



THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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The Glory of the Cross

From *The Weight of the Word* by Harold Barber

“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14). These words were spoken by a man who might well have gloried in many things, yet it was the cross of Christ that stood out predominantly before him. The glory of the cross shown upon his pathway so bright that it blinded him to everything else. It was the cross upon which his Saviour died, the cross upon which salvation was purchased. It is little wonder that this man of God should make such a statement. He looked life squarely in the face and found that the cross of Christ and the Christ of the cross had lifted him from the realms of “mine own righteousness” to the high plane of the righteousness of God by faith,” and from that time on he rejoiced in the love of God and testified, “Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is as great a testimony as man can give.

If our hearts are right with God and we enjoy that heavenly peace that comes to those who know him, we can be happy even though the whole world be set in array against us. It was the events on Golgotha, the cross, that brought this peace to the hearts of mankind and made possible the Apostle Paul’s testimony and other millions to give the same testimony. This, I believe, is the outstanding reason why we should glory in the cross. It was through the cross that God worked out his great plan of reconciliation. Man in the beginning disobeyed the commands of God, and fellowship was broken, and he went into the darkness of sin and was driven from the presence of God, no longer to enjoy the fellowship with his Creator in the sense he did before the transgression. In due time Jesus went to the cross and died that ignominious death that we might be reconciled to God and restored to the high plane of holy living and fellowship with God as before Adam transgressed. We have nothing in ourselves in which we can glory; it’s all in the cross. Jeremiah spoke long ago and said, “Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exerciseth loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.” Men today are glorying in their wisdom, they are glorying in their might to subdue their foes, they are glorying in the abundance of their riches, but all of this glory will fade away as the blossom of the flower and the grass of the field. He that hath come in contact with the Christ and has a vision of the cross and tasted of its efficacy can never glory in anything else without sustaining great loss to his soul. The greatest blessing ever to come to the human family

came through the cross. Being reconciled unto God and receiving pardon for our transgressions, thereby having peace with God, is man’s greatest blessing and his greatest need. Men are seeking every way to satisfy the longing of their hearts, trying everything that offers any promise of soul rest, yet they find it not in those things of earth. Why, oh, why! not turn to the cross and find rest to your souls? The cross is God’s provision for sinful men. It was at the cross that I found pardon and mercy and went away with the peace of God in my heart, and it will be at the cross that you will find it and the millions of the earth who seek soul rest. Yes, Lord, we glory in the cross, for at the cross we found our need.

In Ephesians 2:15-16 we find another reason why we glory in the cross. The Apostle is speaking of the Jew and the Gentile, and of the enmity that existed between them. And we might say here, that not only the Jew and Gentile of long ago had enmity between them, but it still exists today among men. We have tried mediators, peace treaties, peace pacts, and various ways to settle our differences and erase the enmity but all to no avail. Nations have spent millions on war machines, ammunition, anything to destroy their enemies. What is the hope of mankind? Can we find any solution for our problems? Men are racking their brains for an answer to these questions. There is but one answer, and that is the cross of Jesus. In the second chapter of Ephesians Paul deals with this subject and says, “Jesus is our peace.” Now we know that Jesus did not reconcile the entire Jewish nation to the entire nations of the Gentiles, but only those Jews and Gentiles who received him were all reconciled unto God and also reconciled unto each other in one body by the cross. Jesus broke down the middle wall of partition between them and their enmity was erased, and they loved each other. Therefore, the cross not only reconciles us to God but to our fellowman. Regardless of how much enmity may exist in the hearts of men, when they come in contact with the regenerating power of the blood of Jesus, that enmity is all taken away. They can go then and place their arms around the man they hated and ask his forgiveness. There comes within that heart a spirit and an attitude which will do no harm to anyone, but a love arises there for all mankind, regardless of what race or creed they may be. It takes a genuine experience with God to retrace your steps, and straighten up the crooked places and ask forgiveness and restore the pledge and speak to that one you know hates you and also to carry back the things you have stolen. Yes, friend, to be right with God means to be right with our fellowman. Praise God for a plan of salvation that not only reconciles us to our Creator but also sets us right with the world. Can you glory in the cross? Have you knelt at the foot of the old rugged cross and obtained that experience that removes all enmity from your heart? If the blood of Jesus brought the Jew and Gentile to the place where both had access by one Spirit unto the Father, it will surely erase the differences between men today. Then is the prophecy fulfilled in our lives, “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” After we have visioned the cross and experienced the Christ in our hearts, we no longer war with our fellowman but are at peace with all the world.

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How to Obtain Help in Time of Trouble

An excerpt from *The Secret of Prayer* by E. E. Byrum

It was when Job was put to the utmost test, in almost every possible way, that he realized that God was his helper; even in the darkest hour of his trial, and while in his sore affliction, and after having suffered the loss of all his worldly possessions, the instruction and counsel given him was "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: for he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee." Job 5:17-19

Sometimes Job felt that he was almost forsaken by God and man, and was sorely tempted and tried and tested, but his truthfulness in the end brought great satisfaction to the soul, and the blessings of the Lord were upon him in a temporal way, and also in increasing his faith and confidence in God.

In time of trouble, one should flee to the Lord in prayer. Then is the time that a person needs to commune with one who knows all about their sorrows and cares, who understands the source of their trials and knows just how to render the needed help.

The Psalmist said, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

We should learn at all times to follow the advice of the apostle, wherein he says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:6, 7.

A sure way to prolong troubles is to worry over things of the

past, present, or future. It does not one any good to worry over a thing before it happens, and it will not help matters in the least to worry after it has happened. Many people are either living in the past or the future so far as enjoyment is concerned, and have not learned the blessedness of a present experience of freedom of mind, soul and body—have not learned to cast their cares and anxieties on the Lord and permit him to take away their burdens.

It is not good policy to take your troubles to bed, as they do not make a congenial bed-fellow. Upon retiring at night, everything should be committed into the hands of the Lord and then lie down in peace to rest and sleep.

Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer."

In the fifth chapter of Romans, the apostle tells how to receive a benefit in time of trial and testing. After making mention of the experience of salvation, through faith, he says, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Romans 5:3-5

He does not say that we are to worry in time of trial and tribulation, nor that we are to feel downcast, but to "glory in tribulations." "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

The Blessing of Prayer

By: Clara M. Brooks

There's stealing o'er my peaceful, trusting soul
A power that is most divinely sweet,
As all my burdens on the Lord I roll,
And meekly linger at his blessed feet.

I kneel in sweet submission, while my pray'r
Ascends on wings of faith to Father's throne;
He listens while my hopeful spirit there
Its faltering petitions maketh known.

What bliss to dwell where heaven's blessings fall,
Until my soul, with mercy's drops bedewed,
Responds in answer to my Father's call,
With words of thankfulness and gratitude.

As angels came to dark Gethsemane
To bless the Savior, as he there did bow
Beneath the shadow dense, on bended knee;
O Father, bless my waiting spirit now.

Then let us ever humbly watch and pray,
Seek oft in tears the Savior's lovely face;
Come boldly with thy needs for ev'ry day,
Blest mercy's waiting at the throne of grace.



That Wicked One Toucheth Him Not

By: C. W. Naylor

How safe is the soul that abides in the Lord,
Securely from sin hid away;
His anchor the promise of God's written word,
To keep him by night and by day.

How firm the foundation upon which he builds
A structure to glorify God!
How wondrous the pow'r of the Savior that shields
From all the vile tempter's dark flood.

A wall of salvation upon ev'ry side,
Strong bulwarks presents to the foe;
And in ev'ry conflict tho' sorely he's tried,
Faith's shield will ward off ev'ry blow.

He trusts in the Lord and obeys his commands,
God giveth him grace from on high
To count all things joyful while boldly he stands,
And Jesus, his helper, is nigh.

That wicked one toucheth him not,
That wicked one toucheth him not,
He keepeth himself in the love of the Lord,
And that wicked one toucheth him not.

Why They Went Two and Two

Excerpt from *Peter the Fisherman Preacher* by E. E. Byrum

“And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two” (Mark 6:7)

The responsibilities of carrying the gospel to a people, most of whom were ready to reject and oppose both the doctrines and those who preached them, from a human standpoint were hard to bear. There were many burdens to be borne not only of a temporal and physical nature but also of a spiritual nature.

When Moses was called by the Lord to assume the leadership of the Israelites, who were in bondage to Pharaoh, he felt unable to undertake such a gigantic task alone. Notwithstanding the fact that he was reared in the royal family, educated under the direction and supervision of the king’s daughter, associated with the household of the ruler of the land, acquainted with their manners and customs, and likewise of his own down-trodden people, when the call came he felt his weakness and inability.

He said, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.”

“And the Lord said unto him, who made man’s mouth? ... Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say” (Exodus 4:10, 12).

With all this assurance from the Lord Moses hesitated and could not feel that he was equal to the occasion. He saw the sufferings of his kinsmen and people and wanted to help them. When he grew to be a man he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, “choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt” (Hebrews 11:24-26).

It seems that Moses was really consecrated to do anything the Lord would require, but when the testing time came the requirements stood like mountains before him. He could scarcely believe that he was competent to become a leader of the people and deliver them out of the hand of Pharaoh. However, when he found that the Lord had called him, and really meant that he should go, he implored the Lord to send someone to help him. The Lord then made choice of Aaron, who was a good speaker, to go with Moses and they became co-laborers in the great work before them. Moses assumed the leadership and directed affairs and Aaron assisted in delivering the messages to the people.

Other men whom the Lord called to perform special duties of momentous import felt their weakness and inability when called upon to assume such responsibilities. On such an occasion Gideon said, “My family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” (Judges 6:15). But the Lord said, “Surely I will be with thee.”

When Saul was chosen to be king he did not feel that he was suitable for the place. He said he was from one of the smallest tribes of Israel, and his family was least of all the families of the tribe.

The prophet Jeremiah, when chosen, plead his case by saying, “Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child” (Jeremiah 1:6). Notwithstanding, the Lord said to him, “Go.”

When Solomon was chosen to be king to take the place of his father, David, the Lord appeared unto him in the night and said, “Ask what I shall give thee.”

Here was his opportunity to have almost anything he desired. Wealth and fame were at his command, but Solomon felt the weight of his responsibilities, and his weakness, therefore he

decided to ask for that which he needed most in order to be a ruler and leader of his people.

He said, “Give me now wisdom and knowledge.”

This saying pleased the Lord insomuch that he said to Solomon, “Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honor, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like” (2 Chronicles 1:11-12).

The Lord fulfilled his promise with Solomon in so much that he was noted far and wide among the nations of the earth for his wisdom and knowledge, and for his wealth, and he was of greater renown than any other king among the kings of his day.

Coming down to the times of the New Testament we find humanity the same, within itself weak and inefficient for spiritual responsibilities, but strong and powerful in the service of the Lord, only as men receive the anointing of his power and follow his commands in the way of truth and righteousness.

Not only were the twelve sent forth two and two, to preach, but soon afterwards seventy others were chosen and sent out two and two.

“After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come” (Luke 10:1).

Jesus knew the needs of his messengers as he sent them forth. While they had to start out trusting the Lord for their daily needs and supplies, yet he did not send them alone, but knew their need of a helper, therefore sent them forth two and two.

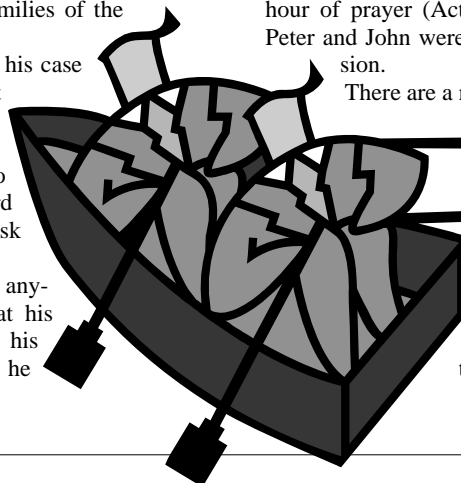
There were trials and temptations before them and difficult problems to solve. They could advise with each other, and counsel as to the best course to pursue. If the testimony of one was rejected or called in question his co-laborer was ready to step to the front and verify the truthfulness of the statement, “that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established” (Matthew 18:16).

There were times when their faith was tested and they needed to enter into a firm, unshaken agreement to accomplish their desires in accordance with the promises which had been given them.

Jesus said to them: “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matthew 18:19-20).

Just which ones were selected to go together in pairs is not specified, but later we find Peter and John together, going up to the temple at the hour of prayer (Acts 3:1). They were in prison together (verse 3). Peter and John were sent to Samaria (Acts 8:14-17) on a special mission.

There are a number of others mentioned as co-laborers, such as Paul and Barnabas; Paul and Silas; Judas and Silas; Paul and Timothy; Silas and Timotheus. No doubt from time to time many others traveled together two and two in fulfillment of their commission, like the twelve who “went out, and preached that men should repent.” And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them” (Mark 6:12-13).



Jesus Rises from the Dead

From *The Picture Story Life of Christ* (Matthew 28:2-16; Mark 16:5-14; Luke 24:4-12; John 20:2-18) by Elsie Egermeier

The hours of watching dragged slowly by to the Roman soldiers who guarded the tomb where the body of Jesus lay. No one had come even to visit the grave; and perhaps the soldiers laughed at the fears of the Jews.

The eastern sky was beginning to light up with the promise of a new day, when suddenly the ground beneath the watchers' feet began to tremble. Another earthquake had come. Then the fearful watchers saw a mighty angel come down from the sky and roll the stone away from the door of the tomb and sit upon it. The face of this angel had the appearance of lightning, and the garments he wore were as white as snow. At sight of him the soldiers fell to the ground, trembling and helpless, and lay there as if they were dead. All this happened because Jesus had, in the grave, come back to life. He was risen from the dead.

When the women came to the garden they found the tomb empty, and the angel had not yet gone back to heaven. At first the women did not see the angel, and they wondered who had come and stolen the body of their Lord. Mary Magdalene left the others and ran quickly to tell Peter and John that the body of Jesus had been taken away from the tomb.

After Mary had gone from them, the other women saw the beautiful angel in the empty tomb, and they were afraid and bowed themselves to the ground. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Why are you seeking the living among the dead? Jesus is not here; he is risen as he said. Go quickly and tell his disciples and Peter that he is alive and will meet them in Galilee."

The women ran from the place, filled with joy, yet trembling with excitement and fear. The good news which the angel told seemed too wonderful to be true. Still, they believed and hurried to tell the disciples and other friends who were sorrowing.

But the disciples refused to believe the glad message. Peter and John ran to see the empty tomb for themselves, and when they came to the place they found no one, for the soldiers had fled into the city to tell their strange experience to the enemies of Jesus who had stationed them to watch by the grave.

John outran Peter, and coming first to the grave he looked and saw it was empty. Then Peter came, and he went into the dark room where the body of Jesus had been laid. He saw the graveclothes that Joseph had wrapped round the body of Jesus, and he believed that surely Jesus was alive once more. John, too, entered the grave and saw the clothes lying where Jesus had left them, and he also believed.

Mary Magdalene had not stayed in the garden long enough to hear the message of the angel, and now she returned from the city, longing to find the place where her crucified Lord had been taken. She did not yet know of the new hopes that were gladdening the hearts of her friends. Entering the garden again, she stood by the empty grave and wept. Then she stooped down and looked into the grave and saw two angels sitting, one at the head and another at the foot of where the body of Jesus had been. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She replied, "Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid him." Then turning about she saw Jesus himself standing near. But tears blinded her eyes, and she did not know him. He, too, asked her why she

wept, and supposing him to be the man who cared for the garden, she said, "Sir, if you have carried away my Lord, tell me where you have laid him that I may take him."

Then Jesus said, "Mary!" and she knew his voice.

What glad joy filled Mary's heart when she knew that Jesus was speaking to her again! She fell at his feet and cried, "Master!" Then he told her to go at once and tell her sorrowing friends that she had seen him and that he had told her to tell them he was going to ascend to their heavenly Father's home.

While these things were happening the soldiers came into the city and told the chief priests what had taken place in the garden tomb. And the chief priests were alarmed. They quickly called the other enemies of Jesus; and they all wondered what to do. They had no thoughts of accepting Jesus even though he had truly risen from the dead. They still hoped to persuade the people that Jesus had been a false prophet, so they decided on a plan, and they asked the soldiers to help them carry it out. They offered them much money if only they would promise to tell no one else that Jesus had risen and an angel had opened the tomb. They urged the soldiers to tell the people that the disciples came and stole Jesus' body away while they were lying asleep.

The Roman soldiers cared nothing about the Jews and their religion, and they gladly took the money and went away. And when they were questioned about the disappearance of Jesus' body from the grave, they said the disciples had stolen it while they slept.

Questions and Answers

1. Who ran to tell Peter and John that the body of Jesus had been stolen? (Mary Magdalene)
2. What message did the other women hasten to bring to the disciples? (The glad news that Jesus had risen from the dead.)
3. Why did Mary Magdalene return the second time to weep at Jesus' grave? (She did not yet know that Jesus had risen.)
4. To whom did Jesus first appear after he had arisen from the dead? (To Mary Magdalene)

The Church of God Pastor: David Chancellor
701 S. Eastern Ave. Email: dchancellor@juno.com
PO Box 6187 Website: <http://www.moorecog.org>
Moore, OK 73153 Phone: (405) 794-2765

Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.