

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul...

THE TESTIMONY

...of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." Psalm 19:7

— VERSE OF THE MONTH —

*"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body;
and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15*

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THANKFUL ENOUGH

O, Lord, as we live so blessed, so free,
Are our hearts as thankful as they should be?
With our garners full, help us day by day
To always be thankful enough to PRAY.

O, Father, we know we have been supplied
With all that we need, and a Savior who died,
O, help us to follow Thee all of our days,
And always be thankful enough to PRAISE.

When our trials come, and our strength gives way,
When we think that we've suffered today,
Help us to give thanks for the smallest thing
And remain always thankful enough to SING.

There are others around us, Lord, in our land,
Who need some cheer, and a helping hand.
Help us to lift burdens each day, each mile.
And always be thankful enough to SMILE.

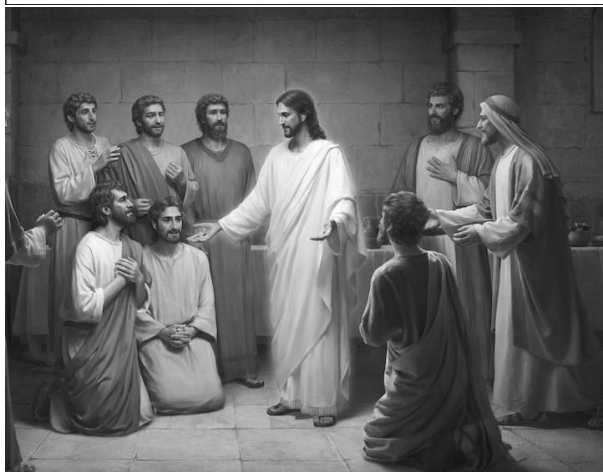
And then, Lord, we ask just one thing more,
We know we have plenty in basket and store,
As we pray, and praise, and sing, and live,
Help us to be thankful enough to GIVE!

Lowell Miller

THE TESTIMONY

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“...Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”
Matt. 28:20

EDITORIAL

**THE UNCHANGING
PROMISE**

In the midst of ever-changing scenes of uncertainty and sadness on the world scene, believers have a strong foundation upon which they stand.

The Scriptures offer to the church of God everywhere the stable and solid foundation of history, teaching, and prophecy. It is from this treasury that the saints draw comfort and direction.

Throughout this blessed Book, as the history of God's people unfolds, there is a recurring promise from God that is given over and over again. It is the blessed assurance that God will be with them! What a necessary assurance this is, in the midst of life's trials, afflictions, and uncertainties!

We notice this assurance given from God in various ways and in needful times.

1. Genesis 26:3—Isaac was told, "...I will be with thee..." when the Lord instructed him where to dwell.

2. Genesis 28:15—Jacob was told, "I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest."

3. Deuteronomy 31:6—Israel was told, "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

4. When Jesus was preparing to depart and return to the Father,

He told the new believers, "And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (The end of the *age*.)

Sometimes and in various places, God's people have felt very much alone and oppressed. They have been singled out for persecution and affliction at the hands of men. They have been sidelined, spoken against, and have suffered the loss of their jobs and property. They have often needed assurance from the Scriptures, and from each other, that the promise given to God's people in all ages is still true.

Do you need that assurance just now? Are you struggling to feel sure that this unchanging promise is still true for you and your family and loved ones today?

When Job was suffering much, and could find no relief, he said these words: "Oh, that I knew where I might find him...Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him; he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him" (Job 23:3-9).

God was very much present in the midst of Job's trial, but Job needed assurance of His Presence.

We simply desire to give assurance to the sincere Christian reader just now that God's promise is still true. Though many years

have passed, and though there are sometimes great trials that bring with them questions that may not find answers in this life, there is something that gives us joy, and can give comfort to the anxious heart.

It is that word from the Father that comes to us through His Son. "I am with you."

Believe it. Take comfort in it. It is the Unchanging Promise from above.

Lowell Miller

GENERAL

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

For this writing we will define a "right" as an inherent privilege that can't be rescinded and a "privilege" as any benefit that is bestowed by an authority. What are the rights and privileges of Kingdom Christians?

Recently a conservative congregation had the doors of their meeting house locked by the police. At issue was their willful violation of local ordinances requiring masking and limiting assembly during a spike in the COVID pandemic. The pastor publicly instructed his people that this was a small price to pay compared to that paid by martyrs in ages past. He waived a copy of the Bill of Rights before his congregation's eyes and insisted that their God-ordained rights were being violated.

As a people with dual citizenship, can we claim the rights bestowed by our government as well as those of God's kingdom? The Declaration of Independence of the United States declares "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as

our unalienable right. Do conscientious objectors who do not defend these rights by force share these rights with those whose loved ones fought and died for them? Our government as a worldly kingdom has been charged with maintaining order and punishing evil doers (see Rom. 13). Citizens of God's kingdom are privileged to live with such God-ordained protections against a worse evil of anarchy. As "pilgrims and strangers" (I Pet. 2:11) we are commanded to honor the king (governmental authority) whenever we can do so without violating our allegiance to the Higher Authority. The first amendment to the United States Constitution gives its citizens the right to assemble, protects our religious beliefs and prevents the government from favoring one religion over another. If we feel these "rights" have been violated by our government, administered unfairly, or are influenced by evil forces, are we entitled to ignore them?

When the Apostle Peter was commanded by the authorities un-

der the direction of the Jewish leaders to cease preaching Jesus, he responded, “We ought to obey God rather than man” (Acts 5:29). Just days previous at Pentecost he and the other disciples had been commissioned to be the Lord’s witnesses. The principle here seems to be a clear command by our Lord that could not be accommodated by silence. Likewise, bearing arms against a national enemy leaves us a choice to either fight and disobey God or obey God and refuse conscription by our government. The third option is to humbly accept the privilege granted us by government provision for alternate service.

However much we may disagree with the motives and methods of governmental response to a public health threat, we have no basis for insisting on our rights to assemble or our right to worship as long as there is an option to assemble and worship in compliance with these mandates—perhaps with just two or three? Are we any more privileged than fellow believers elsewhere who must worship under the real threat of persecution? Perhaps social distancing and wearing masks are mere inconveniences? While we may have strong opinions about how to respond to the pandemic, public defiance is not an option for a Kingdom Christian.

We are blessed to have been placed in a land of many privileges. A thankful response may go far to gain favor when it is necessary to resist or appeal through available channels in our allegiance to Christ. As citizens of God’s kingdom it seems unwise to appeal to our constitutional rights in such cases, regardless of our legal standing to do so. Jesus reminded us that we are citizens of His kingdom and therefore must not use force to resist oppression (John 18:36). As our culture has entered a post-Christian phase, greater challenges are likely ahead. We are not suggesting compromise of the principles of Christ, but rather carefully choosing the “hill to die on.”

We are aware of but one right promised to us by our Lord. That right is given without merit of our own but was bought on Calvary by the blood our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This right is granted to us by His grace when we receive Him by faith, repent (turn) from our sins and yield to His Lordship. *“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city”* (Rev. 22:14).

Stanley Boyd

THE GLORY OF GOD

The Fear of God—Part 3

The Key to open God's storehouse of manifold treasures is the Fear of the Lord as given to us in Isaiah 33:5–6.

As we grow in our knowledge of the Glory of God, and His grandeur and magnificence, it will lead us to a greater understanding of the Fear of the Lord. It is important to have a proper biblical image of who God really is. As we show reverence and stand in awe of God, and as we spend more time in His presence through prayer and Bible reading, we will gain greater and greater glimpses of God's Glory.

Meanings of the Glory of God

The Greek word for Glory, "*dóxa*," means splendor, brightness, excellence, preeminence, majesty.

The Hebrew word for Glory, "*kâbôd*," means "heaviness or weight." The Glory of God is the overwhelming manifestation of God's presence. Included in the definition is largest, abundance, honor, most grand, supreme power, great importance, respect, honor, majesty, splendor, and brilliance.

The Glory of God is so great, it is impossible for us to fully describe or comprehend how glorious He really is. His might and power are without limit, and He is far superior to any other. We can get

only just a glimpse of His majesty.

It is important for us to seek a greater perspective and understanding of the Glory of God, for it will produce a godly fruit in our lives, with a greater degree of worship, wonder, and awe of who He really is.

Jesus was not initially recognized.

John 1:11— "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

How disrespectful it would be for some earthy king or leader to go to another country, and no one treated him like royalty or with any respect.

Jesus is far greater than any earthly ruler, yet He was not shown the honor and respect He rightfully should have received.

The people were blinded to the truth of who Jesus is.

The response of men who encountered God

Let's look at several men in the Bible who had a close encounter with God and see how they responded to being in the presence of the Lord.

Abram—Genesis 17:1–3— "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

"And I will make my covenant between me and thee and will multiply thee exceedingly.

“And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying...”

Moses—the leader of Israel, the great law giver. The strong desire of Moses in Exodus 33:18 was, “show me thy Glory.”

The whole chapter of Exodus 33 tells of a discussion between Moses and God. Moses was given an overwhelming task to lead the children of Israel to the promised land, and yet God was frustrated with the sinfulness of man in the previous chapter (Exod. 32) and their idol worship of the golden calf. Moses plead for God to show him the Glory of God. God said no man in the flesh could see His face and live. Yet God did promise Moses that He would put him in a cleft of the rock, and cover Moses with His hand, and as the Glory of God would pass over, God would remove His hand and Moses could see God’s back, but not His face.

The next chapter (Exod. 34) tells us that when Moses came down from the mountain after being in the presence of God, that his face was shining so brightly that he had to cover up his face when he was speaking with the children of Israel.

The Glory of God includes light and brightness, and it casts away all darkness.

I John 1:5 says, “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you,

that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

Daniel—a special man of God who was given a vision of future events.

Daniel 8:16–18—“And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

“So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

“Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face toward the ground; but he touched me, and set me upright.”

We see here that Daniel fell upon his face when he got a glimpse of God’s power and Glory. Daniel was given a special view of God’s mighty power and future events to unfold on the earth. This vision was so glorious it took away all his strength to remain standing, so he fell on his face before the Lord.

Paul—a special messenger of the Gospel. In Acts 9 we read of Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, an Apostle. As Saul was going to Damascus with letters of authority to put Christians in jail, the Lord revealed Himself to Saul with a bright light from heaven.

Acts 9:3–4—“And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round

about him a light from heaven:

“And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?”

We see here that when Saul encountered Jesus, he fell to the earth. He immediately saw and felt the greatness of God’s power and Glory. Saul realized that this bright light was overwhelming, and his response was to fall to the earth in wonder and worship.

Ezekiel—Ezekiel 1:27–28—“And I saw as the color of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.

“As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.”

Ezekiel 3:23 says, “Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face.”

Peter, James, and John—When at the Mount of Transfiguration, Matthew says in 17:1–6 “And after six days Jesus taketh

Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart,

“And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

“And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

“Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

“While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

“And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.”

Apostle John—the beloved disciple. Revelation 1:17—“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.”

Here is another example of when John saw the Lord Jesus in His brightness and he fell upon his face in reverence, awe, and worship.

The Heavenly Multitude

Revelation 7:9–11—“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude,

which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

“And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

“And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God...”

Others who encountered God

Balaam—Numbers 22:31; **Joshua**—Joshua 5:14; **Manoah**—Judges 13:20

Here is a summary of man's response to the Glory of God:

When these men encountered the presence of God and they saw a glimpse of the Glory of God, they all had the same response, they fell on their faces in the overwhelming presence of the Glory of God. They all recognized their weakness and their limitations compared to the greatness, the power, the splendor, and majesty of Almighty God.

The Glory of God includes His Holiness

The Holiness of God describes His goodness, purity, power.

Holiness is part of the very character and nature of God.

Holiness is a hatred for sin.

Holiness is a deep love for righteousness.

Holiness encompasses that which is sacred, set apart, sanctified.

God is absolutely and completely Holy!

God is calling us to be Holy, as He is Holy (I Pet. 1:16).

Isaiah 6:1–5—“In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

“Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

“And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

“Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

Names of God

As we grow in our awareness of the Glory of God, let's include learning more about the names and meaning of God. The names of God, and their meanings will reveal more about the Glory of God.

Here is a short list to start with on the Names of God. (There are more.)

Names of the Lord:

(Hebrew Meanings)

“Adonai”— “The Lord, My Great Lord.” (Ps. 8)

“El”— “The Strong One.” (Exod. 15:2)

“El Elyon”— “The God most High.” (Gen. 14:17–22)

“Elohim”— “The all-powerful one, Creator.” (Gen. 1:1–3)

“El Shaddai”— “The all sufficient one.” (Genesis 17:1–3)

“Immanuel”— “God with us.” (Isa. 7:14)

“Jehovah”— “I AM, The Existent One.” (Exod. 3:14)

“Jevohah-Jireh”— “The Lord will Provide.” (Gen. 22:14)

“Jevohah-Nissi”— “The Lord my Banner.” (Exod. 17:15)

“Jevohah-Shalom”— “The Lord my Peace.” (Jud. 6:24)

“Jovohah-Tsidkenu”— “The Lord our Righteousness.” (Jer. 23:6)

“Jevohah-Shammah”— “The Lord is There.” (Ezek. 48:35)

“Jehovah-Mekaddesh”— “The Lord who Sanctifies.” (Exod. 31:13)

“El-Shaddai”— “The Lord Almighty.” (Gen. 17:1)

Our understanding of The Glory of God is a growing process in our heart and mind to reveal the very character, the nature, the very essence, and the attributes of God Almighty.

The Glory of God filled the Temple

I Kings 8:10–11— “And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

“So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.”

God’s actual presence was so overwhelming, so great that the priests could not do their normal work in the Temple.

Observations concerning The Glory of God

It was a manifestation of God’s divine presence.

When revealed to man, men fell on their faces before Him.

It appeared in a very bright light, even brighter than our sun in the sky.

It was a display of God’s mighty power.

The ultimate manifestation of the Glory of God is Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 4:6 says, “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Of all the wonderful displays of the Glory of God, such as the night sky, a beautiful sunset, a beautiful

flower, the innocence and joy of a new born baby, the human body and even more, nothing can match the wonder and splendor of the greatest gift of all time, that is in Jesus Christ, and His birth, His life, His sacrifice, His death, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension, His intercession. Halleluiah! What a Savior!

We are to be changed into His Glory

II Corinthians 3:18— “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

God desires us to be on a path-way of spiritual growth.

God desires us to mature and conform to the image of Jesus.

God's Eternal Glory will Shine Forever

Revelation 21:9–11— “And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal...”

Revelation 21:22–23— “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 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.”

In the New Jerusalem, the Glory of Jesus is so bright, so powerful, so clear that there will be no need for the actual sun.

The radiance and glory of Jesus will shine and enlighten every part of the New Jerusalem. The Lamb is the light!

Conclusion

As we grow in our understanding of the Glory of God, we will grow in the Fear of the Lord.

God wants to continue His mighty work in our lives, to transform us.

God is calling us to dwell continually in His presence. He wants to mold us, to fashion us, to shape us, to conform us into the image of His dear son, Jesus.

Our God is glorious in every way!

The Glory of God is so awesome that it cannot be fully described!

O Lord, thank you for every aspect of your glory!

Shine Jesus shine, fill this land with the Father's glory!

We will glorify thy name!

Randy Jenkins

A BRETHREN MARTYR, PETER SUMAN (1730–1781)¹

At this time, in the United States of America, most Christians live in relative peace, protected through the hand of God by a government which heretofore has assured relative religious freedom. There seem to be omens and forebodings, however, of more difficult times to come—shadows falling across the land, which one might see as premonitions that the religious freedom we now enjoy may not last indefinitely.

This religious freedom has not always existed even in these United States. Our Brethren forefathers escaped religious persecution in Europe, coming to colonial America beginning in 1719. As they arrived in Philadelphia many found their ways out into the wilderness of the southeastern Pennsylvania Colony. In time, some settled in adjacent New Jersey and Maryland. Pennsylvania was a Quaker colony and more friendly to the peace-loving Friends, Menonites, Brethren, and those of like mind. The more isolated areas of Maryland were relatively safe to German refugees, but some areas were not sympathetic toward the Peace Churches. Let us look at the

life and fate of one Brethren immigrant.

Peter Suman was born into a Brethren environment in Schriesheim, Germany, in about 1730. Schriesheim was the village where both Alexander Mack and his wife were born. But the Macks had left this area of Germany, first for Schwarzenau, later for The Netherlands, and finally for the Pennsylvania Colony by 1729. In about 1749 Peter Suman immigrated to an area of Lancaster County, later known as Berks County, Pennsylvania. In about 1754 he married Eleanor Miller, daughter of Michael Miller who is mentioned in Brethren histories as living in the area called Conococheague,² later known as the Antietam congregation (Price's House) near Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. In about 1754 Peter and his wife moved near to present day Burkittsville, Frederick County, Maryland. There he and his wife are listed as members of the Brethren Faith "from Conococheague Church" living in the Broad Run area, where the Brethren later established the Pleasant View Dunkard church.

Throughout the War for Independence there was a division among colonists over loyalty to

¹A valuable resource for this subject is *Allegheny Passage, Churches and Families West MARVA District Church of the Brethren, 1752–1990*; Emmert F. Bittinger; Penobscot Press; 1990, pgg. 220–226. In the 1950s Emmert Bittinger served as elder and pastor at the Pleasant View Church of the Brethren, Burkittsville, MD where he had access to valuable information and unwritten tradition passed down through families of that congregation.

²Pronounced Cōn-nōc'-ō-chēg.

King George III and the Revolutionary forces. The Brethren would not support either side of the conflict for, as was said, “God has not yet revealed to us which side is to be the lawful government.” The Peace Churches did not align with either side but were willing to serve quietly under any God-ordained government when it became clear as to which government that should be. There are lists in existence for that area of Maryland naming “nonparticipators” and “resistors,” those who failed or refused to support the Revolutionary forces. These lists were posted publicly for all to see. Anti-German sentiment ran high against Dunkards and Mennonites. Peter Suman had held a public office in a time before the Annual Meeting advised against the holding of public position.³ It is thought Peter and others may have been used as examples of turncoats and deserters by the Revolutionaries. At any rate, on June 6, 1781, seven men were convicted of treason in a trial in Fredericksburg, Maryland. These seven included Peter Suman of the German Baptist Brethren

Faith and at least one of the others was Mennonite. All were found guilty but only three were sentenced under laws against treason. The other four were excused because of age and inexperience. Copy of the execution sentence is in existence and reads, in part, as follows:⁴

“...I must now perform the painful Task of announcing the terrible Punishment ordained for High Treason...You, _____[names]_____ and each and every one of you, attend to your Sentence...You shall be carried from this place to the Goal [jail] of Frederick County, and hence to the gallows of Fredericktown and be hanged thereon. You shall be cut down to the Earth alive, and your Entrails shall be taken out and burnt while you are yet alive; your Head shall be cut off; your Body shall be divided into four Parts, and your Head and Quarters shall be placed where His Excellency—the Governor—shall appoint for public exhibition...So God have Mercy upon your Poor Souls.”

On August 17, 1781, Peter Suman⁵, Casper Fritchie⁶, and Yost Plecker⁷ were executed in the

³*Minutes of the Annual Meetings of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church 1778–2002*, Dickinson Press, Inc.; 2002; 1790, Art. 3.

⁴In recent years, hard copy material has surfaced which adds supportive evidence to former oral tradition.

⁵Peter Balthasar Suman (1727–1781); Find a Grave Memorial; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/137859040/peter-balthasar-suman>

⁶Casper Fritchie (1750–1781); Search of the internet shows repetition of the records found under Suman and Plecker. <http://www.historysharkproductions.com/living-united-for-80-years-part-i-a-community-chest/archives/07-2016>

⁷Yost Plecker; <https://emergingrevolutionarywar.org/2019/02/05/you-shall-be-carried-to-the-gaol-of-fredericktown-part-2/>

manner described above. Peter's real estate and property were confiscated by the Colonial Government. His wife Eleanor was permitted, with the assistance of dear Brethren from the Pleasant View congregation, to gather the parts. These were buried in a secret grave on the farm of a brother near the Brethren's Pleasant View Church at Burkittsville.

Many citizens in the area were repulsed by the sentence and executions carried out by a radical element in Frederick County. Many were ashamed of the event and had all evidence of the event purged from the court records, an early example of "re-writing history." In the absence of court records, historians of Frederick County and the state of Maryland have largely deleted history of these events, some even saying that, if the sentence was handed down, the execution may not have occurred. There remains oral tradition among the Brethren of the area to the contrary. That the historians should be ashamed of such events is not surprising, given the cruel and brutal results.

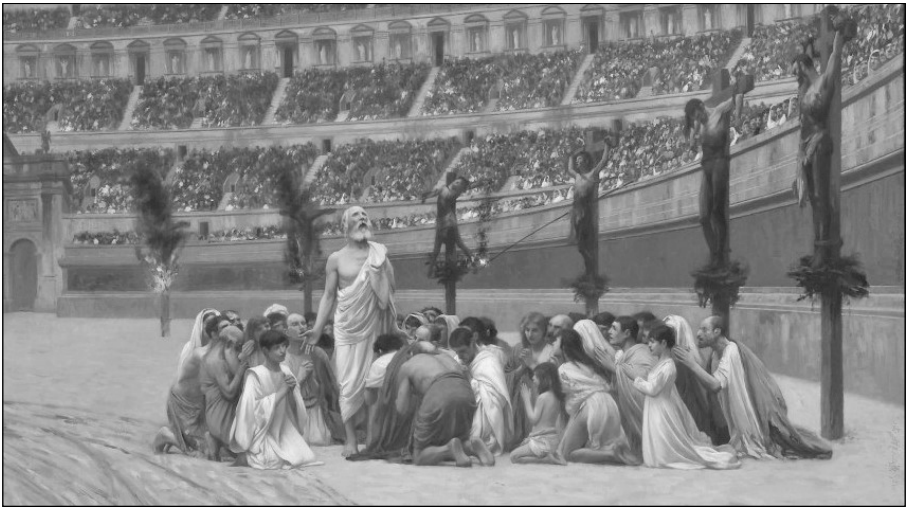
However, this seemed to be an action against Mennonite and Brethren nonviolence and their living out of the Two Kingdom teachings of Jesus. What happened at Fredericksburg, Maryland, was not unlike the martyrdom of Anabaptists in the early

1500s. There thousands of believers died at the hands of the church and state by torture and the cruellest forms of execution.

Christians have suffered severe persecution over the millennia. The Anabaptists suffered especially in the 1500s, in the 1700s, and in any times when the nation in which they have lived is at war. At present, Christians are tolerated in this country. It may not always be so. Adversity could happen again. Further change in attitude of government or citizenry might impact some of the biblical principles which we hold dear—the sanctity of family, the nuclear home, distinction in gender identity, the importance of Kingdom separation, etc. Violence and lawlessness are already manifesting themselves. We must be thankful for present freedoms but pray that a Heavenly Father will spare His faithful people such suffering again. While Satan seems, at times, to have the upper hand, we know that God will not permit the righteous to be destroyed with the wicked.

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation [*pi-ras-mos* = adversity]: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

Marcus Miller



FROM GLORY TO GLORY

One morning while reading II Corinthians 3, I noticed the use of the word glory several times. That spurred me on to study that thought. It became noticeable that there was a contrast between the Old Testament glory and the New Testament glory. Further research revealed there are some forty references throughout the New Testament that emphasize the two glories. It was very exciting to pursue this study.

When we examine the words "New Testament," we observed how they may be thought of as a "Last Will and Testament." Some Bibles use those words at the beginning of the New Testament. Most of us know what constitutes a Will. Basically, it is the final instructions of a testator who is the author of the instructions. We all know that a Will has no effect unless the testator is deceased. So Jesus, the testator, has died and as a result, we who have accepted and surrendered to His Will are heirs and beneficiaries to the contents and teachings of His Will. Isn't that a comforting thought? The Bible teaches

we are priests and joint heirs with Him. Have you claimed your beneficial rights? Think about this. In this life we all seem to be anxious about our physical inheritance. But how about the inheritances of the Will of Jesus, the Christ? Do a study of the benefits of this Will. Make a list of all you can find. You will be amazed and receive much comfort with what you will find. These benefits last forever, while the inheritance from our parents only last while we are in this world. What is your status right now? We are either an heir, or we are not an heir.

Consider an architect. It is one who draws plans for a project to be built. Jesus is the architect of the Last Will and Testament for which He intends us to be the beneficiaries. You and I are the architects of our lives; that is, we envision the end result utilizing our inheritances. We become an heir and are included in the Will of Jesus, the Christ, a position in God's plan. This Will is the New Testament, not the Old Testament. The last Will always supersedes all those before it. So herein lies the glory that is so much better than the

Old Testament glory. Read Galatians 2:19–21 and take note of the contrast. Paul is teaching, I through the law (OT) am dead to the law (OT) that I might live unto God (NT) (Gal. 3:24–25). Wherefore, the law (OT) was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ (NT), that we might be justified by faith (NT). But after that faith (NT) is come, we are no longer under the schoolmaster (OT). Observe II Corinthians 3:7, which says, “But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious [OT], so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory [OT] of his countenance; which glory [OT] was to be done away...” Read verses 9 through 18. The New Testament glory exceeds, and excelleth the glory of the Old Testament. Look up the following references: II Corinthians 5:12, 8:19–23, and 10:17. Turn over to Hebrews and read all chapters.

Watch for the contrast. The additional references are too numerous for this writing. I simply encourage you to meditate on all these glory references that are available in any concordance. You will be rewarded bountifully with this study.

The New Testament “Grace” is alive and the Old Testament “Law” is done away (II Cor. 3:7–18). There are many lessons all through the Old Testament and they are always in place, but the “Law” is dead. Could it be that holding on to some or all of the “Law” would be a form of rejection of the teachings of Jesus? If any of the teachings of Jesus refers to or carries over from the “Law,” let us take note, we are following the glory of Jesus, not the glory of the Law. We cannot serve both. Let us find the glory of Jesus, support and teach it, get

in it and stay in it. Surely none of us want to be guilty of rejection of Jesus our Savior and the Son of God. The Last Will and Testament, the New and Living Way, is in effect now. So where are you in this plan of things? Do you want the inheritance of Jesus’ Will? Which glory are you living under? Some of us may need to reassess our lives and motives. What governs you? It needs to be the Last Will and Testament. I do encourage you to take a little time and study the references. Set a time and join another family or two with their children and search out the nuggets that are there. May God endow you with the desire to search out the principles of the New Testament and observe why it is so much better than the Old Testament Law. We are living in the last days and if you want the benefit of the Will of Jesus, start now.

Dallas W. Meador

PROVISION

On a still hot morning toward the end of the summer, here in Ohio, we hear the familiar honking of the Canada geese flying south. By this time, the beautiful songbirds of spring have built their nests, reared their young, and one day we miss their singing because they too have gradually gone south. Instead we hear the cicada in the day and the crickets and katydids at night. The harvest of the garden is being gathered in and jars of beans line the shelf. The cucumbers are run through the pickling process and in ten days turn crisp and sweet. The sweet corn is cut and frozen.



The summer fruits are brought from the north and for a couple of weeks the house smells like fresh peaches and pears as they ripen for canning. The tomatoes are sauced, and potatoes and onions dug. By and by the frost is on the pumpkin, the fire on the hearth, and we have a little time to count our blessings and thank God for His provision in seed time and harvest.

All of a sudden last year we couldn't find lids for canning. We took stock; was there enough to can what wouldn't freeze well? Could we do the regular two dozen quarts of beans for a friend? Why was this happening, and what if we couldn't get any with the next order all the stores across four counties placed with their suppliers? We remembered a time in our youth when Mother and the neighboring sisters were in a tizzy over the same thing. It seems that somehow they were able to find them later in the season. We heard from a friend in Maryland, who was in an end-of-the-world canning mode—doing for two people

what our sisters would for a family. While I was impressed with her skill because you don't commonly see this among the women of our day, I got the picture. She apparently wasn't the only one. Our canning season is all year long, soon it would be time to butcher and many stores would not restock lids.

No Bible reading Christian is ignorant of where time is taking us, nor for that matter, are many unbelievers. We saw this happen in 1999 as Y2K caused people to become anxious. I quietly sat and listened to a group of women discuss a possible food shortage only to suffer a jolt when one of them said, "Well, if I can't get food I know where I'm going," and looked directly at me. Since I had more than once tried to interest her in gardening only to see one go to weeds with the excuse that she was afraid to visit our community garden in a small town, all I could think was, "You'll have the same ration as the rest of us, and next year seeds will get planted and cared for," knowing that

when people panic it won't work that way.

No one expected what happened in March of 2020. For a lot of people, what looked like a three or four week vacation sounded nice. When it became obvious that they wouldn't be returning to work soon and the money was rapidly dwindling, then the vacation was over. Within the month families were lining up at our local food pantry in their cars for several blocks, and the National Guard was soon helping with food delivery. I happened to be in a Walmart when I watched an elderly man of little means try to do his weekly grocery shopping and realized that some, the poor, cannot prepare and were left with spare shelves.

Then it began to rain and rain. As we would notice now and then, China was in trouble. The flooding was stretching their rivers and dams. Many homes and crops were destroyed and their government began to act in some ways that would raise American eyebrows. Waste and overeating were frowned on.

We often think of the dry starving African nations, but really, the problem is extremes of either end. We had told our girls in the spring of 2020 to buy their lids when they ordered seeds and felt a little over motherly doing it, but they had wisely heeded the suggestion. One day we stopped by to see if all of them had enough beans. A crop had failed for one of them and, yes, beans would be appreciated. Testing her a little, I asked what would we do if we didn't have lids? It was good to see she could think through a process of freezing or drying. I even thought it would be a good time to learn how to plant from saved seed. Looking through what we had planted this year, I was surprised to

discover that many were not hybrids and could be saved from season to season.

A little motion on the sidewalk was an ant pulling a kernel of sweet corn across a corn shuck. It fell off and the ant scurried around looking until it again latched on to something twice it's size. Proverbs 6:6–8 says, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." We learned that indeed they are the females ants.

We cannot encourage our sisters enough to lay by for difficult times. We don't mean to hoard. There is a difference between the two. The former is a good practice of managing use, first in/first out rotating as well as sharing with anyone in need, especially if they ask. The latter is buying and keeping what you won't use and it goes to sinful waste. This we should never do.

Sometimes I think we fail in encouraging brethren to likewise prepare. Many have been the occasions when we have seen a husband sit in the truck while his wife comes in our pantry asking for food and then loading it in the vehicle with the help of a volunteer. Brethren, if there is need, don't send your wife—go yourself, or take her with you, but be responsible. There is never shame in asking for help, but don't shift the command to provide for your family to her. When we say responsible, do your part in the garden or with the grocery shopping, work as a team. You will understand where your hard-earned money goes and how it can be better managed. Be alert in your reading. We have known for some time there are reusable canning lids and last year they were nearly equal in price with throw-away lids. At Christmas one

of the children gave us a gift certificate for these lids and we are very pleased with the result. Well we remember hearing an aged brother tell how, after they were married, his parents-in-law encouraged the couple not to attempt to go into winter with less than so many jars of food; and it was in the hundreds for two people.

Have you considered what you would do if you lost power for a length of time? It is possible to do without refrigeration. It is possible to eat food cold from a jar, though not recommended for home-canned meat and vegetables. It can be done from tinned cans providing they are in good shape and show no signs of spoilage. What about water? We used to say we'd go get it at the meeting house, but that is less possible today. There are springs in our area, but if the need is widespread or weather preventing, that would be difficult. How about an in-well, stainless steel, no-prime hand pump? They are made to use with your current pump in use also. It would be something you could move if you moved to another house. What are your heating options? Do you have a mode of travel such as a bicycle if you can't get fuel? You can wash clothes yourself, and even wash dishes in cold water, but there are solar options for heat, as well as for charging a phone and for lighting. Our purpose is to get you thinking about working as opposed to sitting on the shelf never-tried provision before need. We see people all the time who have never been through a disaster, are very unprepared, and it's not like the area never had a wind or flood event. If that is not enough, we are living in a world growing ever more hostile; as when the fuel pipeline was hacked on the east coast this summer. It is nothing

to sabotage another nation miles away via computers and we have a whole generation that doesn't know how to sum a list of numbers on paper, not to mention make change, or back a vehicle without a camera on the dash. How are they going to handle physical labor if they don't even know what to do?

As sure as we see people unprepared, we know there is usually provision. The last thing our government wants is a panicked populous robbing stores. Every county has an Emergency Manager tasked with being prepared for any event and they are required to practice with every responding agency. And we see churches do some amazing things. One that comes to mind was near the Twin Towers in New York City. The pastor told his nearest aide to take their funds, go down the street to the local grocery, probably out of power, and buy everything in the store. They unloaded it at the church and began cooking meals for any one in need. Neighbors found help coming, and their volunteers serving. Help will come, but it is so much better when it gets there faster. A couple of years ago several tornados did a lot of damage in our area. I was busy and could not go see, but reports would trickle in to us. We had to laugh when one volunteer was so excited to tell us that she saw "lots of Rachels (other sisters; I guess we do look alike from a distance) cleaning up the yards and your men were tarping the roofs!" When we see a denomination known for setting up large mobile kitchens arrive with their trailers we are so relieved. Imagine the tear that came to our eye when someone in New Orleans, Louisiana, responsible during Hurricane Katrina, came across the room during Hurricane Delta last year and told us, "if it has not

been for the churches, I don't know how we would have recovered." Recover they did, and this year their levees held against Hurricane Ida.

Think of heaven's provision. I'm never able, not with words or even photos, to communicate the depth of need in a situation. Until you walk among the debris or open the door of a full shelter, you really can't imagine the loss of homes. Will we ever fully understand, on this side of heaven, what is available to us if we but ask? "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" (Matt 7:9-12).

Make one more provision; for others. As satisfying as a well-stocked larder or well-provided home is, something is missing until it is shared. Think of all the Lord has blessed you with that you didn't ask for and do the same for others. Time and labor are as good as money.

Rachel Brubaker

EXAMINATION OF THE HEART

As we were reading Proverbs 16, we thought: "Now wait a minute! What kind a heart do we have?" This is the purpose of this article. This heart is a Christian's heart. This is the heart we need to examine.

As we perused the Scriptures, we found Ephesians 5:1. "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." Then we found that we are to be merciful (Luke 6:36). "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." Examine your heart. Psalm 26:2 says, "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart." The Lord does that. Job said, "He knoweth the way that I take" (23:10). Job also said, "For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me" (23:16). This is no doubt speaking of what God was doing through Job's trials.

May we read our Bibles often for instruction. Psalm 119:80 says, "Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed." Can I say that I love God's law? How much do I read God's Word? Psalm 119:97 says, "O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

We are instructed many times in both the Old Testament and also the New, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart..." Will I trust Him enough through everything, to give Him the love that I should?

The Bible says of Daniel, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat." The three Hebrew children did not bow down to any other God. It is said of Enoch that "Enoch walked with God." Moses could have been heir to the throne of Egypt and had life very easy.

What about me? Will I trust God, or will I reason in myself? Matthew 12:34 says, "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." May we ask the Lord to help us have a pure heart.

May we be careful. Hebrews 13:9 says, "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good

thing that the heart be established with grace..."

Romans 10:10 says, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

This is our desire for us all. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..." And that we all might be rooted and grounded in love (Eph. 3:17).

Fill our hearts with thoughts of Jesus
And of Heaven where he is gone,
And let nothing ever please us
He would grieve to look upon.

Vicki Witmer

"FOR THE LORD IS OUR DEFENSE..."

"For the LORD is our defense; and the Holy One of Israel is our king." Psalm 89:18

Imagine living in an oppressed country and continually being invaded by a notorious enemy, robbed, pillaged, plundered. After many years of enduring this, there is a Captain that arises. He is very powerful, wise to know just how to suppress the enemy and give you and your people deliverance. As you see this happening, would you excitedly and enthusiastically join Him, and lay down your ideas of how to thwart the enemy? Would you embrace all of His plan? You would surely be a devoted soldier and stand up in His defense whenever He was discussed. You would encourage those who are standing in His behalf. You would disdain to do anything to be identified with the army of the invader. Your every action

would be a vibrant result of your faith and confidence in Him, your Captain, your King and your Savior!

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, Oh LORD, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. For thou art the glory of their strength: and in thy favour our horn shall be exalted. For the LORD is our defense; and the Holy One of Israel is our king" (Ps. 89:15–18).

Myrna Nachatelo

SOON THE TIME MAY BE AT HAND

David Bilderback

There is a saying that "Time is a fleeting thing." The older I get the more I believe this. What does the Bible have to say about time? In Revelation 1:3 we read, "...for the time is at hand." When something is at hand it means it is near. In Revelation 10:6 we read, "...there should be time no longer." Time will come to an end.

One of the best examples of a man whose time was at hand is found in Acts 24. We read that Paul was speaking to Governor Felix concerning righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come. Felix was afraid and said to Paul, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." We never read of Felix ever coming to follow Paul's urging. Like so many people Felix felt the conviction in his heart, for we read "Felix trembled." But he failed to act, choosing to wait for a more convenient time.

Ultimately we will run out of time as we know it. When we reach eternity we will not need any clocks or calendars for we read in Revelation that “old things have passed away.”

So should we be like Felix and wait for a more convenient time? In his second letter, Peter tells us, “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (II Pet. 3:8).

Let me ask you this. If you found out that you had a disease that was terminal if you did not get a medical treatment, would you seek that treatment immediately? Or wait for a more convenient time? Time is a fleeting

thing. We can’t stop it. If you think you can, pull out some old photos or some clothes you haven’t worn for awhile. Felix chose to wait for a more convenient time to accept Christ. There is no record in the Bible that he ever did. He chose instead to put his confidence in himself which is why he was afraid, and trembled. We can never gain any long lasting comfort from a decision like this because our conscience keeps pricking at us. Don’t be like Felix and ignore God’s call. For soon the time may be at hand.

Selected by

Lelland and Donna Davison

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

This section offers some questions to think about, or for Sunday afternoon discussions, or to prompt future articles from our readers, etc. Readers are encouraged to offer questions.

In looking at followers of the Lord Jesus in the Scriptures, we discover that not all were able to stand faithfully by the Lord and His work, when strong trials came upon them. We read of Demas, who forsook the Apostle Paul, having loved this present world.

We also see that the disciples, when they saw that Jesus was being taken in the Garden of Gethsemane, also forsook Him, and fled. We witness Peter’s denial of the Lord, even when he seemed so sure that he would stand by Him and even die with Him, if tried. They were certain they would be faithful to the Lord.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves some questions:

1. Do you feel a confidence that, if severe trials should come, even involving possible loss of property, or even of life, that you would be faithful to the Lord?
2. Have you found that, in times of testing that you have experienced, that you have received “strength” for the moment, when you had thought you were weak?
3. Have you experienced times of temptations where you stumbled and failed, even when you thought you were strong?
4. Does the thought of suffering for Christ cause you great fear?
5. Can you think of things coming even now upon the world that will provide a platform for testing?
6. Are you being faithful now?

GENERAL ITEMS

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Sept. 22, 2021; Stillwater, OH
Quinn and Abby Bowman

COMMUNION NOTICES

Nov. 6, 2021 Columbia River, WA
Nov. 6, 2021 Bethel, OH
Nov. 13, 2021 Covington, OH
Nov. 20, 2021 Shenandoah, VA
Feb. 5, 2022 Living Epistle, NM
Feb. 5, 2022 Pine Grove, FL
Feb. 26, 2022 West Manchester, IN
Feb. 26, 2022 West Modesto, CA
Mar. 26, 2022 Dallas, OR
Mar. 26, 2022 Fair Haven, KS
Apr. 24, 2022 Cascade Valley, WA

HARVEST MEETINGS

Nov. 25, 2021 Pleasant View, OH

SHENANDOAH COMMUNION DATE CHANGE NOTICE.

Our Shenandoah building renovation project is progressing, but will not be completed enough for use. And the scheduling with the Pigg River Community Center, has moved our Shenandoah communion to November 20 and 21, 2021. We would invite all to come worship and fellowship with us.

In behalf of our congregation,

Richard Jamison

MEDITATIONS

Though painful or sad, a blessing may come dressed in a hospital gown.
We don't have to like one another, but we must "love one another."
It is better to have two calloused knees than one calloused heart.
Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit—in progress.
Thanksgiving is the noblest form of worship.
A full surrender has no reservation.
Thank you, Jesus.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE

We are making our call for subscriptions for the year 2022 at this time. The rate continues at \$20 per year. The subscription price for each subscriber should be received by December 1, 2021, from the District Agents. Each District Agent should include an updated list of subscribers, with their current addresses. Individual subscribers' subscription payments should be received by December 1, 2021, as well, if possible, for the 2022 subscription year.

POEMS

REFRESHED ANEW

Resting beside rippling waters, refreshed by a gentle breeze
Crickets chirping, birds are singing for the moment, all is peace.

Fishes dance in pools of sunlight, cheerful are the butterflies,
All around me sounds of nature, drown out Satan's ugly lies.

Steadfast is the flowing current, winding its way toward its home
In the vast blue ocean yonder, tumbling over log and stone.

Never slowing, never stopping, flowing toward its destination;
Cheered on as it travels onward by magnificent Creation.

Flowers blooming, summer beauty, leaves betelling coming fall,
Bubbling brook, what Heavenly music steals o'er my battle-weary soul.

I am resting, sweetly resting at the peaceful waters' edge
Quiet is my soul within me, and around my heart a hedge.

Jesus! Jesus will go with me as I t'ward Heaven seek to climb
Over rocks and snags and brambles longing to be safe at Home.

Faith and hope then cometh gently bear me up when faint I grow
Carry me along life's pathway, one set in the sand, not two.

Sunlight glistens, shines so brightly, and the shadows round me flee,
Basking in His love and mercy, finding sweet, sweet harmony.

Departing from this hallowed haven strengthened for the coming days.
May my faith remain in Jesus and I give Him all my praise!

I only held the silent pen,

Nicole Jamison

BE MOVED BY THE LOVE OF GOD

The only thing that men see are the scars on His hands and His feet,
Which had touched the skin of lepers and walked on the dusty street.
But deep inside, unseen by us, in the heart of our Lord from on high,
Is compassion which touched the heart of God and caused His Son to die.

The wounds Christ bore were only the signs that Thomas could touch and feel,
But the heart of God bore the deeper marks, and the signs of a love that can heal.
The love in His heart that moved our Lord to suffer, and bleed, and sigh,
Is the love that moved the Heart of God to give His Son to die.

Be moved by the heart of compassion, of mercy, of peace, and of grace,
And be warmed by the smiles of the kindness that shine from the Master's face.
Be touched by the hands of His blessings; be healed of the dark stains of sin,
And walk in the steps of the Master who dwells by His Spirit within.

Marcus Miller

WHY NOT?

Why not leave them all with Jesus—

All thy cares,

All the things that fret thee daily,

Earth's affairs?

Pour out all thy sin and longing;

He has felt

Need of human love as thou hast,

And has knelt

At His Father's feet, imploring,

For the day,

Strength to guard against temptation

By the way.

Why not leave them all with Jesus—

On His breast

Find a balm for all earth-suffering,

Peace and rest?

Ah! He knows that thou hast striven

To walk right;

Longs to make the thorny pathway

Clear and bright.

See, He bathes thy feet, all bleeding,

With His tears!

Give to Him thyself, thy burden,

And thy fears.

Author Unknown

HAPPY ANYWAY

Lord, it belongs not to my care, whether I die or live;
To love and serve Thee is my share, and this Thy grace must give.

If life be long, I will be glad that I may long obey;
If short, yet why should I be sad to soar to endless day?

Christ leads me through no darker rooms than He went through before;
He that into God's kingdom come must enter by His door.

Come, Lord, when grace hath made me meet Thy blessed face to see;
For, if Thy work on earth be sweet, what will Thy glory be?

Then I shall end my sad complaints, and weary, sinful days,
And join with the triumphant saints who sing Jehovah's praise.

My knowledge of that life is small; the eye of faith is dim;
But 'tis enough that Christ knows all, and I shall be with Him.

Richard Baxter

FREE FROM SIN

The bird let loose in eastern skies, when hastening fondly home,
Ne'er stoops to earth her wing, nor flies where idle warblers roam;
But high she shoots through air and light above all low delay,
Where nothing earthly bounds her flight, nor shadow dims her way.

So grant me, God, from every care and stain of passion free,
Aloft, through Virtue's purer air, to hold my course to thee!
No sin to cloud, no lure to stay my soul, as home she springs;
Thy sunshine on her joyful way, thy freedom in her wings!

Thomas Moore

GOD KNOWETH BEST

He took them from me, one by one,
 The things I set my heart upon;
 They looked so harmless, fair, and blest;
 Would they have hurt me? God knows best.
 He loves so, He would not wrest
 Them from me if it were not best.

He took them from me, one by one,
 The friends I set my heart upon.
 O did they, they and their love,
 Between me and my Lord above?
 Were they as idols in my breast?
 It may be God in heaven knows best.

I will not say I did not weep,
 As doth a child that wants to keep
 The pleasant things in hurtful play
 His wiser parent takes away;
 But in this comfort I will rest:
 He who hath taken knoweth best.

— Author Unknown

Terms

Subscriptions should be made through the congregational contact or through *The Testimony* office. Subscription price is \$20.00 per year. New subscriptions should be paid (prorated) through the remainder of the current year. All renewals begin at the first of the calendar year. Newly married and those unable to pay for a subscription may receive a free subscription through the agent of their local congregation.

Contributors

Authors of essays, devotionals, poems, etc. are asked to review the Statement of Purpose on the back page of this periodical. Articles should

be based on Scripture. References are appreciated. Shorter focused articles are more desirable than articles that move from one topic to another. Selected material will be considered. Original writings are preferred. It is recommended that writers submit themselves to the Spirit, which reveals the will of God to the Church in every age, according to the varied needs and circumstances.

Written articles should be legible. Typed material is preferred and should be double-spaced. Electronic transmission or CD will be accepted. The author's name and address must be included on all material. An attempt will be made to contact the author of articles that are not accepted.

Old German Baptist Brethren
Church—New Conference

THE TESTIMONY

353 Billman Rd.
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The Testimony is a Christian publication intended for those who desire nourishment in their spiritual walk, and for writers who wish to express witness to the Truth of the Gospel as experienced in their own lives. It holds the Holy Scriptures to be its only Creed. Its purpose is to bear witness to the Truth of God's Word as it is applied in the daily life of committed Christians. It supports the anabaptist and pietist foundations of the Brethren of Schwarzenau, Germany (1708) including the biblical principle of the community of believers bound by a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus confirmed by adult immersion baptism (Mark 16:16). It strives to promote a life of true living piety among all who confess Jesus as their Lord. It seeks to restore and

maintain a fellowship of true primitive Christianity through the communication of all good things.

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