

Midnight Cry Messenger

FREELY SHARED WITH THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY FOR TRUTH — NOT TO BE SOLD

Volume LXI: Number 1

A Quarterly Publication Of Midnight Cry Ministries, Southern Pines, NC

JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH 2016

The Valley of Decision

by Phil Enlow

(Editor's note: This article was originally published in the Midnight Cry Messenger in the early 1970s.)

The eternal God, the Sovereign Creator of heaven and earth, the God before Whom all men will one day stand, and to Whom every man will give an account, has a message in this hour for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. This is the hour so often spoken of by the prophets of old. We, today, stand on the very threshold of the great day of the Lord, the climax of the ages, the last hour of human history.

The God who said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man," (Gen. 6:3) has long held His peace

despite the almost total rejection of His love and grace by hell-bound humanity. But the judgment of God will not forever wait. Soon the curtain will fall and the day of grace will be eternally past.

The prophet Joel spoke forth a mighty word of warning relating to this very hour in which we live. Joel 3:13-14 says, "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

The fulfillment of this great prophecy of Joel is placed at the time when "the harvest is ripe." Harvest time is the time when that which has been planted has grown and come to full maturity. The crop awaits nothing now but to be reaped.

The Bible in several other places speaks of harvest time. In Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus gave us the parable of the tares. He spoke of the man who sowed wheat

in his field only to have an enemy slip in by night and sow a counterfeit wheat as well. The two crops were allowed to grow together until harvest time and then separated, one destined for the barn, and the other for the fire.

The parable is explained in verses 36-43. The crops represent the sons of the kingdom and the children of the wicked one. The field in which they grow is the world. The harvest is the end of the world. These two types of humanity are to undergo a process of separation during harvest time which will finally result in fire for one and the glorious eternal kingdom of God for the other. Rev. 14:14-20 graphically portrays the reaping of two types of men during harvest time.

Harvest time will see the coming to full maturity of the tiny remnant of those made righteous through faith in the blood of Christ on the one

Continued on Page 2

Christians in the Night

by Phil Enlow

We live in a unique hour in the world's history. Though in one sense there is nothing new under the sun, yet in another sense the manifestation of forces which have always been present is such that this is an hour like no other the world has seen.

History is moving inexorably toward the day when "time shall be no more." There is little time before the Almighty will bring down the curtain upon this age and man will stand before God in judgment. Satan, though he knows not the precise time, is very aware that his time is short. Rev. 12:12 speaks of a time when the devil will "come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Obviously from this scripture we see that the devil is able to know that the end is near and that this knowledge causes him to redouble his efforts to destroy men and oppose the work of God in the earth.

No doubt this knowledge comes through the

church. Paul says in Ephesians 3:10 that the manifold wisdom of God is made known to the principalities and powers by the Church. When the present tense expression of the mind and purpose of God comes forth in the earth by the anointing, Satan is a very attentive listener. He probably listens to the word of God more closely than most Christians. He has to. It's the only way he knows what God is up to.

It is no accident that there is a great increase in satanic activity in our day. God has spoken many times to his people to warn them of the lateness of the hour. By this means Satan has learned that his time is short. Therefore he is mounting a last all-out offensive in his work of evil. An all powerful God is permitting him to deceive those who will not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. II Thess. 2:10.

Continued on Page 3

PERIODICAL
Postage Paid

Midnight Cry Messenger
P.O. Box 685
Southern Pines, NC 28388-0685

Midnight Cry Messenger (USPS 347-880) is published by Bible Tabernacle of US Hwy 22, North of Southern Pines, NC 28387. Periodicals Postage paid at Southern Pines NC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Midnight Cry Messenger*, PO Box 685, Southern Pines NC 28388-0685.

Editor: Phil Enlow

This paper is published quarterly. USPS-347880. It is sent out free to all that request it. Its purpose is to present truth and to alert God's people to the lateness of the hour.

Editor's Letter

Dear Saints,

Greetings to all in the wonderful name of Jesus! As I mentioned in the last issue, Bro. Carl Johnson and I were scheduled in February to travel to Kenya to visit with and minister to brethren there. We did indeed make the trip with much blessing. It was evident from beginning to end that the Lord had ordered it and we were as blessed as any we met. It is wonderful to truly move in the Lord's time and plan. He does the work and He gets the glory.

We were given the opportunity to minister to some diverse groups of ministers in several locations. Some of the recurring themes that seemed to be on the Lord's heart concerned the gospel: what it is and what it isn't; the completeness of Christ's work on our behalf and thus God's provision in salvation; the lateness of the hour and the need to be ready for Christ's return as well as the need to stand in the growing darkness.

Whether here in America or abroad the needs of God's people are the same. The gospel itself has been corrupted and compromised; the living presence of Christ has been replaced by dead tradition; and God's people have been divided and mis-directed.

Wherever Bro. Carl and I traveled we met brothers and sisters who were prepared in heart, who loved the Lord and were hungry for more of Him. We ourselves were much humbled and blessed.

One theme that recurred several times was that we needed to build bridges and not walls. That principle applies on a large scale as well as in personal relationships. In the general sense, God's true saints have long been divided from one another, separated by theological and traditional walls into literally thousands of denominations and sects. While it is surely true that much of the religious world that claims affinity with Christ is false, yet there is a true remnant that share the same Spirit. It is they who need to humble themselves and receive one another as Christ has received them. God alone can sort out our theological convictions and bring true believers into the unity for which Jesus prayed

The Valley of Decision

Continued from Page 1

hand and of the vast preponderance of men who are Christ-rejecters on the other.

The great separation is upon us. Everyone is even now being gathered to his own kind. Isaiah spoke of this time when he said (60:2), "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee." Gross darkness for some, God's glory for others. God has decreed that it shall be so.

Joel himself says of this harvest time, "for their wickedness is great" (3:13). Friend, do you have eyes to see what is taking place in our world today? It's the gathering of gross darkness spoken of by Isaiah, the falling away and the revealing of the man of sin spoken of by Paul in II Thess. 2, the loosing of Satan spoken of by John.

Man as a whole is rejecting light. Jesus said, "Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you, for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." John 12:35. The wrath and damnation of God will fall upon those who "received not the love of the truth that they might be saved," and who "believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (II Thess. 2:10,12).

Paul speaks of the same principle in Romans 1:18-32 concerning men "who hold the truth in unrighteousness." When men reject light they become filled with darkness and God gives them over finally to a reprobate mind. From that very moment on there is no hope. A man may live a long time after

(John 17).

We enjoyed opportunities to minister in a prison, in schools (public and private) in both city and country churches and other settings.

I confess to struggling in putting this issue together. I had an article prepared but never felt free to move ahead. Instead we are publishing some older articles that seem specially relevant to this present hour.

We also included a poem given to Bro. Steve Johnson that he read in a recent Sunday morning service. It perfectly fit the service and neither he nor I planned for it.

Remember us as we move towards our June convention. This year we will meet in Lexington, South Carolina, June 22-25. We are expecting many to attend, including some from overseas. Above all else we want Jesus to attend! Without him we can do nothing. With him we can do all things!

Till next time may God's rich blessings be yours.

Your brother in Christ,
Phil Enlow

God gives him up, but there is still no hope. His destiny is sealed. He is as good as in hell because no man can come to Christ unless the Father draw him (John 6:44). A man can only come when God calls. Our world is increasingly populated by reprobate men in this hour.

God proceeds, by the mouth of Joel, to specifically warn us of the great separation which will take place just prior to the day of the Lord: "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

The key expression of that crucial verse is repeated twice: "the valley of decision." Surely it's true that there have always been valleys of decision through which men have traveled along the pathway to eternity. Every man has his valley of decision, whether he recognizes it as such or not, in which he either bows to or else rejects God-given light.

But the valley of decision of which Joel speaks with such urgency is not just any valley. Rather it is THE valley of decision which immediately precedes the day of the Lord and in that valley stand not a few, or even multitudes, but "multitudes, multitudes," indicating that this valley represents the last place of decision for mankind as a whole, the place beyond which all destinies are sealed. This valley contains the great crossroads of the ages where every man must choose either the narrow way which leads to life or the broad road which leads to destruction (Matt. 7:13-14). There is no other exit from this valley. It is one or the other.

We are even now in this great valley of decision of which Joel prophesied. Indeed multitudes have already chosen hell as their destiny and they know it not. Man as a whole does not see or understand what is taking place. Only by the revelation of God can we see it is indeed decision time.

It is no different today than it was in Jesus' day in that respect. Most in that day knew not the hour of their visitation and joined in crucifying the very Son of God. It was only to a relative few that God was able to reveal what was actually taking place.

Today, as then, it takes revelation to see that things uttered by prophets centuries ago are being fulfilled before our eyes. Men everywhere are embracing every conceivable form of philosophy and religion that comes to them under the guise of truth and they do not understand that they are being deceived into choosing final destruction.

The scripture is being fulfilled which says, "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (II Thess. 2:11-12). When men won't have truth, God Himself will see to it that they are deceived. And it is the nature of man

Continued on Page 3

The Valley of Decision

Continued from Page 2

to love darkness rather than light (John 3:19).

Much of the strong delusion which is capturing men consists of perverted forms of true Bible Christianity. I am not speaking primarily of what many call cults, but of churches which might be widely accepted as being genuine representatives of Christian faith.

Many churches have been filled with people who have embraced a watered-down so-called gospel which does not demand true repentance. Some of the most deceived people on earth today have walked down an aisle, accepted certain doctrines, have been outwardly reformed, have joined supposedly gospel churches, and yet they are as surely on the road to hell as the vilest sinner. God has never apprehended them with a revelation of their own total corruption and wickedness and their need to truly repent and rest their eternal destiny on the finished work of Christ on the cross in true heart faith. They perhaps go through a form of all that, yet never are truly born again and sealed by the Spirit of God.

Many other religious groups which consider themselves fundamental preach a gospel which is not the true gospel of grace and faith, but a thinly disguised legalism in which our standing before God depends upon what we do or don't do. Others emphasize experience and feeling to the extent that they beget many spiritual children who have no true faith.

There are many such perversions abroad in the religious world that produce children who will never inherit the kingdom of God.

In this hour, Satan, who has been loosed as never before, is employing every means possible to capture men. He knows that his time is short. He is going about in great wrath seeking whom he may devour (I Peter 5:8, Rev. 12:12).

He is appealing to every facet of human nature in his last all-out campaign to keep men from God and truth. For one man it may be through the lust of the flesh in some form, for another, just plain old hellish self-will, for another some form of philosophy or religion. The list would be endless, but it would contain anything which Satan employs to snare eternal souls and put them on the road to hell by deceiving them into rejecting God's truth.

The voice of God in the valley of decision may come to a man in many forms. A man may hear the words of a God-called preacher. He may observe the life of a member of the body of Christ and find his mind stirred up to consider the source of that life. He may hear a radio broadcast or read a piece of literature. God may even speak to a man through

a dream. He may be impressed through the wonders of creation to realize that there is a God to Whom we are responsible. God may bring about some judgment in an attempt to awaken the man to his need of Christ. Only eternity will reveal the ways in which God has spoken to men.

Most men do not recognize the valley of decision or the voice of God. Most are not aware of the choice they are making. But, thank God, there is an elect remnant of people who have eyes to see and ears to hear. They are capable of being awakened and warned of the awesome hour facing us. This message is for them. It will not be recognized by most as God in mercy trying to warn them to flee from the wrath to come. But some will see and believe.

Perhaps you are one who can see and hear. You need to praise God and obey the admonition of Jesus to "walk while ye have the light." It will not be long before you will either be one with those in gross darkness or one with the people of God whose way is lighted by the glory of God Himself. Which will it be?

Are you in the valley of decision? I urge you to flee to Christ, the only refuge from the awful wrath of God. Bow before Him and acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior from your heart. "Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts..." (Heb. 3:7-8). "Behold, now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2). Let that word NOW sink deep into your heart.

Tomorrow may be too late. Before very many tomorrows have passed it will be eternally too late. God's judgment hangs over our world, yet its full fury is stayed by His infinite mercy for the last man who will heed the call to forsake the road that leads to eternal damnation. "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

Christians in the Night

Continued from Page 1

SATAN AND THE CHURCH

But I am mainly concerned here with Satan's opposition to the Church of Jesus Christ. Though he is powerless to destroy Christians in the ultimate sense, yet he ever seeks to destroy the effectiveness of Christians as lights in the world.

In opposing Christians, Satan seeks one of two things: to put them to sleep; or make them drunk. I Thess. 5:6 exhorts believers concerning both conditions: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." Of course, sleep and drunkenness are spiritual conditions of which natural sleep and drunkenness are types and symbols.

The Bible is full of explicit indications that true

blood-bought believers, possessing eternal life, bound for heaven, can be spiritually asleep in this world. In Matthew 25:5, Jesus indicated that when the time of the bridegroom's coming approached, the wise and the foolish virgins would all be sleeping: wise virgins, having oil in their vessels, but asleep. These are true believers. In Matthew 13:25 in the parable of the wheat and tares we see that the enemy was able to sow his seed in with the wheat because "men slept."

To be asleep is to be at ease, careless, unaware of anything of a spiritual nature. All kinds of things can take place around a sleeping person yet he knows nothing that is going on in the real world. The only thing on his mind is the shadowy unreal world of dreams.

The sleeping Christian is unaware of things happening around him in the spiritual realm, which is the only real eternal realm. His mind is occupied by this material temporal world and its affairs.

Paul wrote to the Romans (13:11): "And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep;..." and today we must "know the time." We have already touched some on this but I Thess. 5:7 says, "For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night." The phrase "in the night" stands out here.

We are nearing the end of a long gospel day. Though it has not always been a bright day yet there has been light and the powers of darkness have been restricted to the degree necessary for the worldwide propagation of the gospel. John 12:31-32; II Thess. 2:7; Col. 2:15; Matt. 12:29.

SATAN'S INFLUENCE GROWING

But the day of grace is drawing to a close. The restrictions upon Satan are steadily dwindling as men reject God and are turned over to darkness. A deep spiritual night has fallen. Our world is "in the night."

Isaiah spoke of the time when "darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people" (Isaiah 60:2). This darkness is more than an absence of light. It is the result of an intelligent conspiracy to destroy man. It is demon power which blinds and deludes lost men. Though there is light in the world for believers, this darkness exists in the minds of the children of destruction. It is the darkness of a man unable to see a blazing light because he is blind. II Cor. 4:4.

This demonic darkness is the prevailing condition of our world today. And it exerts a terrific force upon believers. All of us have experienced the difficulty of staying awake at a time of the night when we are normally asleep. Through habit our bodies and minds cry out for sleep. We yawn; our eyes grow heavy. Only a most determined effort will

Continued on Page 4

Christians in the Night

Continued from Page 3

keep us awake. It is like that in this hour.

Though we are redeemed and possess eternal life, so long as we are yet in these bodies we will also possess the fallen adamic nature with which we were born. Though we are not compelled to obey it, the influence is there. Our old nature responds to the influence of our sin-darkened world like our bodies respond to the habitual time for sleep. Only a sober effort to combat this influence will prevent sleep from overtaking us.

Satan is using his new-found freedom in the world to bear upon the spirits of believers to cause them to quit fighting and to go to sleep. He will do anything to cause them to become preoccupied with natural things to the neglect of eternal matters.

Great spiritual battles can rage around some Christians yet they are unaware. The effects may stir them slightly but they just turn over and go back to sleep. They are useless to God in matters of the Kingdom and may even become unwitting tools of the enemy.

They dreamily serve a Christ of history or a Christ who will one day come, but do not hear Christ speaking today as they are all involved in the affairs of this life both secular and religious. And Satan knows how to appeal to people to keep them involved and busy.

In many parts of the world today, believers are systematically persecuted. They suffer the loss of possessions; of opportunities to prosper in this world; they are imprisoned and tortured; many are even losing their lives for Christ. But Satan's opposition to the Church in the western world is much more subtle — and much more effective. Here he poses as a friend, a benefactor. He offers religious liberty, opportunity, comfort and ease.

Without a doubt the Church is purer and stronger spiritually where it is openly opposed. Christians have far less difficulty staying awake when there is a lion roaring at the door. But let the gentle breezes blow and the bank account grow and the snores of sleeping Christians will almost surely follow.

With opportunities for indulging the appetites of "Adam" within us abounding it is easy for spiritual realities to seem a bit foggy and unreal. We give mental assent to the doctrines of heaven, the Kingdom of God, angels and devils, spiritual warfare and the soon return of the Lord, but they seem dream-like beside our day-to-day interests in this world.

The Spirit of God cries, "Awake, repent, be sober, fight!" We start a bit in our slumber. Then Adam soothes us back to sleep: "Fight?! Fight what? You never had it so good. You're respected and liked by

your friends. Just last week you got a raise. You're active in the church. Don't rock the boat. Look at brother so-and-so: he's not all upset and fanatical and he's a fine Christian, respected by all. Relax. Things are fine." And our minds are flooded with thoughts of the various activities that fill our lives and we slumber once more.

THE SPIRIT OF SLEEP

The whole atmosphere is pervaded with a spirit that is causing men to fall into a deep sleep. It is like a deadly gas and Adam is right at home in such an atmosphere. This spirit of sleep is a cover, however, for the greatest satanic onslaught against men the world has ever seen. Great battles are taking place. Eternal issues are at stake. Lives are being enslaved and destroyed.

Is it any wonder that God's word is: "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion." Amos 6:1. What will God have to do to arouse us? Must persecution come before we awake?

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." This passage in Joel 2 goes on to describe the destructive forces loose in this time. God's people are warned to turn wholeheartedly to the Lord. Blessings and restoration are promised. The passage ends with the promise that Zion would be a place of deliverance and salvation. God will have such a people. Will we be among them?

SPIRITUAL DRUNKENNESS

According to I Thess. 5:6-8, the possibility of sleep in the end time was not Paul's only concern: he also issued a clear warning against drunkenness. As in the case of sleep, this drunkenness was not literal but spiritual in nature.

Of course natural drunkenness is intended to be a picture of the spiritual condition that concerned Paul. A man who is drunk is robbed of all self-control. His judgment is perverted. His behavior is embarrassing and inappropriate to those around who are sober. Though awake, he cannot properly assess or relate to the realities of life around him. He becomes useless in any meaningful undertaking. He may even become a source of danger to others. His influence for good is gone.

Not only may his condition be thus described, but the instrument of his stupor is powerfully addicting. He cannot live without it. Psychologically as well he comes to need the fantasy world that alcohol helps him create.

Drunkenness of the spirit is like all of this and far worse. Isaiah 28 gives us a clear picture. Verses 1-4 graphically portray the delusion of religion without God: proud spiritual leaders in religious trappings

impressive to the natural man, presiding over the ease and prosperity of drunken multitudes blissfully unaware of impending doom. This is a perfect picture of most religion including most of professing Christianity.

Some professed followers of Christ even have a form of godliness but there is no power. II Tim. 3-5. Not only is there a lack of power, but if God's power were suddenly to be manifested, no effort would be spared to suppress it. Consider the reaction of the good orthodox, bible-believing religious folk of Jesus' day. That is what is meant by "denying the power thereof."

Religious man does not merely lack light; he hates and despises light and seeks at all costs to suppress and destroy it. John 3:19-20, 8:40.

THE WINE

The wine that keeps man in such a stupefied condition is the spirit of Satan expressed in religious doctrines and ideas. This wine fixes him up with a delusion that all is well when it is not. The delusion exists in the minds of men who embrace religious falsehoods.

And not only do they drink in the falsehood itself — that would be bad enough — but the authors of that falsehood come in to live as well — demon spirits long schooled in the art of deception. Demons have learned their craft over thousands of years of leading men astray. Thus does Babylon become "the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit and the cage of every hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Rev. 18:2.

How does this delusion gain such a stranglehold on the world as a whole? The answer is simple — it is man's rejection of truth. II Thess. 2:11-12 says, "and for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

THE WRATH OF GOD

Rom. 1:18-32 shows the connection between the wrath of God and the state of delusion. "Wrath" involves turning man over to the darkness he loves to reap its fearful consequences.

Jeremiah 51 is a remarkable parallel to Rev. 17 and 18. In verse 7 we read, "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the Lord's hand that made all the earth drunken." We clearly see that although the devil brings the delusive wine, the Lord sends it as the first step in judgment and destruction.

Note that in both Jeremiah and Revelation the cup is golden. One must never judge a cup's contents by its outward appearance. That is true both

Continued on Page 5

Christians in the Night

Continued from Page 4

of the devil's cup and the Lord's. Jesus' description of the religious leaders of his day included these words: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but they are full of extortion and excess." Matt. 23:25.

Isaiah 29:9-13 presents a clear picture of spiritual drunkenness: "Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered. And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned. Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:"

CHRISTIANS AND THE WINE

This condition of drunkenness that prevails so completely as the end approaches affects real Christians in varying degrees as well as the lost. Why else would Paul exhort believers to "be sober"?

Isaiah 28:5-8 portrays vividly the effect that this wine has wherever it prevails. Verses 7-8 read, "But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean."

God has always had his remnant in the earth. Even so it is today that a remnant of God's saints are scattered through the systems of men where these conditions prevail. They cannot help but be affected by the wine. That is at least one reason Paul warns us against being spoiled by philosophy and vain deceit as a result of exposure to the traditions of men (Colossians 2:8). I'm afraid that there have been many real believers who have been confused, abused, scattered and who could certainly be characterized as having been out of the way. Like Lot who pitched his tent toward Sodom and barely escaped with his life they are in no position to be profitable to God in his Kingdom.

"Out of the way." That's a serious condition, especially in the light of the time. Only through a

steady diet of God's anointed truth can we escape the stupor and vomit brought on by the wine. And God's anointed truth itself will have no effect on one who doesn't see his need and desire it from the heart. One might as well lecture a drunk on the virtues of sobriety.

A CRITICAL POINT

Now a critical point: escaping the wine always involves leaving the place where it prevails. The word is clear: "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4.

I am more persuaded than ever that God has abandoned most of professing Christianity and that escape is imperative for His little remnant. It matters not that religious people gather in the name of Christ, sing "Amazing Grace" and preach many sound biblical doctrines. If God's power and life are not there, God is not there. Those places exist to bind up bundles of tares for the fire (Matthew 13:40). It is no place for a true born-again believer — especially now in the end of the age.

It is the hour when God's little remnant must seek Him with all their hearts to be led to where they can be delivered. The Lord's cup may not appear to be golden, but it contains the pure water of life.

It is night. The world is asleep, or drunk, or both. Passive indifferent Christians in this hour are in trouble and don't even know it. Consider the warning in Matt. 24:48-51 against carelessness and the time of Christ's coming. Indifferent Christians may prove not to be Christians at all. Half of the sleeping virgins had no oil. They were unaware of their lack until it was too late. We will see an accelerated process in the days ahead of separation involving apparent believers being overcome by wine or sleep.

As Paul said in I Thess. 5:5-11, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

Matthew 24:14 — "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

ONENESS: How Important?

Francis Frangipane

In our growth, if we think of ourselves as "mature," it is usually in context with some sin or area of knowledge. No spiritual growth comes without effort or without the enemy trying to stop it. But the maturity that Satan fears the most is that state of spiritual development that produces oneness in the church.

I am reminded of President Reagan's "Star Wars" defense plan. The purpose of this system is to intercept enemy missiles and destroy them in outer space. The major complaint we hear about this plan is that it is "... too costly and it will never work." That observation may indeed be true, but it is interesting that of all the weapon systems we see in America, the "Star Wars" defense system is the biggest fear the Russians have.

In the same way God has a defense system also. His system of defense is seen in our spiritual oneness, where we intercept the enemies "missiles" and protect the homeland of one another's hearts. Yet, we hear time after time people say, "... it is too costly, it will never work." Even the way the Russians rejoice over dignified scientists and statesmen criticizing the Star Wars concept, so Satan uses even good, seemingly mature Christians to try to discourage those who have a vision of oneness. Why does Satan hate the oneness of God's Kingdom so viciously?

He hates spiritual unity because he knows when we become one with each other, loving, caring for and protecting one another, the devil's weapons will become ineffective.

And I heard a loud voice in Heaven saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

"And they overcame him because of the **blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.**" (Rev. 12:10-11).

In order for the salvation and power, the kingdom and authority of Christ to become more than just empty doctrines, the accuser of the brethren must be cast down. That means no more fault-finding, gossip, or criticism. It means that the blood of Jesus makes us one body, giving each of us justification, life, and forgiveness. It means that our prophetic word spoken in faith brings forth God's victory regardless of what the "facts" initially indicated. And it also means refusing to be reactionary, refusing to return evil for evil but rendering a blessing instead even "...

Continued on Page 7

A Most Divine Sandwich

by Mike McInnis

Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. 1Peter 2:17

No one is quite certain when or where the practice of putting meat, cheese, or some other filling between two slices of bread, to make a convenient and portable meal, first occurred. Popular lore tells us that the practice was so much loved by the Earl of Sandwich (1718-1792) that his name is now used in the English language to describe this type of meal preparation which is practiced by virtually all cultures in one form or another and known by various names.

Bread is a very important part of any sandwich, yet there is no such thing as a bread sandwich since a sandwich is known, desired, and described by whatever filling is between the bread. While we cannot make a sandwich without bread, it is nonetheless one of the least important parts of the sandwich though quite vital to it.

Peter sets forth before us a scripture which is in some measure like a sandwich. The word "honor" occurs at the beginning and the end of the verse. While the instruction to "honor" "all men" and the "king" are very important, that which is in between is the meat of this "sandwich," insofar as the degree of importance to the children of GOD.

The word "honor" means to pay respect to or give the just due to the one being honored. Since we are born into the human race as a privilege, we have a certain obligation to have respect unto our fellow man. We cannot and must not disregard his freedom to be what GOD designed him to be nor do we have the right to take any possession from him which belongs to him. We may not agree with his principles or even his religion but we have no right to dishonor him as a human being as a result. Since we have nothing that we have not received we do not even have the right to wish evil upon men who mistreat us or hate us.

The LORD reminds us of this when HE says, "Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." (Luke 6:28). This is exactly what Paul tells the Romans, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

(Rom. 12:17-21).

Peter goes on to use the same word "honor" in describing our regard of the earthly government which the LORD is pleased to put us under. He describes the unjust, which are marked out for destruction, in this fashion, "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord." (2 Pet. 2:10-11).

Because of the innate, sinful nature of men it is necessary that we be put under "governments" of one kind or another. While we may not agree with those in places of leadership, we have no right to show disdain and disrespect of the institution of government or even the office which they might occupy, since our own sin has brought about the necessity of such matters. We are fortunate to be under a "government" which is (ostensibly) a servant to those who are governed.

While we might see great abuses of power exercised by those who are our elected representatives, we must still show respect unto the offices which they might occupy and if we feel compelled to unseat them we must go about it in a "lawful" manner lest we be found to dishonor "the king." While political activism can be carried out "lawfully" by those who are the children of GOD, we have a more noble calling as the sons of the most HIGH GOD. Between the slices of "honor" is the meat of this sandwich which we are called to feast upon.

Peter says, "Love the brotherhood." This is the height of the calling of the sons of GOD as we dwell upon the earth. There is no higher aim (in this world) among those who are the disciples of CHRIST than to love one another. In fact the LORD says that it is impossible for a man to truthfully say that he loves GOD if he does not demonstrate love to his brother in CHRIST. (See I John 4:20; James 2:16.) "And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." (1 John 4:21).

This "love" which must exist among those who are "heirs together of the grace of life" (I Pet. 3:7) far exceeds the concept of the "honor" which is to be shown to all men, even as the meat of a sandwich exceeds the bread which surrounds it. This love of the brotherhood is founded upon the very principle of the unity of the GODHEAD. The LORD JESUS prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one

in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:21). This is exactly what HE told the disciples, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35).

This "love" is manifested as we "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Phil 2:3). This causes the children of GOD to "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." (Rom. 12:10) and brings about the desire to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2).

It is impossible that we should know every man who is one of the elect heirs of grace in this world, even as it is impossible to gaze upon the pages of the LAMB's book of life and read their names written there. Yet in the mercy of GOD, HE has called HIS people together in local assemblies where the chief and sole desire of those gathered is to see the name of CHRIST exalted. It is here in these "assemblies," alone, that this "love of the brotherhood" can be and is fully demonstrated in the caring relationships of those so privileged to be a part.

This is one of the reasons we are exhorted to "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:23-25). To forsake that assembling is to show extreme disregard for those to whom we are united in CHRIST, our ELDER BROTHER, who presides there.

Then Peter says, "Fear GOD" which is the basis upon which all of the relations of the children of GOD to others rests. The man who does not fear GOD will have no regard to HIS truth nor will he love those for whom CHRIST shed HIS precious blood. A GOD fearing man is one who treasures HIS word and those whom the LORD calls HIS own. *How sweet, how heavenly is the sight, When those that love the Lord,*

*In one another's peace delight, And so fulfil his word!
When each can feel his brother's sigh, And with him bear a part;*

When sorrow flows from eye to eye, And joy from heart to heart.

When free from envy, scorn, and pride, Our wishes all above,

Each can his brother's failings hide, And show a brother's love.

Love is the golden chain that binds The happy souls above;

And he's an heir of heaven that finds His bosom glow with love.

#1082 Gadsby's Hymns by Joseph Swain

All He is To Me

by Mary Kennedy

While I was walking and talking to Him this morning, I started thinking about all the things He is to me...

He's my Creator.

He's my Savior, but not just that...He's my Redeemer.

He's my Healer and my Friend that sticks closer than a brother. He's a Friend that walks with me and talks with me. He tells me I am His own and points out all the awesome things He's made...all the different colors of leaves on trees, the intricate design in the flowers, the beautiful clouds and blue sky... Ginger, Jag, Hobbs, Morris, Henry (family pets).

He picks me up when I fall and gives me the faith to go onward and upward. And when I can't walk, He carries me.

When my heart would tend to wander, He takes it and seals it. He brings me back to Him.

He leads me by still waters and restores my soul.

He's my glory and the lifter of my head.

He's my encourager and my constant intercessor.

He prays for me.

He sets my spirit free that I may worship Him.

He's goes into the secret places of my heart with love and gentleness and shows me my need of Him. And then He does that beautiful, miraculous work to cleanse me.

He's my vision, my fire, my guide and all the wisdom I'll ever need for anything that comes my way.

He qualifies me for every task because I'm called by Him. I'm a child of the King!!!

He's teaching me to intercede for those in need by His precious Holy Spirit. He's causing my compassion and love for others to grow because He's alive in me and it's His love and compassion.

He's my breath, my life. His Word is my daily bread.

He's everything to me....

Oneness: How Important?

Continued from Page 5

to death." The Kingdom of God won't be manifested any other way. And believe me, Satan will resist every inch of the oneness we possess in God.

Today, the devil will try to find some area of our lives, some root of bitterness, or hidden sin or weakness, and then try to use it to stop us from truly becoming one in the body of Christ. None of us are perfect. All of us say the wrong things, do the wrong things, and react wrongly at times, but the maturing saints are pressing and reaching toward God's perfect love, that love that enables them to overcome every fear and barrier, that love that leads them into oneness.

BOOK CORNER

Delivered From Demons, by C. Parker Thomas

The story of a young girl's deliverance from demon possession and also a collection of a number of other articles relating to Satan's kingdom and activity, specially as it relates to the end of this present age. Suggested Price - \$6.50.

Does God Speak To You? by C. Parker Thomas

This booklet is composed of a wonderful series of articles published in the Midnight Cry Messenger during 1979. In this time of great spiritual darkness and deception what are the various ways in which He speaks and how can we learn to recognize His voice and respond? Suggested Price - \$3.50.

Examine Yourselves, By Phil Enlow

Paul said to "examine yourselves." There must be a way to do that. Can you say with Paul, "I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." 2 Tim 1:12. Suggested Price - \$7.50

The Gospel, By Phil Enlow

What is the gospel? Everyone thinks they know--but do they? In this day of watered-down "easy-believism" it is critical to know what real salvation is. What was the gospel that Paul preached? Suggested Price - \$3.00

How Do You Know You Are Right? By Phil Enlow

A spiritual challenge. A study of spiritual knowledge and how it is acquired. This is an area of critical importance in this hour of spiritual darkness and deception. We cannot afford to blindly rest in tradition. Suggested Price - \$4.00

Immortality, By Phil Enlow

What does the Bible teach about immortality, the future of unbelievers, the future of God's people? From the eight-part series in the MCM. Suggested Price - \$5.00.

The Keys of the Kingdom, by C. Parker Thomas

A clear study of the keys as they apply to us in today's world. Suggested Price - \$3.00.

Light in This Present Darkness, by Phil Enlow

From the series in MCM. Message for God's Remnant in the earth regarding the present hour of darkness. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

Lying Signs and Wonders, by C. Parker Thomas

A collection of articles concerning the end of the age exposing much deception as well as giving forth important truth needed by those who would be prepared for Christ's soon return. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

The Midnight Cry, by C. Parker Thomas

Contains two articles that set forth the truths concerning the midnight cry: what is it? who hears it? who makes it? what is its significance for us. A must for people who would understand this ministry. Suggested Price - \$1.00

Sex and Marriage in the Light of God's Word, by C. Parker Thomas

From a series of articles covering a whole range of scriptural and practical truth designed to help God's people in this important area. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

Sudden Death Overtime, by Phil Enlow

From the series published beginning in 2001. A look at our world and its prospects through biblical "glasses." What can we learn from history? What lies in our future? Why is the world like it is? Things every Christian should know. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

The Sure Foundation, by C. Parker Thomas

A collection of four articles published in the early 1980's on the important subject of the foundation believers have in Christ. Suggested Price - \$4.00.

Tongues: My Testimony, by C. Parker Thomas

Contains the article by the same name as well as an article entitled "Tongues Should be Tested" by Gerald McGraw in which he recounts lessons learned from testing to discover the spirit enabling someone to speak in tongues. Startling! Suggested price - \$3.00

What About Genesis? by Phil Enlow

How should we understand the Genesis accounts of the creation and the flood? Can a simple historical understanding of these accounts be defended in this age of scientific skepticism? Does it matter? Suggested Price - \$4.00.

What Does Deception Look Like? by Phil Enlow

Recognizing spiritual deception at the end of the age. What are its characteristics? Satan is waging all-out war and his chief weapon is the lie. As never before believers need to be grounded in bedrock truth. Suggested Price - \$9.95.

Your Adversary, By C. Parker Thomas

Awhile back, while looking through some of our oldest issues of the MCM, we uncovered this timely gem, published in about 1960! There is a simple directness and clarity in this teaching that will help anyone who desires to walk with the Lord and overcome in this hour. Suggested Price - \$2.50.

Note: The prices listed above are suggested with the thought in mind of simply covering the costs of printing and mailing these materials. It is not our intention to become "book-sellers," selling books for profit. Our desire is to get out truth that can help set God's people free in this critical hour. Please write to us at:

Midnight Cry Messenger

P.O. Box 685

Southern Pines, NC 28388 USA

The Captain of Salvation

by Steve Johnson

*Exhausted from the battle
And wounded in the fight,
The weary warrior searched
For a refuge in the night.*

*Moonlight cast its shadows,
And it seemed that he would fall.
But a hollow cave beckoned him,
From the jagged mountain wall.*

*Anxiously, he crept inside
And felt the need to pray.
But The Lord seemed so distant.
He knew not what to say.*

*Sleep would not find him
On the dampened, rocky floor.
Then he heard the voice
Of one prepared for war.*

*His wicked voice mocked,
This awful twisted wraith.
Where's your special helmet,
And your precious shield of faith?*

*Other demons laughed
At the warrior's untimely fate,
For many times they'd seen him
Turn the battle to the gate.*

*The fiery darts continued
To keep the warrior down.
He wouldn't do much damage,
While lying on the ground.*

*But the fighter wasn't finished
And much to their dismay,
He stumbled to his feet,
And bowed his head to pray.*

*His lips moved in silence,
But his needful prayer was heard
The Word came to life,
As The Holy Spirit stirred.*

*Grace flowed from heaven
As he pulled the sword from it's sheath,
The demons stopped their laughing,
And stared in disbelief.*

*For standing in their presence,
Stood the one they feared the most;
The Captain of Salvation;
The Mighty Lord of Hosts.*

*The Light of all mankind
Drove the demons from the room;
Giving them a foretaste
Of their eternal doom.*

*As if a fleeting vision,
The piercing light was gone,
But the warrior felt a peace,
Like none he'd ever known.*

*For the Word of God is sharper,
Than any two-edged sword
His children are his temple,
And the Battle is the Lord's.*

Broadcasts

RADIO STATIONS

Monday - Friday

Stat.	Freq.	Location	Time
KXEG	1280 AM	Phoenix, AZ	9:00 AM
KCNW	1380 AM	Kansas City, KS	12:15 PM 9:30 PM
KKIM	1000 AM	Albuquerque, NM	6:00 AM
WDZY	1290 AM	Richmond, VA	2:15 PM
WWVA	1170 AM	Wheeling, WV	9:30 PM

Short Wave Radio

WHRI ANGEL 1 – (Central & South America)

Mon.-Fri.: 0900 UTC-11.565 MHZ

Mon.-Fri.: 1600 UTC-21.600 MHZ

Mon.-Fri.: 2300 UTC-7.315 MHZ

WHRI ANGEL 2 – (Europe, Russia, Middle East & Africa)

Tues.-Sat.: 0015 UTC-5.920 MHZ

KWHR ANGEL 3 (Hawaii) – (Asia, S.E. Asia & South Pacific)

Mon.-Fri.: 0915 UTC-9.930 MHZ

For a current schedule of "Angel" stations go to [lesea.com/whr/program-schedules/](http://www.lesea.com/whr/program-schedules/), scroll down to "Detailed Schedule Search," enter Midnight Cry for the program title and then click "Start Search."

Television Broadcast

— (30 Minutes Weekly) —

Local Broadcasts

Albuquerque, NM - KAZQ - TV 32
Sun. 7:30 AM

Boone, NC - MTN-TV - TV 24
Cable 18 - Sat. 8:00 PM

Boston, MA/Manchester, NH
WBIN-TV - TV 18 - Sun. 6:30 AM

Chicago, IL - WJYS TV-62
Sun. 7:00 AM

Greenville, SC - WGGS TV-16
Sun. 7:00 PM

Harrisburg, PA - WGCB TV-49
Sun. 9:30 AM

Jacksonville, FL - WTLV - Ch. 12 HD
Sun. 6:00 AM

Los Angeles, CA - KDOC-TV 56
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Minneapolis, MN - WUCW-TV CW23
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Phoenix, AZ - KASW-TV CW6
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

San Francisco, Oakland, California
KBCW TV-44 - Sunday, 6:00 A.M.

Seattle, Washington
KVOS TV-12 - Sunday, 10:30 A.M.

TV Network Broadcast

— (30 Minutes Weekly) —

The NRB Network (DirecTV 378)

Sun. 6:30 AM Eastern

Mon. 3:30 AM Eastern

Romans 6:13

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Visit Midnight Cry Ministries on the web:

www.midnightcry.org

COMING EVENTS

Annual Convention

June 22-25, 2016

Lexington, South Carolina

November Meeting

November 23-26, 2016

Jacksonville, Florida

Please pray "...for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel..." Ephesians 6:19.