



The Banner of Truth®

International Voice of The Church Of God Of North Carolina

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# Our Saviour Is Born



# Peace To All the World!



Merry  
Christmas  
From All  
of us  
To All of You

*John A. Wilkins, Jr.  
International Overseer*



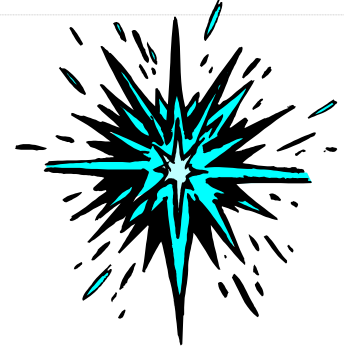
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# “God’s Gifts To A Lost World”

~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~

International Overseer



## THE LAW – A GIFT TO MAN

We know that God gave the Law as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Under the law man could not live without sin, the blood of goats and bulls was not sufficient to keep man in his relationship with God. God had a plan of redemption from the book of Genesis all the way through the Book of Revelation and His name was and is JESUS. *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.* Genesis 3:15

Because of man’s extreme wickedness in the world He decided to destroy the unrighteousness of man by a flood but He always had the same plan of giving to man a way of redemption back in his relationship with Him.

Let us look again to the beginning in Genesis 6: 5 where the Bible says, *“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.* Genesis 6:5-7

## THE CHRIST -- A GIFT TO MAN OF REDEMPTION

In every dispensation man rejects the gifts that God has selected for him and continues in his own way without regard for the God that has created him. Christmas is the season for giving and exchanging of gifts between family and friends but let us remember the gifts that God has given throughout man’s history. Now let us reflect on our present day situation. Many of the stores you will spend your money with will not permit their workers to wish you a “MERRY CHRISTMAS”, yet we continue to support them without one word of opposition. The crosses across America are being torn down before our eyes as the God hating people attempt to remove Christ from our country, our home and now our churches. Our loving God has continued to pour out gifts to us in every age yet they are rejected for the most part and ignored.

Now on this celebration of this very special day of the year, we call Christmas, let us look at this gift to a lost world in the form of a little baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. He wasn’t properly wrapped in the minds of so many and He was born in a stinking stable in the midst of the animals instead of the most prestigious inn of that day. He was a

disgrace to the Jews because of His lowly birth and unacceptable then and now. He did not look like a leader for them in that manger and stinking stable. Did they forget that He was the gift of God to them or were they so proud that they could not accept this humble birth? God’s gift had once again been un-receivable by most. Let’s examine this gift from the scriptures.

*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.* John 1:10-11

*And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is*

***the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.***  
John 3:13-21

Man has trampled this gift under foot to such an extent that He is hardly recognizable today in our world. In order to maintain political correctness now many say, "There is more than one way to get to Heaven." You must pick and choose your way and everything will be okay but the Bible declares Jesus Christ is the only way. The Jews killed Him and said, "Let His blood be upon us and our *Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.*"  
Matthew 27:22-25

Not only did they not receive the Gift of God, JESUS CHRIST, they killed him! One would think that God would give up on humanity but NO, a

thousand times NO, He never gives up but keeps on presenting His gifts to His children."

***Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.***  
Romans 5:18-21

## **THE CHURCH – A GIFT OF GOD TO MAN**

God's only Son JESUS CHRIST now has given His life willingly on the cross for the sins of the world but it is not over here. He purchased the CHURCH while on the cross with His own blood.

***Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*** Acts 20:28

These was another gift from God to this lost sin sick world and provided for us as a gift by Christ and look how it has been treated and continues to this day to be treated by man. Men

have taken His Church for their own and have traded His love for bitterness and a self-righteous spirit that eliminates all who do not endorse their behavior and isolationism as they claim to be the ONE, the TRUE CHURCH. There has never been so much division at a time when we should be working together and appreciating the gift He has left us, His Church. It is much more important now to have a following than it is to follow Jesus Christ in the beauty of holiness. While the Lord continues to hold out his hands and say, "Come" these leaders say, "Come unto me and do as I say or I'll take your license and turn you out." We can't preach perfection for preaching things that will keep people on a string under our puppet ministry. Pastors and overseers are afraid to let their puppet members out of sight because without their control they might be moved by the spirit and led in a right way by the Lord. I have been in the Church for many years but I have never heard of such intimidation and threats in all my life as there are today as leaders rule their members as puppets on a string. We need to break out in a Holy Ghost Revival that will cause the members to return from whence they are fallen, and allow the Holy Ghost to direct and control them instead of man. There is talk every evening on the National Networks about America falling while we run back and forth claiming such fanatical claims that no one believes our report or message concerning Christ and His Church. Since the Catholic Church was born there has been one denomination after another →

among protestants until the brands and blends cover over the product; HIS CHURCH. Here we have another of God's gifts almost destroyed by the deceitfulness of man in the name of religion. How can we treat God's gift to us by the blood of His only Son, Jesus Christ with such total disregard?

People are saying, "He is coming soon" while practicing hatred for the brethren without fear. I am certainly not convinced that they believe He is really coming soon because their behavior doesn't indicate or relate to their message. Our message has become like a tinkling cymbal to the world, they hear us but do not believe a word we say because of our actions. *For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.* Acts 20:29-30

This scripture is fulfilled over and over as leaders rise up who are self-anointed and in many cases self-appointed to play "KING OF THE MOUNTAIN" and the rest of us look on in disbelief as they destroy the unity and love that should be in His House. What would our former General Overseer, Bishop A. J. Tomlinson think if he could see the house that he left behind in 1943? How do you think Jesus feels as He looks over the MESS left behind with so many groups being formed that I don't dare try to even name them anymore. We

have created a SHAME for our children and grandchildren as we so proudly proclaim that we are IT without regard for our brothers and sisters who are so weak they have become confused to the point of no return. His gift to us, **THE CHURCH** doesn't look so nice to our families any more yet we proclaim, "Nothing is wrong we have on the robes of righteousness and everything is fine". It reminds me of the fable, "**The Emperor's New Clothes**" leaving someone to cry wolf. These things have saddened my heart and they are not intended to cause hurt but they are intended to call our attention to the need to return to a spirit-led Church

## THE HOLY GHOST – A GIFT OF GOD TO MAN

This brings us to another gift by God, the Holy Ghost which He has promised to all who will obey Him.

*And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him..* Acts 5:32

Now you can't have the Holy Ghost if you refuse to OBEY Him! That leaves a lot of folks out because they will not seek sanctification which is the will of God and Jesus suffered without the gate that they might be sanctified. Someone recently told me, "They have the Holy Ghost because I heard them speak in tongues". I explained that the Devil talks in tongues but He is not sanctified and He will do anything. Don't be deceived because

someone has been to tongues school and learned to speak in tongues because unsanctified people do not have the Holy Ghost regardless of how high they fly. You must watch them after they hit the ground to see how they walk the walk and talk the talk, in Christ like living. Now they are teaching tongues without receiving tongues from God who promised the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him. When Jesus went back to the Father, He said, *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.* John 14:26

He, the HOLY GHOST hath made you overseers to feed THE CHURCH OF GOD according to Acts 20:28 so we are not left without help to run the Church. God's gifts are freely given by Him for this purpose and it will be this gift that propels the work into the future. Far too many are looking to man and man in most cases is looking to the wrong source. If God cared so much about man to send His only begotten Son to redeem us back to Himself and then sent the Holy Ghost to teach us, lead us and direct us don't you think something is dreadfully wrong today. Church folks are looking a lot like political parties as they strive for power, positions and fame while our candidate should be JESUS! Hurrah for JESUS! He is my candidate to take us to the top. Men are afraid to trust Him because He would tear up many of their political camps and destroy their role

as the “KING OF THE MOUNTAIN” and their following might go someplace else. I am afraid at some point He will call to record such men and judge them unworthy. I want to see us all return to allowing the Holy Ghost to run the Church but in order to do so we must ALL be willing to submit to Him. The Holy Ghost wants to be our overseer but too many men want to be and will not permit Him to lead. God’s gifts to man have not been well received and that frightens me as the day of the Lord is fast approaching while men compare their righteousness with one another and souls are being lost every day without the hope that could be theirs. This gift from God must not be handled carelessly because it is the most serious gift from God. Putting Him off can cost you your soul, speaking against Him will cost your soul, listen to the Word of God; *Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.* Matthew 12:31-32

## HOPE – THE GIFT OF THE CHURCH

The Church has a gift to give to the world also; it is the gift of HOPE through Jesus Christ our Lord so let us reach out to the world with this our gift, to a lost world.

## “GOD’S GIFTS TO A LOST WORLD”

These are still available today and they are eternal. □

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# No Other Foundation

~Charles Clark~

London, KY



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I Corinthians 3:9-11 *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

There is only one foundation. From this one foundation we can understand much about what the finished building will be like. The foundation is the start (beginning) of the building. The designer must have a vision, clear in his mind of the building in its finished state, before he can properly design the foundation.

The foundation shows the shape and the dimensions of the entire building. The building, in its finished state, must fit its foundation. All its parts must sit on the strength of the foundation. All the weight of every wall must be undergirded by the unyielding strength of an immovable foundation. If the foundation breaks or shifts the whole building will be weakened, warped, and perhaps destroyed.

It is not God's plan for our work to be destroyed, but rather for it to remain eternally. Jesus said, *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained*

*you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: ...* John 15:16a.

O that our fruit may remain, and be with us, on that Day of Judgment, when we must present it to our Lord. *If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.* I Corinthians 3:14. It seems that if we build on another foundation, one that is not built to specifications, our work will not survive, its trial by fire, and we may stand before our Lord empty handed with no reward. O the shame of such an hour!

It was Abraham (the friend of God) whom the Scripture first depicts as seeing by faith the foundation of God's city. *By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.* Hebrews 11:9-10.

*And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.* Hebrews 11:39-40.

Abraham while living this life, in the flesh body, saw it by faith. It was many years after he had died, and his spirit returned to God who gave it, that he saw the

foundation laid by Jesus Christ, who said, *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.* John 8:56.

It was John (the beloved of Jesus) whom the Scripture depicts as seeing afar off the Lamb's bride, the City of God, in its finished state. *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* Revelation 21:2. *And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.* Revelation 21:14.

From John we learned the names of the twelve foundation stones, and they are the twelve Jesus chose, kept with him for about three years, and after training them throughout His ministry, sent them to take the whole Gospel to the whole world. *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 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. Amen.* Matthew 28:19-20.

He chose them. He trained them. The foundation was laid by no one else but Jesus Himself. He said, *"I will build my church;"*

Matthew 16:18. Abraham looked afar off by faith and saw a city which had foundations whose maker was God. Jesus, who was God in the flesh, in the form of man, laid the foundation with his own hands. *And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,* Mark 3:13-14.

When he had laid the foundation with his own hands, later on the day of Pentecost, He poured down upon them the Holy Ghost empowering them for the great task, of the great commission, to go to the whole world with the whole gospel.

These things, which he did, were in fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies. *There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.* Psalm 72:16.

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.* Isaiah 2:2

Not only did the Spirit confirm by the Old Testament prophets, but the same Spirit by the New Testament Apostles showed forth the foundation He had lain. *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints,*

*and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;* Ephesians 2:19-20.

One of the Old Testament types and shadows (of better things to come under the New Testament) was the great temple, built by Solomon, at the place in Jerusalem where God chose to put his name. For many years it stood as a witness of God's favor upon His chosen people Israel. There He heard their prayers and forgave their sins.

Then the people of God abandoned Him. They served the gods from before the flood, the gods of the nations that dwelt in the land before them, and the gods they had known in their slavery in Egypt. They practiced evil and perversion, turning back again to the heathen ways of those that knew not God.

God, in His love and tenderness, sent prophet after prophet to weep and beg them to repent and return to their covenant with Him. But there came an end to His patience. He had warned mankind all the way from back in the time of the flood, *"My Spirit shall not always strive with man,"* Genesis 6:3.

God sent Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to pillage the land, rob the house of God, and carry the people away into slavery, until they could learn repentance.

*We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.*

*For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?* Psalm 137:2-4.

For seventy long years, according to the prophecy of the prophets He had sent them, God left His chosen people in bondage, in a strange land oppressed by a foreign nation.

Read Jeremiah 25:11 *And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.* also Jeremiah 29:10 *For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.* and Zechariah 7:5. *Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?* At last the seventy years was finished, and the people returned to the land God had given them.

They began to rebuild the old wasted places. *But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:* Ezra 3:12



Were they joyfully weeping because something new was being built? No! they remembered the first house, and knew the pattern of God's house. They recognized the foundation from its dimensions and shape. They could see it as the start (beginning) of the rebuilding of the same temple that stood there before the seventy years of captivity.

When Jesus established the foundation of His house, returned to the Father, and sent the Holy Ghost to empower them, He finished all the Father sent Him to do. He left his foundation to **"occupy till I come"** Luke 19:13.

**"ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** Jude 1:3b. Jesus gave it to the twelve of Mark 3:14, **And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,** and to the seventy of Luke 10:1 **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.** By the day of Pentecost the list of the names of His followers were about one hundred twenty names, read Acts 1:15 **And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,).** On that day three thousand more were added unto them, read Acts 2:41 **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.** His church begin the task He had

assigned them, **And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.** Mark 16:15

In the very Bible that we hold in our hands is everything needed to operate The Church of God. All her beautiful doctrine, the structure of her organization, and her endowment with power from on high is all preserved for us in the Holy Bible. The Holy Ghost inspired writings of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself the chief corner stone. We need never turn back to the weak and beggarly elements of this world's vain philosophy, but rather nestle close to Jesus

who is the Head of His church. **And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.** Ephesians 1:22-23.

Jesus, while in the flesh body, warned us not to teach for doctrine our own (man made) ideas. **But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** Matthew 15:9.

The apostles gave warning of the coming apostasy, and the danger to the souls of those who fell into it. **For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.** Acts 20:29-31.

The Holy Ghost speaking through the writings of the apostle Paul warned us **Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;** I Timothy 4:1. The Lord's half brother Jude gave this warning also. **For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.** Jude 1:4.

Despite the many warnings, in about three hundred years, the beautiful foundation Jesus had laid was covered over with the rubbish of man made creeds, traditions, and opinions. The gracious doctrine of salvation by repentance and faith toward God was replaced by doing penance and confession to men. The holiness living of its saints gave way to rites, and ceremonies that could never make those that practiced them clean, and pure before God. The Spirit filled men and women who demonstrated the fruits, gifts, and signs of the Holy Ghost were supplanted by the long recital of dead memorized prayers.

The marauding armies of Nebuchadnezzar left God's House in Jerusalem destroyed with its broken foundation covered over with the rubbish of battle. In the same manner, false teachers and prophets left the beautiful Bride of Christ covered over with the filth and stench of man made creeds and heathen customs.

This too was foretold by

the prophets of old. *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.* Isaiah 60:2.

*Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.* Jeremiah 13:16.

*A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.* Joel 2:2.

When God's timetable had turned a man named Martin Luther read, *"the just shall live by his faith."* Habakkuk 2:4. And he read, *The just shall live by faith."* Romans 1:17. And he read, *The just shall live by faith."* Galatians 3:11. And he read, *the just shall live by faith:"* Hebrews 10:38. There it is preserved on the pages of the Bible. Preserved in the stories of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, and Paul and the Philipian jailer, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,"* Acts 16:31.

There in the gross darkness of the 16th century, the revelation power of the Holy Ghost helping him, Martin Luther caught a brilliant gleam of truth. Was it a new doctrine? NO! NO! a thousand times NO. It was a

gleam from the light of the world. It was a foundational doctrine stone that was laid by Christ sixteen hundred years before.

Later in the 18th century, the man named John Wesley saw the second experience of sanctification. Peering back through the words of the Bible, by the revelation of the Spirit, he understood the blood not only would forgive us of our sins we had committed, but would also cleanse us from all sin. The old man could be crucified, *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.* Romans 6:6.

Was this a new doctrine? It was as old as the Bible. It was more of the same truth; another sighting of some corner of the House (Church) Jesus had laid the foundation of eighteen hundred years before. Later in the 19th century, in the decades after the American civil war, a few small mountain congregations begin to experience what they referred to as the "fire baptism". By the first half of the 20th century it had spread to the whole world. Was this Pentecostal experience new? It was again a glimmer of light shining down, through the pages of the Bible, God's Holy Word, two thousand years. This was that spoken of by the prophet Joel, experienced by the early church, and poured out again in these latter days.

It was in this context that A.J. Tomlinson climbed to the top of a remote North Carolina mountain that stood behind the humble

cabin home, where he was conducting meetings. In the top of the mountains he prayed and prevailed with God. Like the great reformers before him, by the revelation power of the Holy Spirit, he peered back two thousand years in time, to the pages of the blessed old Bible. There preserved for us, in these latter days, was the same foundation. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

A.J. Tomlinson later wrote, "There it is with the same laws, the same sanctified life of its members, the same sacredness, the same healings, the same miracles, the same officers, the same power, the same glory, and everything preserved and without decay."

God's Church will remain. We cannot build what is already built. God has been gracious and let us help to uncover her so that she will be, in these last days, *the pillar and ground of the truth.*" I Timothy 3:15b. A bright and shining light, empowered by the Holy Ghost, poured down on us in the latter day rain. *"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure,"* II Timothy 2:19a.□



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## Souls, Souls, Souls

~Dolores Yost~

New Ellenton, SC

What is it that our minds and attention is focused on most of the time? That is an honest question, and it needs an honest answer! If we are to reflect the character of Jesus Christ, then there is only one answer. SOULS! Yes, souls really is still Jesus' main focus. That should not surprise us since it is the main reason for which he gave His life.

Hundreds, even thousands of precious souls are falling into the abyss of eternal torment daily. Men, women, children from all over the world are occupying a horrifying environment of which there is no escape! A place that was never intended to house the souls of humanity, but rather a torturous abode for Satan and his angels! There are people today that believe that God sends souls to hell. The reality of that is, the Son of God died a horrific, painful death to keep the souls of humanity out of such a gruesome place. The rejection of the gift of eternal life, for which Christ spilled His blood, is what sends mankind into eternal destruction!

The Word of God tells us that it is the will of God that no man should perish and that all mankind would be saved and inherit eternal life. That marvelous blessing is available today by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their life. Jesus' last minutes on the Earth, before His ascension, was spent giving His final commandment to His people. These were His final words, so we should know how important they were to Him.

Mark 16:15,16 *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

Jesus was very clear in His message to the world. There was no complicated use of words, only simple instructions. We must continue in His last

address and His last commandment to His Church! Go ye is inclusive to all His disciples individually! Each one of us is called to this task! It's a wonderful thing to travel to foreign countries to preach. Those of us that has had the blessing and opportunity to do this can tell you what it is like to stand before a people who cannot speak our language. Yet the salvation message is so readily received through the power of The Holy Ghost and the use of interpreters. It is an extremely humbling yet rewarding experience as we see God at work in these other nations. It gives us a small glimpse of how really great and how loving He really is! Glory and honor to His great name, forever!

Individually, your particular field of labor is where you are daily, praise the Lord! It's where God affords you the opportunity to tell someone about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Are you telling someone about Him? Are you looking for opportunities to witness at the grocery store, the bank, the post office or the gas station? You may really be surprised the next time you are at Wall Mart and sit next to someone on a bench, how quickly the subject of Jesus arises. You may also be surprised at how willing people are to share their testimony of what great things God has done for them! Don't let the devil steal your chance because he will certainly try! Dismiss the fear that you may be rejected and say something positive for Jesus. That man or woman next to you in line at the grocery store may not be saved and may go out into eternity five minutes later after leaving the store!

We do not have the power to save anyone, that is reserved for The Savior only. When we tell others about Jesus, we have done what is required of us. We are the feet, voice and hands of Jesus. Like the Lord said, those that believe will be saved, the unbelievers will be damned. It's sad even to think that everybody is NOT going to heaven! Oh! What a dreadful and sobering thought! Oh! What a loss of opportunity! Do you witness to your family

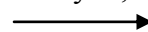
members who are unsaved? Please tell them about God's plan for their eternal home. Does the Devil use subtle ways to keep you from saying what is needed for your friends and neighbors to be saved? Please don't be afraid or ashamed to speak up for Jesus. Luke 9:26 **For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.** Children, take every chance you get, for you never know if the words you say will be the exact words a particular person may need to hear. Don't put it off till next time, there may not be a next time!

II Corinthians 6:2 (*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation.*) There is a time coming when there will be no more chance to witness. One day, the very last soul to be saved under this grace dispensation will have been saved before the rapture. Can you imagine the rapture taking place and you leaving your children behind along with your neighbors and friends?! !! Yes children, the rapture is upon us! We have His promise that He is coming for us. John 14:3 **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.** That should fill our very souls with joy and gladness! The world cannot claim this promise so it is no wonder that the world is so shaky and insecure. Rejoice that you be counted worthy, saints! Matthew 24:36 **But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.** He is most surely coming soon! We only have to read Matt, chapter 24 and see that ALL the signs are here, RIGHT NOW!! This should thoroughly convince us to step up our witnessing and pray more fervently than ever before. Let's get down to business with God in prayer for our loved ones. Take just a few minutes right now, How many people that you knew have gone on to their reward? Were they all saved? Some of them? How many went out into torment? How are we praying for our families? I have heard it said "MUCH PRAYER, MUCH RESULTS. LITTLE PRAYER, LITTLE RESULTS, NO PRAYER, NO RESULTS!!!!!"

Children, if we don't pray for our loved ones, who will? People simply do not know our family members, friends and neighbors. The responsibility of praying for them lies on us as the children of God. I remember years ago the title of a message I preached. "If not us, who, If not now, when?" The clock is ticking and time waits for no one. Let's be fervent and steadfast in our prayers for souls. James 5:16b **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man [or woman] availeth much.** I believe that Jesus is expecting us to bear this responsibility. Amen saints? I think there is only a small window of time in which to accomplish this. Jeremiah 8:20 **The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.**

The seriousness of our witnessing can be seen in these next two scriptures. They surely got my undivided attention as I'm sure you will feel the same. Ezekiel 3:18,19 **When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.** Oh! Think about it saints. We certainly don't want the blood of our children, our neighbors and friends on our hands!!! Some will pay attention to what we say and some won't, but at least we will know that we have warned them and we will be blood guiltless before the Lord. Amen.

I have often heard, as I'm sure you have also, that we shouldn't be using scare tactics when witnessing to people. The fire and brimstone of Hell is real, so is the eternal punishment, and eternal means without end. This next scripture says that we should use fear, for in doing so they may be saved. Jude 1:23 **And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.** I might add that the fear of God is missing among a lot of folks these days. Maybe that has something to do with the constant drifting away from TRUTH. The Word says that fear is the beginning of wisdom! Maybe some folks also think we don't need wisdom either! I don't know about you,



but I'm not going to be choosy about fear tactics if it can save my grandchild from Satan's snare and the pits of Hell, Amen! Let's just tell people the truth out of the Word of God! Hell is a real place and those who go there will forever, eternally be separated from those who choose Jesus Christ. Luke 16:26 *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.* That is eternal separation!

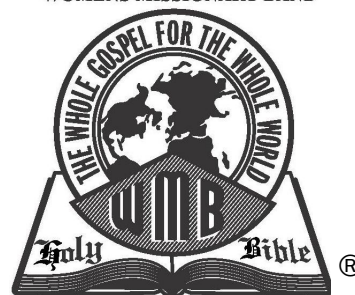
As I mentioned before, one day there will not be even one second of time that anyone can be saved, for in the twinkling of an eye, it will be too late. Let's not be sidetracked by all the world events as well as nationally The pitiful shape of our government, our joblessness and our awful economy, rules the headlines and the media, daily. As Americans, of course we are concerned. But God's economy tells me this ...Psalms 37:25 *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.* And besides Our Father having all of this business under control, the times that we are now living is just simply God's Word of prophecy being fulfilled!

Yes children, we are seeing the last of the last days. It is time to get our loved ones in! I Corinthians 15:52 *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* This event is so close upon us that we should be begging people to accept Jesus as their Savior. Once that trumpet sounds, it will be TOO LATE for it will be over!

Revelation 22:11 *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.* "BEHOLD, I COME QUICKLY!" □

**Merry Christmas  
To All**

WOMENS MISSIONARY BAND



## Encouragement—"Pass it on"

~Shirley Michael~

International WMB Director

When we love others, we want to point them to Christ. We care when they suffer. Whether it's family, friends or neighbor, who needs help we want to minister in the way that brings glory to God.

Even Lazarus got sick.

John 11:4 *When Jesus heard that, he said, **This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.***

Ladies let us bring glory to God. When people are sick or have impossible situations that only God can fix, let us pray and seek God for them and let the Lord lead us when we minister to them. You encourage them in the Lord when you follow His leading, you show others His love.

John 13:34 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Sisters, let us let others know that we **know** Jesus and this is His Church that encourages us to keep on keeping on.

**Walk** like Jesus, **Talk** like Jesus

## Encouragement—"Pass it on"

# Rejoice Glory IN THE OF CHRISTMAS

~Eunice Foster~

International Sunday School Director

We are coming to the close of 2011. This month (December we will be celebrating the birth of our Saviour some 2000 years ago.

The angels came to earth celebrating His birth and declaring His glory.

Luke 2:1-8,14 *And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

Luke 2:14 *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

The angels declared “*Glory To God*”. Oh what glory that tiny bundle wrapped in swaddling clothes brought to God His Father. As He grew, matured and at 30 years beginning a ministry that glorified God He healed, cast out devils, took command over nature. One miracle after another, always giving God the glory.

## He Was Praised

Luke 5:24-25 *But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. And immediately he rose up before*

*them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.*

Luke 7:14-16 *And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, **Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.** And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.*

## He Was Mocked And Persecuted

Luke 8:27-37 *And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, **What is thy name?** And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. They also*

which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gad-arenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

## He was Forsaken

Matthew 26:56 *But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.*

Still He was faithful, giving God the praise.

## He Did All The Father Asked Of Him

John 17:1-4 *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

We see our mission for 2012 as we look at this small part of Christ life (our pattern).

Faithfulness in our Work for God and the Church. Faithfull to the Word of God, Faithfull to the covenant we made to God and the Church.

Many will be making New Years resolutions that art not kept. Let us as born again Christians follow the example Christ has given us and strive to bring glory to God, by being faithful to our Lord and Master. □

**Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy New Year**

## For God So Loved The World...

~Jona Nelson~

Victory Leaders International Director



The season of giving is upon us... God gave unto us a tiny babe to symbolize His love for us. His sacrifice was so much bigger than this little lad who lay in the manger. As innocence sleep into the night, the child was in danger. Three wise men made a journey to seek the newborn king. They rode on backs of camels with gifts of gold and praises to sing.

VICTORY LEADERS BAND



A life that began so quiet and meek

In the stable, cattle and sheep lay solemnly at His feet. He had no worries for this child grew.

He was born of a royalty that nobody knew.

It flowed through His body, this strength built by love. That radiated from His Father above.

He was not wrapped up with fancy ribbons and bows. A lowly child wrapped in swaddling clothes.

He grew to help those in need.

Spreading the gospel and sowing the seeds.

He left as meekly as He came.

Life on Earth was not the same.

His kingdom was the world, though not many wanted Him. He that lights the world will truly never go dim.

...that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** to all! We are Blessed to have this gift. □



# Why Christ was Born

## Voice from the Past

~ White Wing Messenger 1974 ~

The message of Christmas is the beginning of the out-working of the salvation of God through the ministry of His only begotten Son. A Christmas which means less than this is not the Christmas of the Christian. It is possible to become so absorbed in the history of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus that practically no thought is given to the real purpose of His coming into this world.

It is true that the message of the angels remains to this day an exciting and thrilling story. At that time, it was not the ordinary thing for angels to visit men, though they had done so on numerous occasions in other ages. Some New Testament Scriptures indicate that the Law was received by the disposition of angels, and was so ordained in the hand of a mediator. (See Acts 7:53 and Galatians 3:19.) It is also indicated that those who received the Law in this manner did not keep it.

The writer of Hebrews states, ". . . If the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him ;

"God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" (Hebrews 2:2-4 )

God had spoken to men in other ways, but His message for the last days came directly from heaven:

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

"Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all

things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

"Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." (Hebrews 1:1-4)

Yes, the Son of God, as a Babe in Bethlehem's manger, was ushered into this world by the announcement of "the angel of the Lord" and a praising multitude of the heavenly host, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:9-14) But even that angel's message looked beyond the hour of His birth and encompassed His ministry. To the Judean shep-herds, the declaration was:

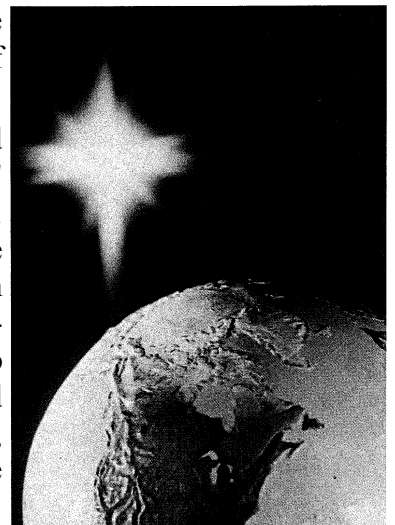
". . . Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

## This World Needed a Savior

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10, 11 )

I suppose everyone in Israel knew the meaning of "Christ the Lord," for the word "Christ" meant "the Anointed One" for whom all Israel had looked forward to receiving from the very beginnings of their history.

The "good tidings of great joy" were to ALL people. And the tidings were that salvation from sin would be provided for all men who would believe and receive. Earlier, when the angel of the Lord had spoken his



comforting words to Joseph, the message had been:

" . . . Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: **for he shall save his people from their sins.**" (Matthew 1:20, 21)

In a sense, "his people" were the Jews; but in a broader sense, His people were all men, for the promise of a Saviour was given before there was a nation or people of Israel. God's covenant with the patriarch Abraham promised the blessing to all nations of the earth. Through Abraham's seed, that promise would be fulfilled; and, while Isaac was the promised seed as pertained to that generation, the prophecy actually pointed to Christ.

Paul wrote: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." (Galatians 3:16) This was addressed to Gentiles, but the promises God made to Abraham took them in.

From Adam's day, fallen man had looked for a Saviour, for from the very mouth of God the first promise was given. Speaking to the serpent, God had said: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15) More than 3000 years later, God, through the Prophet Isaiah, made the prophecy plainer: " . . . Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) That the prophecy was of Jesus the Christ cannot be denied; and since, according to the New Testament, Emmanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23), it is clear that Christ was God in the flesh, being born of the Holy Ghost.

## God Provided Himself a Sacrifice

The Apostle John tells us that the Word was God, and that the Word was made flesh and dwelt among men, full of grace and truth. The same apostle presents Christ as the Saviour of men: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." ( See John 1:1- 14. )

Some 1500 years before the birth of Christ, the Law was given to show men the awfulness of their sins and the need of a Saviour. The Apostle Paul writes:

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

"To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Galatians 4:4, 5)

We are told in another place that the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Now the schoolmaster had done his work, and Christ had come to redeem sinful men, and to give them power to become the sons of God. Being made under the law, He did not begin His anointed ministry until He was about thirty years of age. Following His baptism and the temptation in the wilderness, He went to Nazareth and proclaimed Himself the anointed one of Isaiah's prophecy:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

"To preach the acceptable year of the Lord .. and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:16, 26)

When Christ had ascended to the right hand of the Father, the Holy Ghost came on the day of Pentecost. Besides the joy and power which accompany the mighty Comforter, He seals our hope of even greater things to come at the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and the rapture of the saints. Paul says:

" . . . After that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

"Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:13, 14)

Yes, Christmas is wonderful; more wonderful than many know. We love the story of the angels, the shepherds, the manger, and the Wise Men.

We enjoy the spirit of giving and sharing that accompanies the season.

Carols have been inspired and books have been written in an effort to perpetuate the blessed story. But, thank the Lord, not one jot or tittle failed of all that was written of Him pertaining to the thirty-three years that followed His holy birth.

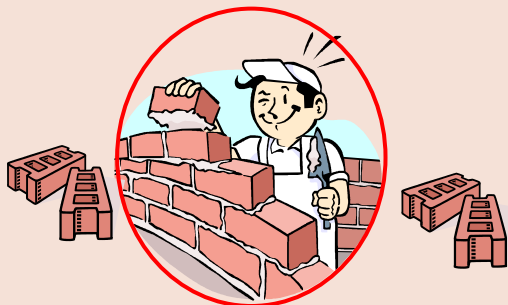
And not only has the message echoed down through the corridors of time, but the power of His endless life is shared by the sons of God even until now. And we joyfully join in the spirit of the old and the famous doxology:

Glory be to the Father, And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be,  
World without end!  
Amen! Amen!□

# Thanks to ALL !

For being a part of the **Brick Plan** by  
**PLEDGING \$50.00 Monthly** to help **International Headquarters** over the top.



## "The 50's Plan"

Send to: **The Church of God of NC**  
**310 W. Edgerton St.**  
**Dunn, NC 28334-4106**

## THE GREATEST BIRTH

—Roger Akers, New Boston, Ohio—  
White Wing Messenger 1974

Christmas can be a happy time of year. Shadowing  
the entire world Is the spirit of good will—  
The one time of the year When people everywhere  
Turn their thoughts to others.  
How wonderful if this spirit Could only live  
throughout the entire year.

There is no story in all the annals of man  
That is so dramatic and inspiring  
As the birth of Christ—  
A birth that occurred  
Under the humblest of circumstances,  
But which has done more  
To bring happiness, hope and assurance to human  
beings  
Than anything that ever transpired.

And now, with the world so filled with fear and fore-  
- boding,  
Comes this sacred day again.  
"On earth peace, good will toward men"  
Was what this meant at the time it occurred;  
And that is what it means today.

Peace and good will—

What could  
be greater  
assets To the  
happiness of  
all mankind?



THE  
GREATEST  
BIRTH

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