers (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:1ff).
  - C. His Old Testament appearances as Angel of the Lord or of the Covenant (Exodus 3; Acts 7:30,38). There are many other of His appearances in the Old Testament.
- II. **HIS INCARNATION.**
  - A. His tabernacling among us (John 1:14).
  - B. His reason for coming (Matt. 1:21; Mark 1:38; Luke 4:43; Luke 19:10).

- C. The love reflected (John 3:16; II Cor. 5:14; Eph. 5:2,25; Rev. 1:5).
- D. His perfect life (John 8:46; Heb. 7:26; I Pet. 2:22; I John 3:5).
- E. His teachings — parables, questions and answers, sermons, plain declarations like the “I Am” statements in John’s gospel record, conversations, etc. (John 7:46).
- F. His marvelous, mighty, magnificent miracles (John 20:30,31; Acts 2:22).
- G. His death, burial and resurrection (I Cor. 15:1-4).
- H. His amazing ascension (Psalm 24:7-10; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11).

### III. HIS ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS CHURCH.

- A. Its five great p’s — purpose, promise, prophecy, preparation and perfection.
- B. In Him and His church we find redemption, acceptable worship, a life of service, warmth of Christian fellowship, purposeful living and preparation for Biblical Finals.

### IV. HIS WONDERFUL WORTH TO OUR HOMES.

- A. Visits He made to homes while here on earth in Mark 1 and 5 in Luke 10 and 19.
- B. We need to make Him and the Father the real Headship of our homes today. They will shield it and secure it with marital and parental success.
- C. What has He meant to our homes in the past, what does He mean now, what will we allow Him to mean in the future?

### V. HIS HEAVENLY PLANS FOR HIS PEOPLE.

- A. Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:23).
- B. His precious projections for His people on the threshold of Calvary (John 14:1-6; 17:24).
- C. So shall we ever be with Him (I Thess. 4:13-18).
- D. Heavenly fruition of such (Rev. 7:13ff; 22:14).

### CONCLUSION:

1. “What A Savior” says it so well, so wisely, so wonderfully. It is lyrical loveliness personified and set to a beautiful tune.

# TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

Wesley Simons

## INTRODUCTION:

1. We sing songs but do we meditate upon the words?
2. People often speak of getting religion but religion is something that we do.

## BODY:

### I. TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY.

A. We could preach an entire lesson on taking time.

1. Take time for God
2. Take time for family
3. Take time to serve your fellow man
4. Redeeming the time — Eph. 5:16.

B. To Be Holy — Rom. 12:1.

1. Be holy as God is holy — I Pet. 1:15.
2. We are a holy nation — I Pet. 2:9.
3. Church is to be holy — Eph. 5:27.
4. Lift up holy hands — I Tim. 2:8.

### II. SPEAK OFT WITH THY LORD.

A. The Lord is our example as a man of prayer.

1. Christ prayed when faced with decisions — Luke 6:12-16.
2. Christ prayed before and during great trials — Matt. 26:36-46.
3. Christ prayed while on the cross — Luke 23:34.

B. We are to be a praying people.

1. Pray without ceasing — I Thess. 5:17.
2. Something we are to continue in — Acts 2:42.
3. Early Christians prayed — Acts 3:1.
4. Lift up holy hands — I Tim. 2:8.

### III. ABIDE IN HIM ALWAYS.

A. We must be in Christ.

1. In Christ we are a new creature — II Cor. 5:17.
2. In Christ we find all spiritual blessings — Eph. 1:3.
3. In Christ we have the remission of sins — Eph. 1:7.

4. In Christ is saving grace — II Tim. 2:1.
  5. In Christ is salvation — II Tim. 2:10.
  6. In Christ is no condemnation — Rom. 8:1.
  7. In Christ is God's saving love — Rom. 8:39.
  8. In Christ is our inheritance — Eph. 1:11.
- B. We must abide in Christ.
1. Not just get there but remain there. *Never Abandon His Word*

#### IV. AND FEED ON HIS WORD.

- A. Knowledge is of great importance.
1. This is how faith comes — Rom. 10:17.
  2. This is how we are sanctified — John 17:17. *His Word*
  3. This is how we come to God — John 6:44,45.
  4. This is how our souls are saved — James 1:21.
  5. This is how we grow — II Pet. 3:18.
- B. Do we feed the soul like we feed the body? — Matt. 5:6. *Requires effort with help*

#### V. MAKE FRIENDS OF GOD'S CHILDREN.

- A. We all need friends. *(can make be friends)*
- B. We must choose our friends wisely.
1. Evil communications corrupt good morals — I Cor. 15:33.
  2. Companion of fools will be destroyed — Prov. 13:20.
  3. Bad companions bring shame — Prov. 28:7.
- C. Why do some teenagers start using drugs, etc.?

#### VI. HELP THOSE WHO ARE WEAK.

- A. We are to help the physically weak — Matt. 25:34-36.
- B. We are to help the spiritually weak — Gal. 6:1.
- C. We are to comfort the febleminded — I Thess. 5:14. *can be discouraged*

#### VII. FORGETTING IN NOTHING HIS BLESSINGS TO SEEK.

- A. All spiritual blessings are in Christ — Eph. 1:3.
- B. Every good gift is from God — James 1:17.
- C. The greatest gift is Christ — John 3:16.

#### VIII. TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY THE WORLD RUSHES ON.

- A. We are not of the world — John 17:14. *ⓔ*
- B. We are not to love the world — I John 2:15-17.
- C. We are to be transformed from the world — Rom. 12:1,2.
- D. This world is not our home — I Peter 2:11.
- E. This world will be destroyed — II Peter 3:9-13.

F. Our treasures are to be in heaven — Matt. 6:19-24.

**IX. SPEND MUCH TIME IN SECRET WITH JESUS ALONE.**

- A. Christianity demands time with Jesus — Luke 10:38-42.
- B. How much time do you spend with Jesus alone?
- C. See point II.

**X. ABIDING IN JESUS, LIKE HIM THOU SHALT BE.**

- A. We are to Abide in Christ, see point III.
- B. We are to be like Jesus — I Pet. 2:21.

**XI. THY FRIENDS IN THY CONDUCT HIS LIKENESS SHALL SEE.**

- A. We are to let our light shine — Matt. 5:16.
- B. We are transformed — Rom. 12:1,2.

**XII. TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY BE CALM IN THY SOUL.**

- A. God offers a peace that passeth all understanding — Phil. 4:7.
- B. The peace of God should rule in our hearts — Col. 3:15.
- C. We are to follow after peace — II Tim. 2:22.
- D. God is the God of peace — I Thess. 5:23.

**XIII. EACH THOUGHT AND EACH MOTIVE BENEATH HIS CONTROL.**

- A. Our thinking is to be pure — Prov. 23:7; Phil. 4:8.
- B. Do we do things with the right motive? Prov. 4:23; Acts 5:1-5; I Cor. 13:1-3.

**XIV. THUS LED BY HIS SPIRIT TO FOUNTAINS OF LOVE.**

- A. We are led by the Holy Spirit — Rev. 2:1,7; I Tim. 4:1-5.
- B. We are to be a people of love — I Cor. 13:1-13.

**XV. THOU SOON SHALL BE FITTED FOR SERVICE ABOVE.**

- A. We are serving here that we might go to heaven and serve — John 14:1-3.
- B. Heaven is a beautiful place — I Pet. 1:4,5.
- C. No pain or suffering there — Rev. 21:3,4.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. May God help us to think about what we sing.
2. And to let us take time to be holy.

# AMAZING GRACE

Leon Cole

*God's  
R - Rebel  
A - AT  
C - Christ's  
E - Express*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Background of the hymn "Amazing Grace"
  - a. Possibly the world's favorite hymn.
  - b. Author — John Newton whose early life was extremely evil and wicked.
  - c. Like the prodigal he came to himself.

## BODY:

### I. THE NEED FOR GRACE — SIN.

A. Impossible to discuss God's grace without discussing sin.

1. I Tim. 1:15
2. Eph. 2:1-5

B. What is sin?

1. Transgression of law — I John 3:4
2. Failure to do right — James 4:17 — *Breaker of God's Law*

C. Sin abounds

1. In its scope — Rom. 3:23; Ecc. 7:20
2. In its consequences
3. In its influence
4. In its effects on man's relationship to God — James 1:15

### II. THE REMEDY FOR SIN — GRACE.

- A. Grace abounds in God's love — Rom. 5:8
- B. Grace redeems us — Rom. 5:6

### III. THE REMEDY APPLIED — CONDITIONS TO BE MET.

- A. Salvation by grace is conditional — John 5:24; Eph. 2:8
- B. How were the Ephesians saved by grace?
  1. Heard and believed — Eph. 1:13
  2. Repented of their sins — Acts 17:30
  3. Cleansed by washing of water by the word — Eph. 5:25

### IV. THE RESULT.

- A. Cleansed
- B. Lives changed
- C. Grace saves a wretch like me

# OLD TESTAMENT SINGING, ITS EXAMPLE TO NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS

*Jerry Brown* 

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Reasons for singing by New Testament Christians
  - a. Expression of gratitude to God
  - b. Expression of the heart
  - c. Teach and admonish
2. Methods of singing by the Saints
  - a. Eruption from the heart
  - b. Flowing ease of a mighty spring
  - c. Spontaneous in a group
  - d. With spirit and with understanding — I Cor. 14:15
3. First reference to singing in the Scriptures — Job 38:7
4. Purpose of lesson: Examination of songs in the Old Testament and application to the need for singing by New Testament Christians

## BODY:

- I. SON OF DELIVERANCE FROM BONDAGE OF EGYPTIANS — Ex. 15:1.
  - A. Characteristics
    1. Deliverance from Egyptian bondage
    2. Feeling of freedom
    3. Emotion from the heart without force or coercion
  - B. Application to New Testament Christians
    1. Deliverance from the bondage of sin — Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23
    2. Freedom by the grace of God — Rom. 6:16-18
    3. Forgiveness through Christ — Luke 19:10; John 3:16-17; Rom. 8:2
    4. Liberty through Christ — Gal. 5:1
  - C. Conclusion: Christian deliverance greater than Israel's Deliverance

D. Songs illustrating Christian deliverance

1. "Redeemed"
2. "Rescue the Perishing"
3. "Rock in the Desert"

II. **SONG OF LIBERATION FROM BABYLON — Psa. 126:1-3.**

A. Characteristics of Babylonian captivity

1. Loss of religious freedoms and shrines
2. Power of Nebuchadnezzar (597-574 B.C.)
3. Inability to sing as captives — Psalm 137:1-4
4. Inability to force a song under demand

B. Change of hearts after liberation from captivity — Psalm 126:1-3

1. Freedoms of King Cyrus — 539 B.C.
2. Feelings of laughter; praise for God
3. Songs — easy flow after liberation

C. Application to New Testament Christians

1. Sinners — no songs of joy or hope
2. Christian — liberation from sin joyful to the redeemed  
Isaiah 51:11; Acts 8:26-40; Acts 16:24-25

D. Conclusion: No person sings out of duty by force; songs result of joy

E. Songs illustrating expressions of joy

1. "We Praise Thee O God"
2. "Paradise Valley"
3. "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"

III. **SINGING OF LEVITICAL PRIESTS.**

A. Characteristics of Levitical Priesthood

1. Holy men unto the Lord
2. Free from physical defect
3. Levels of Priesthood: High Priest, Priests, Members of the tribe of Levi
4. Singing after the ordination to service to God by Jehoiada — I Chron. 6:32
5. Singing after destruction of idols — II Chron. 23:16-18

B. Application to New Testament Christians

1. Position of the Christian greater than Levitical Priests — I Pet. 2:5; I Pet. 2:9
2. Greatest incentive for singing: Hope of Heaven — John 14:1-3



- C. Conclusion: Need of Christians — constant melody in their hearts — Eph. 5:19
- D. Songs illustrating Christian hope and services
  - 1. “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”
  - 2. “I Want to Be a Worker”
  - 3. “There Is Much to Do”

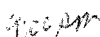
#### IV. SONGS OF DEDICATION OF REBUILDING WALLS OF JERUSALEM — Neh. 12:27.

- A. Characteristics of rebuilding the Walls of Jerusalem
  - 1. Work of Ezra in the Jewish community
  - 2. Work of Nehemiah on the walls
  - 3. Nehemiah’s inspection of the broken walls
  - 4. Nehemiah’s decision to rebuild the walls — Neh. 2:18
  - 5. Overcoming the enemies: Sanballat, Goshem, Tobiah
  - 6. Completion of the walls — Neh. 6:15 (52 days)
- B. Application to New Testament Christians
  - 1. Importance of the Church to Christians — Acts 2:47; Matt. 16:18-19; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 5:23-25
  - 2. Importance of keeping purity in the worship and service — I Cor. 5:7-8
  - 3. Importance of being a servant of righteousness — Rom. 6:16-18
- C. Conclusion: Superior promises to Christians greater than promises to Nehemiah by dedication
- D. Songs illustrating dedication to Christ and the Church
  - 1. “All to Jesus I Surrender”
  - 2. “Anywhere With Jesus”
  - 3. “For Christ and the Church”

#### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Joy of Christians for songs: Mark 14:26; I Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12
- 2. God’s eternal principle for all people — Psalm 100:1-2
- 3. Joy of singing greater in New Testament times than in Old Testament times because of the superior greatness of promises and dedication

## HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

*Hali Burton Greer* 

It is an honor and privilege to have been asked to speak on this lectureship. There is also the responsibility of speaking “as the oracles of God.” I appreciate the work that Bro. Clayton Winters and Bro. Eddy Craft do on Biblical Viewpoints. They, along with the elders from their congregations and the many others who make this program possible, are to be admired and appreciated for the many hours that go into presenting the program each week and having this lectureship each year.

In the early years of the reformation movement, it seems to have been the custom/practice for the preachers to write a poem, or a bit of verse, with which the lessons were closed. It is from such writings that many of our grand old hymns and spiritual songs come.

I am glad that the brethren who planned this lectureship chose the theme “songs or singing,” using the various songs, hymns, and spiritual songs that we sing as topics. This gives each of us an opportunity to learn something about the song, the writer of the song, and what inspired the song to be written.

The song given to me is — “Have Thine Own Way, Lord.” Turn to: Song # 169 “Have Thine Own Way, Lord.”

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Women have wrought many wonderful works to/for GOD and CHRIST!
  - a. DEBORAH — a Judge of Israel. (Judges 4 & 5).
  - b. Women helped CHRIST. (Luke 8:1-3).
  - c. Mary and Martha. (John 11:1-46; John 12:1-3).
  - d. Tabitha/Dorcas. (Acts 9:36-43).
  - e. Lydia. (Acts 12:14-15).
2. Women have often been the “binder” that held a congregation together until men could be found or raised up in the congregation to continue the work.
3. A number of our favorite hymns and spiritual songs have been written by women.
  - a. Fanny Crosby — “Blessed Assurance.” (Many more).

- b. Charlotte Elliott — “Just As I Am.”
- c. Mary Lathberg — “Break Thou the Bread of Life.” “Day Is Dying In the West.”
- d. Sarah Adams — “Nearer, My God, To Thee.”
- e. Elizabeth Clephane — “The Ninety and Nine.”
- f. Adelaide Pollard — “Have Thine Own Way, Lord.”

## **BODY:**

### **I. ADELAIDE POLLARD.**

- A. Biography.
- B. The stimulant that brought about the writing of: “Have Thine Own Way, Lord.”
  - 1. Written in 1907.
  - 2. Place — a prayer meeting.
  - 3. Occasion.
    - a. An elderly woman closed her prayer that evening with: “It doesn’t matter what you bring into our lives, Lord, just have your own way with us.”

### **II. “HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD.”**

- A. “Thou are the Potter, I am the clay.”
  - 1. Jeremiah told to go to the potter’s house. (Jer. 18:1-6).
  - 2. Isaiah speaks of God as our Potter. (Isaiah 64:8).
  - 3. “I am the clay.”
    - a. While clay is soft, while the moisture is still in it, it can be molded.
    - b. If the clay dries out, it becomes hard, brittle, and no longer can be shaped.
  - 4. If I am to let God have his way, then I must be humble. (Matt. 5:3).
    - a. Must be humble to obey God. (Cf. I Pet. 5:6,7; James 4:5-10; Phil. 2:1-11).
- B. “Search me and try me.”
  - 1. David asked that the Lord “search him.” (Psalm 139:23).
  - 2. “Try me.” (Rom. 5:3).
  - 3. “Whiter than snow, Lord.” (Isaiah 1:18).
- C. “Hold o’re my being absolute sway.”
  - 1. A submission to authority. (Matt. 28:18-20; John 2:5). Song # 683 “Let Him have His way with thee.”
  - 2. Christ has the pre-eminence. (Col. 1:18).
  - 3. An attitude of obedience.

- a. We are to obey God's Word. (James 1:22).
  - b. All to be done to the glory of God. (I Cor. 10:31; Col. 1:17). Song # 76 "Do All In the Name of the Lord."
- D. A desire for blessings.
- 1. The Lord will bless us if we allow Him to have His way with us.
  - 2. Behold the goodness and severity of God. (Rom. 11:15-23).
  - 3. Sowing and reaping. (Gal. 6:6-9; Rom. 6:23).
- E. A feeling of hope.
- 1. Sins remitted. (Acts 2:38; I Cor. 15:16-23).
  - 2. God ever with us. (Heb. 13:5).
  - 3. Christ in me. (Col. 1:27).
  - 4. The hope of eternal life. (John 14:1-6).

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. If I am seeking to go to heaven, I must let God "Have thine own way, Lord."
- 2. What is your attitude when it comes to your soul and its eternal destiny?
- 3. "HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD."

# BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

## Christian Love

Lawrence Couch 1:50 P.M.

Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian Love; The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The first verse of this song covers much of what the Christian life is all about. Love, unity, association, communion, partnership, caring and sharing; all these are wrapped up in the fellowship we enjoy as Christians.

### BODY:

- I. **LOVE IS THE TIE THAT BINDS THE FAMILY OF GOD TOGETHER.**
  - A. Christian hearts comforted and knit together. Col. 2:2
  - B. From the head (Christ) the whole body knit together. Col. 2:19
  - C. Love is the bond of perfectness. Col. 3:14
  - D. Christians have the same love, of one accord, one mind. Phil. 2:2
- II. **LOVE IS SEEN, NOT IN WORDS, BUT IN DEEDS.** I John 3:17,18
- III. **CHRISTIAN LOVE CAN BE SEEN IN OUR ATTITUDE.**
  - A. In our response to God and His commandments. In our response to the needs of others. (Through mercy, kindness, and forgiveness.)
  - B. Love seeks those things that are profitable to others. I Cor. 10:24
  - C. Everything must be done with love. I Cor. 16:14
  - D. Love motivates us to do those things which by example will encourage others to love and do good. Heb. 10:24
  - E. Love promotes positive results in our lives.

**IV. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF LOVE?**

- A. Love is of God. I John 4:7
- B. God is love. I John 4:8 **LOVE IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF GOD.**
- C. **HOW DO I KNOW GOD LOVES ME?**
  - 1. He tells me He loves me.
  - 2. Beyond saying, He has shown that He loves me.
  - 3. If He loved us, we ought to love one another. I John 4:10,11
- D. God's love is unconditional. Rom. 5:8
- E. His love is "a great" love. Eph. 2:4,5
- F. His love is "an everlasting" love. Jer. 31:3
- G. **GOD LOVES ALL MANKIND.** Titus 2:11-14; John 3:16; I John 2:2

**V. BECAUSE GOD LOVES US, HE EXPECTS US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. I JOHN 4:9**

- A. He commands us to love one another. John 13:34; II John 4:9
- B. God devoted the two greatest commandments to the subject of love.
- C. He commands us to love Him and to love our fellowman. Mark 12:30,31

**VI. HOW CAN I KNOW THAT I LOVE GOD?**

- A. When I keep His word. (Obey His commandments.) I John 2:5; I John 4:12; John 14:15; John 15:17

**VII. SOME MAY ASK CHRISTIANS; WHY DO YOU LOVE GOD?**

- A. God answers: We love Him because He first loved us. I John 4:19,20; I John 4:12

Verse 2. Before our Fathers throne We pour our ardent pray'r; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

**VIII. OUR PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED.**

- A. Christians share many things in common.
  - 1. We share a common faith. Titus 1:4

2. We share a common salvation. Jude verse 3. The end of our faith is the salvation of our souls. I Pet. 1:9
- B. Bonded together by love for God and for one another, we share fears, hopes, comforts and cares. Through it all we have the same goal in mind; SALVATION.
  1. We share our concerns through prayer for one another.
  2. Our duty is to pray for:
    - a. ALL MEN. I Tim. 2:1
    - b. ALL SAINTS. Eph. 6:10; Heb. 4:16
    - c. OUR ENEMIES. Matt. 5:44

Verse 3. We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows, A sympathizing prayer.

#### IX. MUTUAL BURDEN BEARING, MUTUAL CARING AND SHARING.

- A. A continuation of the previous verse.
- B. The apostle Paul sums this up in I Cor. 12:24-26
  1. God has tempered the body (the church) together. I Cor. 12:24
  2. Members should have the same care for one another. I Cor. 12:25
  3. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. I Cor. 12:26
  4. If one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. I Cor. 12:26
- C. Bear ye one another's burdens... Gal. 6:2

Verse 4. When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again.

#### X. A TIME OF PARTING.

- A. In the twentieth chapter of Acts the Apostle Paul, at Miletus, sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. Eph. 20:17
- B. He reminded them that they would see his face no more. Acts 20:25
- C. He warned that after his departing grievous wolves would enter in and not spare the flock. Acts 20:29
- D. He commended them to God. Acts 20:32

- E. After he had spoken, he kneeled down and prayed. Acts 20:36
- F. They all wept and kissed him. Acts 20:37
- G. Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. Acts 20:38

## XI. CONCLUSION



# "THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"

James R. Lewis 3:00

Duke

## INTRODUCTION:

1. Origin of this hymn.
  - a. "The Old Rugged Cross" was written in 1913 by George Bennard (1873-1958). He composed the melody first. Shortly after completing the hymn it was introduced at special meetings in Pokagon, Michigan on June 7, 1913. The first occasion it was heard outside of Pokagon was at the Chicago Evangelistic Institute where it was introduced before a large convention. The hymn soon became extremely popular throughout the country.
  - b. This hymn is generally thought to be the most popular of all twentieth century hymns. It became one of the most widely published songs, whether sacred or secular, in this country.
2. The four verses of "The Old Rugged Cross" draws us to the greatness of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our minds are centered on the greatest **love** ever displayed; the greatest **power** of attraction ever offered to man; the greatest **pardon** ever granted unto man; and the greatest **commitment** ever to be made by man.

## BODY:

- I. **THE GREATEST LOVE** — "...where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain."
  - A. God's love is measured by what He does (John 3:16; Isaiah 53:4-9; Rom. 5:6-8).
  - B. Our love for God is measured by what we do (John 14:15; I John 5:1-3).
- II. **THE GREATEST ATTRACTION** — "...So despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me."
  - A. The drawing power of the cross is phenomenal (John 3:14,15; 12:32).
    1. The Jews were drawn by the cross (Acts 2:22-24, 36-41).
    2. Those of Samaria were drawn (Acts 8:5, 12).

3. A man of Ethiopia is drawn (Acts 8:30-38).

4. The Gentiles are drawn (Acts 10:34-43).

B. The appeal of the cross never wanes.

1. Offers salvation, a new life, victory over death, eternal life (Rom. 1:16; 6:3-9; Heb. 2:14,15; Rom. 6:22,23).

2. *Nothing* will ever surpass its glory (Gal. 6:14).

### III. THE GREATEST PARDON — “...For twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me.”

A. *Only* by the blood of Christ could “I” be redeemed (I Pet. 1:18-21).

B. To be *pardoned* means:

1. Forgive of *all* sins.

2. Set free from the penalty of sin (eternal condemnation, separation from God, lake of fire).

3. I am born into the family of God (I Pet. 1:22,23); recipient of all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3); joint-heirs with Christ and will be glorified with Him (Rom. 8:16,17).

### IV. THE GREATEST COMMITMENT — “...To the old rugged cross I will ever be true.”

A. A good soldier is of undivided allegiance (II Tim. 2:1-4).

B. *Nothing* takes precedence over our allegiance to the cross (Luke 14:26,27,33).

### CONCLUSION:

1. The cross of Christ is the way unto life — offered to all mankind through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 2:1,2; 15:1-4).

a. Some reject it; some despise it.

b. Some cherish it, cling to it, and some day will receive a crown because of it.

2. The way of the cross leads home. There is no other way but this.

# STANDING ON THE PROMISES

Tracy Dugger 4/05

## INTRODUCTION:

1. What drove Abraham to perform the mighty acts of faith we read about?
2. Why did he endure such trials?
3. One Reason: Hebrews 11:13 — He was standing on the promises!

## BODY:

### I. TITLE DEFINED.

- A. "Standing" — firmly founded, unmoved
  1. Illustrated in Romans 4:18-21
- B. "Promises"
  1. "Promises" refer to God's, not man's promises.
  2. Characteristics of God's Promises (Heb. 6:11-19):
    - a. There is no hope without God's promises.
    - b. Immutable — unchanging
    - c. Foundation — Anchor

### II. VERSE 1.

- A. Identifies whose promises we are discussing — "Christ my King"
  1. No greater one that we can rely upon because He has proven Himself to be Deity (John 20:30-31).
- B. Identifies our response since these promises are Christ's.
  1. We are to ring His praises eternally; shouting & singing.
  2. Rejoicing as a result! — we have the faith

### III. VERSE 2.

- A. "Cannot Fail" (Impossible — Hebrews 6:18)
  1. Some things God cannot do. God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
- B. Trials & Tribulations ("Howling Storms") are not to hinder my service and faith.
  1. Hebrews 6:19 — anchor
- C. "I Shall Prevail" — Conquest

1. How? By the Living Word (Heb. 4:12)

#### IV. VERSE 3.

- A. "Lord" — implies submission; Lordship; obedience
- B. Identifies the duration of our dependence — "eternally"
- C. Bound by Love
  - 1. This could not occur without His love and our's in return.
  - 2. John 3:16; John 14:15
- D. Overcoming **Daily** with the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
  - 1. Study (Acts 17:11)

#### V. VERSE 4.

- A. I cannot fall *when* I stand on the promises!
  - 1. II Pet. 1:10; I Cor. 10:13
- B. Spirit's Call — I Tim. 4:1; II Pet. 1:19-20
- C. Resting — overcoming (Rev. 14:13)
  - 1. Hebrews 13:6
- D. All in All — all sufficient

*2nd Tim. 4:14  
as though I were  
the Lord*

#### VI. GOD'S PROMISES.

- A. Put our Trust & Confidence in!
- B. Unconditional & Conditional

#### VII. GOD NEVER PROMISED.

- A. Religious World — Premillennialism, Salvation extended to unbaptized, sinner's prayer, faith only, etc...
- B. In the Body — Lukewarmness, Exempt from Trials, & False Doctrines.

#### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Final Words in the song — "I am standing on the promises of God."
  - a. Personal Responsibility
- 2. Will you stand on His promises?

# FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Kent Bailey *6.00*

**TEXT:** Hebrews 2:1-2

## INTRODUCTION:

1. The witnesses of our text are the heroes of the Faith in chapter eleven. They had a confidence in God and wavered not in their obedience and dedication to Him.
2. As Christians, we need to look at the past and take special note of **THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS**. We need to look at the faithfulness of those, who lived, loved, and served the God of Heaven before us. We need a revival of that **FAITH OF OUR FATHERS!** Such is needed in order that our present generation within the church may be reminded of the past, and that those without of the church may learn of the way of truth!

## BODY:

### I. THE MEANING OF THE WORD FAITH.

- A. The New Testament word **FAITH** (*PISTIS*) is used in two primary ways:
  1. Personal trust — Hebrews 11:1-6
  2. A systematic form of teaching — Gal. 3:23-29; Jude 3
- B. Whether we speak of **FAITH** as **PERSONAL TRUST**, or as **SYSTEMATIC TEACHING, THE FAITH, i.e., THE GOSPEL**; it will greatly benefit us to examine the lives and the faith of those faithful, who lived before us, to encourage us to walk in the steps of **THE FAITH** — Romans 4:12

### II. THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS.

- A. In studying the lives of those **FAITHFUL** of the past, one will note specific attributes:
  1. **THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS** was a **LIVING FAITH**.  
— James 2:20-26
  2. **THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS** was a **SACRIFICIAL FAITH** — Galatians 2:20

3. THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS was a STEADFAST FAITH — II Timothy 1:11-12

B. The world was not worthy of the lives lived by those dedicated and godly servants of the past — Hebrews 11:32-40

### III. THE FAITH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT HEROES.

A. Abel's sacrifice — Hebrews 11:4

1. Although dead, he continues to speak

2. His faith came from a willingness to hear the word of God — Rom. 10:17

3. Without that word, Abel would not have known of the type of worship to render unto the Lord.

B. Enoch's Translation — Hebrews 11:5-6

1. Faith comes from evidence.

2. Obedience comes from faith.

3. The faith that would cause God to work a miracle would thus be a miraculous faith.

4. Miracles have CEASED, therefore miraculous faith is no longer extant, however, the principle of dedicated trust remains!

C. Noah's Building the Ark — Hebrews 11:7

1. John 6:45

2. Noah heard, learned, believed, and obeyed!

D. Moses' Choice — Hebrews 11:23-29

1. Faith comes by hearing and such changed Moses' life.

2. He did not allow the love of pleasure, nor the hurt of hardship to alter his course!

### IV. THE FAITH OF FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANS.

A. Stephen — Acts 6:5-7:60

1. Identified as one full of faith.

2. First Christian to be martyred.

B. Paul — II Timothy 4:6-8

1. An unwavering trust led him into such service that he carried the Gospel into all the world — Colossians 1:23

2. The life he lived in the flesh, he lived in the faith of the Son of God, because of Salvation offered in His name — Gal. 2:20; II Tim. 1:15

3. Because of Paul's great Faith he endured countless sufferings — II Cor. 12:22-28

- C. A host of un-named Christians willing to suffer on behalf of the name of Christ, rather than bring reproach upon His cause — I Pet. 4:12-19

**V. THE FAITH OF GREAT CHRISTIANS OF BOTH THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES, WHO BROUGHT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST TO THIS PRESENT GENERATION.**

- A. Many within the church of our Lord have forgotten the blood, sweat, toil, and tears of those faithful and gallant men and women of yesteryear, who planted the church in this region.
- B. Many of our preachers refuse to quote faithful men such as WALLACE, WOODS, and NICHOLS, but have no problem in quoting false teachers such as BARTH, SCHULER, and SWINDOLL.
- C. Many are scoffing at the sacrifices made by the faithful before us, yet were it not for those sacrifices, they would not enjoy the prosperity of a flourishing congregation where they preach today.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. **GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD A PEOPLE!** Many a foolish conqueror has made the mistake of thinking that because he had forced the church of Christ out of sight, he had stilled its voice and snuffed out its life, but **GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD A PEOPLE!** The powerful current of a rushing river is not diminished because it is forced to flow underground; the purest water is the stream that bursts forth crystal clear into the sunlight after it has forced its way through solid rock!
2. There have been charlatans who, like Simon the Magician, sought to barter on the open market that power which could not be bought or sold, but **GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD A PEOPLE!** Men who could not be bought and women who were beyond the purchase.
3. **GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD A PEOPLE!** There have been times of affluence and prosperity when the message of the Gospel has been nearly diluted into oblivion by those who sought to make it more socially attractive, neatly organized, and financially profitable. It has been gold-plated, draped in purple, and encrusted with jewels. It has been misrepresented, ridiculed, lauded and scorned. These followers of Christ have been,

according to the whims of times, elevated as sacred leaders, and martyred as heretics, yet through it all there marches on that powerful army of the meek, GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE, who cannot be bought, flattered, murdered, or stilled — THE CHURCH, CHRIST'S CHURCH TRIUMPHANT, ALIVE AND WELL!



# HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE!

Larry Hendrix *LH*

## INTRODUCTION:

1. The word Heaven is used 582 times in 550 verses.
2. If Heaven was not important, it would not have been mentioned so many times.
3. Heaven is the place where the Godhead lives.
4. A place that God desires for all mankind to live.
  - a. I Timothy 2:4 *"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*
  - b. II Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us-ward, now willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*
5. If we live faithfully to God, we can live in this place called Heaven, and in so doing, we will have accomplished the goal that God set for us.
6. Many have said that they want to go to Heaven to miss Hell, our attitude should be one of the opposite, we should want to go to this city because of it's beauty and glory.
7. The scriptures emphasize the reward that awaits the righteous, and in so doing, a picture is painted for the human mind so it can at least get an idea of just how beautiful Heaven must be.
8. The gloryland is only promised to those that carefully obey the commands of God.
9. We can have no promise of entry into the city that lies four-square unless we have obeyed the requirements that have been given.
  - a. Mark 16:16
10. We will not be allowed to walk the streets paved with gold if we do not:
  - a. Worship God accordingly and serve our fellowman (John 4:24 Matt. 25:35-36).
  - b. Visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions (James 1:27).

- c. Do good unto all men (Gal. 6:10).  
11. What does the Bible teach about Heaven?

### BODY:

- I. **HEAVEN IS A PLACE THAT IS REAL AND REACHABLE.**
- A. I have heard men make the statement that they will never make it to Heaven, with that kind of attitude, they are probably right.
1. We must believe that Heaven is reachable.
  2. God would have never told us about this beautiful city if He thought no one could reach it.
  3. Jesus clearly stated that Heaven is real and that it can be reached.
    - a. John 14:1-3
  4. God told Abraham, *"look toward Heaven"* (Gen. 15:5).
    - a. Would God make such a statement if Heaven was out of reach? Of course not.
  5. What about the Apostle Paul, he portrayed Heaven as a real and reachable place.
    - a. II Cor. 12:2
    - b. II Cor. 5:1
  6. Notice what Peter says.
    - a. I Peter 1:3-4
    - b. II Peter 1:11
  7. We have John describing Heaven in Revelation chapters 21-22.
  8. Surely, anyone that believes in God, believes in Heaven and it's beauty.
- B. Have you ever heard the statement **"this must be heaven on earth?"** Things may be good from time to time on this earth, but HEAVEN is not here on this EARTH.
1. Heaven is a place that will be everlasting, it will exist forever.
  2. This earth will be burned up, therefore Heaven can't be here on this earth.
    - a. II Peter 3:9-13
  3. Nothing in this world is permanent, the best of all things decay and fade away. In Heaven, nothing will decay nor fade away.
    - a. We sing the song "Where The Roses Never Fade," on earth they decay away, in heaven they never fade.

## II. HEAVEN — HOW BEAUTIFUL IT MUST BE.

- A. When God describes Heaven and it's beauty, we must use human comparison.
1. I believe Heaven and it's beauty is beyond man's imagination.
  2. We often try to compare the beauty of Heaven by something in this world.
    - a. Sunset sparkling off the ocean.
    - b. The beauty of the Fall colors.
    - c. The new birth of the vegetation in the Spring.
    - d. A crystal clear sky at night with the moon shining bright.
  3. These are beautiful, but would be considered ugly, compared to the beauties of Heaven.
- B. Those that have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, are looking for this city.
1. II Peter 3:13 *"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."*
- C. The great men in Hebrews chapter 11 all died in faith, but yet, they were looking for a better country.
1. Hebrews 11:13-16
- D. **THE CITY** — as John saw it in Revelation.
1. It's general appearance was bright and splendid (Rev. 21:11).
  2. The walls of the city are great and high, and made of jasper, and the city is like unto pure gold, so pure that it appears as crystal (Rev. 21:12-18).
  3. The twelve gates of the city are each one composed of a single pearl (Rev. 21:12,13,21).
  4. The foundations of the city are twelve precious stones, corresponding to the apostles of the Lamb.
  5. The city lies foursquare, and is enormous! **Three hundred and seventy-five miles high, and wide, and long.** A beautiful figure!
  6. No temple there, for it is all temple.
  7. It glows with the light of God's presence.
    - a. Revelation 21:23 *"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof."*

- b. No sun! No moon! No stars! For the glory of God is the light thereof.
- c. No need for artificial light, for the Lamb is its lamp.
- 8. The gates of the city are never shut.
  - a. Revelation 21:25-27.
- 9. Notice how John sums it all up.
  - a. Revelation 22:1-5.

### III. HEAVEN IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE FOR A PREPARED PEOPLE.

- A. It is sad but true, that many will not make it into Heaven.
  - 1. Those that *"know not God and obey not the Gospel"* (II Thess. 1:7-9).
  - 2. The *"lukewarm"* won't make it (Rev. 3:15-16).
  - 3. Those that *"know to do good and doeth it not"* (James 4:17).
  - 4. Those that practice *"wickedness"* of any kind (Rev. 21:8).
- B. There will be those that make it to this beautiful city.
  - 1. Those that have the zeal and desire to go there.
  - 2. Those that can see they are lost without Christ.
    - a. Matt. 11:28-30.
    - b. John 5:30.
    - c. John 6:66.
  - 3. The obedient.
    - a. Luke 6:46 *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"*
  - 4. Those that overcome the world.
    - a. Revelation 2:7 *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."*
  - 5. Those whose names are written in the lamb's book of life.
    - a. Revelation 21:27 *"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."*

### CONCLUSION:

- 1. Heaven will truly be a beautiful place, for many reasons:
  - a. The absence of everything that afflicts, and torments.

- b. No more tears! God shall wipe away every tear from every eye.
  - c. No more graves on the hillside of glory, no more separations, we will never again sit on the bedside of a loved one and watch them take their last breath of life.
  - d. No pain! No shock! No more distress! No more suffering!
2. Heaven has more to offer than just it's beauty. Heaven has it all!
  3. Revelation 21:6 *"And he said unto me, It is done, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."*
  4. Mark 16:16 *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*
  5. Don't you want to go to this place called Heaven?
  6. **HOW BEAUTIFUL HEAVEN MUST BE!**





