



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDED EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

Is Salvation "Fair"?

by Zachary Farrington

Academy Instructor - Santa Rosa Christian School

"That's not fair!" is a phrase all of us have thought at one point or another in our lives. Each of us possesses a sense of fairness, and this idea of "fairness" is often inextricably linked with what we think is right and just. No one would argue with the righteousness and justice of Christ's substitutionary atonement on the cross for our sins, but does that mean the salvation He offers is "fair"?

One of the most poignant passages on the "fairness" of salvation can be found in Matthew 20. Jesus begins to tell a parable concerning a man in need of laborers for his vineyard. In the early hours of the day, the man finds a group of men to come and work for a full day's wage. The

man of the house continues to hire more laborers throughout the day, even unto the "eleventh hour" (Mt. 20:6). When the time comes for all the laborers to be paid, they discover that each has been paid a full day's wage regardless of how long they had worked. Obviously, this development does not sit well with the men who had worked all day (Mt. 20:12).

Having had his character and business practices questioned, the man of the house responds: "Friend, I do thee no wrong... Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? **So the last shall be first, and the first last:** for many be called, but few chosen" (Mt. 20:13-16). Sadly, we are too often like those laborers, because we do not truly understand what these words mean. How quick we are to take these words as "the humble shall be exalted, and the prideful put down." Yet, it does not match the context of this parable.

These laborers are not saints and sinners working side-by-side on Earth; they are fellow Christians called by Christ to salva-

tion. And, if the first is last, and the last is first, then it would seem to move in a circular fashion, making *every Christian* equal. In the Christian race to Heaven, we all finish first in Christ. Now, the very first reaction of our sinful flesh is to balk at such a lack of "fairness".

The idea that all Christians, regardless of their actions on Earth, are equal in Christ just seems to go against basic "fairness". Daniel faced the wrath of kings throughout his life and stood steadfast in his faith, regardless of the punishment set before him. Joseph's trust in God never wavered even though he was subjected to slavery in a foreign land, prison time for doing what was right, and separation from his family for decades. These two men endured trials and resisted temptations at every turn and were rewarded by God as a result.

On the other hand, the Bible tells us of men like Samson and Lot who often made the wrong choices in life, squandering what God had given them in the process. Samson's life is a sad story

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EDITOR'S DESK

by Pastor Tod Brainard

A Reality Check

Dr. A.W. Tozer once asked his congregation in Chicago to pray for him and the integrity of his ministry:

*"Pray that I will not just come to a wearied end -an exhausted, tired, old preacher, interested only in hunting a place to roost. **Pray that I will let my Christian standards cost me something right down to the last gasp!**"*¹

He died quite unexpectedly in May of 1963 at the age of 66. A.W. Tozer was very much a prophet in his time. He was able to see through the malaise of New Evangelical thought in his day and discern and analyze that which was decaying in the church at its heart.

There is no question but that we are witnessing the rapid decay of culture and so-called "Christianity" around the globe. Yet where are the courageous voices that are calling forth Christians to spiritual battle for Christ? Tozer once wrote, *"The more I study revival the more I am convinced that the gift of prophecy must be exercised among us if there is to be a real and lasting revival in the church. We need anointed men who are not afraid to speak to the need of the church because revival is the renewal of the people of God first of all."*²

Somehow church leaders have convinced themselves that what their people need is more books to read, more programs, more activities, more music entertainment, more Hollywood movies in the church, more changes to the local church to make it look more like the culture in order to answer the critical issues of the hour. Nothing could be more wrong! What the churches of America and the world need

are preachers who will let their Christian standards cost them something.

Christian leaders are far more worried about budgets than they are about their church people being light and salt in this world. They are far more concerned for how people feel, than whether people are right with God. Christian leaders are more concerned about their people having fun than living Christian lives that cost them something.

A. W. Tozer wrote, *"Many in our day have forgotten that our fathers said, 'Let's do right, even if the world falls, or if the sky caves in.' Shrewdness has taken the place of honesty, and we can no longer say with sincerity that we are a righteous people. Even religion - yes, fundamental religion-seems to be built around the idea that Jesus Christ did all the dying, God does all the justifying, and you and I can just romp our way to heaven, with nothing expected of us and no questions asked."*

He wrote those words in 1953. His understanding of the church of his day revealed a "play mentality" within the church. In 60 plus years, this "play mentality" has become the norm. We are busier than ever, but taking little ground for Christ. Militancy left the church years ago because our church leaders left the idea and stopped preaching it from the pulpit. The messages by and large are filled with self-improvement and how to have economic security. You cannot build a meaningful, militant, Christ honoring local church on that kind of drivel.

Dear Reader, if the blood of Jesus Christ cannot cure a man of dishonesty, it cannot guarantee his entrance into heaven. Period. The Gospel of Jesus Christ produces a supernatural change of life, a supernatural change of thinking, a supernatural change of attitude. Nothing about the Gospel is natural, it is indeed supernatural. This life transformation means the Holy Spirit has entered the believer and now helps that individual to live a

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(Continued from page 1 - Is Salvation Fair?)

of a man, who wasted the strength given to him by God on foreign women and worldly pleasures. (Judg. 13-16) Then, there is Lot. Having been exposed to God's grace and mercy, we see Lot commit acts that shock us. He offered his own daughters to the mob outside his home in Sodom in order to sate their desire for the men staying with him. Even after being delivered from God's wrath, Lot allowed himself to become intoxicated and lay with his very own daughters (Gen. 19).

Do not Daniel and Joseph deserve higher esteem and greater heavenly riches than Samson or Lot? On the matter of esteem, Daniel and Joseph are clearly examples of higher character and godly living. However, things change when we move from the temporal to the eternal, from Earth to Heaven. To us, it would be **very fair** for Daniel and Joseph to have greater status in Heaven than Samson and Lot. But, if we are only concerned with "fairness", we miss the point. No human being deserves Jesus Christ's gift of salvation.

So is salvation righteous? Yes. Is it just? Indeed, it is. Then, is it at all "fair"? No, it absolutely is not. Fair is that all humanity spend eternity separated from God in Hell. Through Adam's sin, we are all guilty of wanting to be equal to God (Rom. 5:12). He would be "fair" and just in letting us all die in sin, no better off than Satan and his demons.

What's not "fair" at all is that Jesus Christ, He who can count it "not robbery to be equal with

God" (Phil. 2:6), would have to sink to the depths of Hell and be separated from the Father that He has eternally known (Jn. 1:1), just so that you and I could be saved. He lived a holy life and was rewarded with bitter death; we live wicked lives and are rewarded with the cleansing of His blood and righteousness of His life. Nothing could be more *unfair*. So, what are the ramifications of this "unfairness"?

We can take comfort in knowing that we will never have to do anything further to earn favor with God. God the Father sacrificed His only Son for us. Jesus Christ took on human form so that both His perfect life and atonement would be to our credit. The Holy Spirit suffered as Father and Son were separated by sin on the Cross. The very Trinity gave all so that we might have it all: salvation from sin, adoption into God's family, and resurrection in a new body fit for home in Heaven.

All these things God prepared for us while we were still his sinful enemies, Satan's children who were diametrically opposed to His mercy, love, grace, righteousness, and holiness. But now, we are in a position greater than even sinless Adam. We can use words such as *friend, brother, shepherd, husband, Father, and Redeemer* to refer to God, sweet words that we would never have any right to say based on our own works.

Still, we all know how difficult it is to do right. After all God has done for us as Christians, our hearts stray from Him and pine after sinful things at times. We

wonder if we will be embarrassed by all the trash we have burned to a crisp in heaven with little, if any, jewels left behind to offer Christ. There is the problem: thinking that any amount of **our** things (jewels, precious stones, works, righteousness) could possibly warrant God's mercy, grace, and goodwill.

Fairness can be cold and rigid, but the love of God is tender, relentless in pursuit of sinners, and beautifully "unfair". When we meditate on such incomprehensible love, all human works are truly "filthy rags" that could never add to or further ensure our salvation (Isa. 64:6). In Heaven, the redeemed will be equal in Christ.

All our tears and infirmities will be gone. All of us will have a heavenly mansion. We will all possess a body like Christ's body. We will all finally be able to gaze upon the face of God in all His fullness. Each one of us will possess these gifts and so much more. Yet, we must never forget the matchless gift from which all blessings flow: Christ crucified, resurrected, and glorified. It should be no surprise that Christ's glorified nature includes, not removes, the nail prints in His hands and feet for all of eternity. They shall serve as the greatest reminder to us that God has been completely and totally "unfair" to us in earthy terms. Such "unfairness" deserves an eternity of praise! Ω

 Pray for the ministry
of The PROJECTOR!



Spotlight on Contemporary Issues

Moving the Ark on a Cart

by Curtis Sluss

When one reads the Old Testament, he encounters the great tension between God's directions of how to do things and man's tendency to modify, modernize, rationalize, and change how they were to be done! Today, many still do the same things. Some believe that they have great latitude as they enhance how they serve and worship God.

David knew God's command for carrying the ark: "the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it:" When David went down to bring back the ark he modernized God's commanded method: he put it on a cart! As the cart bumped along, all the people "played before the Lord on all manner of instruments" This festive occasion was violently interrupted when the priest Uzzah, who should have been carrying the ark, was killed by God.

Nadab and Abihu knew God's commands concerning the offering, but they deliberately modified the offering; perhaps to spice it up a bit, perhaps to be more relevant to the culture, perhaps to impress/entertain the congregation; but, in any case they improvised. "And Nadab and Abihu ... offered strange fire before the LORD ... there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them..." God then said: "I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified." Service to God is not time to showcase how clever or talented you are. It is not a time to inno-

vate, entertain or impress. It is a time to bring attention to God, lift high the cross, and declare Him and His Glory.

Cain offered God a substitute worship expecting Him to accept it; God rejected Cain and his offering. Moses was commanded to speak to the rock to get water; instead, he struck the rock. That modification resulted in God's displeasure and Moses' never going into the land.

When God commanded Saul to slay the Amalekites he killed them all except the king. Because of partial obedience God rejected him.

In these examples of worshiping and serving God in man's way, we find the worshipers were surprised (or dead) when confronted by an offended God. Take notice that apparent good actions and sincere and honest motives carry no weight in God's sight if the activity is not done the way He requires.

I am concerned that some of the music used in our churches is like David's cart, or Nadab and Abihu's strange fire, or Cain's vegetables. It often seems that the music has been selected to please man's ear rather than God's. The apparent attitude is 'As long as the words are right, we can use popular styles of music'.

The announced motive is to sing to God, but to the person in the audience it seems they are focused on him! We have been told 'we need fresh new songs instead of tired old hymns'. Tired? So does that

mean God gets bored with the old hymns? No, it just means many today focus on performing for people who are bored with the old hymns. They think they have found a way of pleasing both God and man by using these 'rich fresh' songs. The audience is entertained and the crowd grows as people come to enjoy the musical program. Many have taken that which was to be offered as a sacrifice of praise to God, and have cleverly used it as an entertainment venue and a church growth tool.

In the New Testament singing is mentioned 12 times. Once we are to teach and admonish as we "... singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Once we are to sing Psalms when merry. Mostly, singing is adoration, devotion and praise to God from a sincere heart, not entertainment for man. Ω

¹Numbers 4:15

²Samuel 6:1-7

³Leviticus 10:1-3

⁴Numbers 20:7-1

⁵1 Samuel 15:28

⁶Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26, Acts 16:25, Romans 15:9, 1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 2:12, James 5:13, Revelation 5:9, Revelation 14:3, Revelation 15:3

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.
Hebrews 10:39



Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 3:6, **In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

God, in love, desires that your ways and His paths be one and the same. The word ways in this proverb speaks of a trodden down road, a well-traveled path. Ways mean a course of life, your manner of doing anything, and your habits. As a father, God is concerned about your ways for without his direction they will take you to places of danger. Your ways include your manner of thinking, your plan of life and conduct and your process of doing things. It is that which you mean when you say, **WELL THAT'S THE WAY I AM!**

So God, knowing that your ways are dangerous to you, invites you to seek His guidance by acknowledging Him. He knows that sin directs the habits or ways of the natural man and will always place him on a path which leads to eternal damnation in hell. He has told us in the previous proverb to trust in the Lord for He knows that our ways are places of danger. He desires for us to flee our ways and to find in him a place of refuge, a place of protection. If you get stuck on the exclamation of "WELL THAT'S THE WAY I AM!" that will get you a one way

ticket to hell. That way is not acceptable to God! God desires that you flee your ways and seek His direction! He wants you to not lean to your ways as truth but to know that your ways will lead you to evil and sin. God commands that He be acknowledged as the one who is concerned about our welfare. He says to his sons and daughters, check with me about the ways of your life. I want to help you. I want you to be successful in life. I know the way to go and if you consult me I will tell you the way. If you don't consult me, if you don't acknowledge me, then I won't intrude and I will let you go the way that you wish. It will not be the best way and it may be a way full of trouble and heartache but I will let you go your way. But I desire that my children acknowledge me; that they recognize that I have rule over them.

He wants us to go to him habitually. We are to go to him in the first place; not as a last resort; not only when we are in trouble. He desires to be the first of our consultants. He expects to come before self-will, self-pleasing, self-wisdom, friends, convenience, and expediency bring us down

a direction so far that our pride will not let us admit that we are in error. He knows that we so easily get entangled in these things that our pride will keep us from admitting our error and our lack in consulting Him. We are to form habits of acknowledgment of God early on in every way before we become so engrossed and enmeshed in our own directions. When we do so our vision is sure to be clouded by our pride. Consider no circumstance too clear to need His direction. In all thy ways, small or great, personal, business, temporal or eternal, we are to acknowledge Him.

What is the promise of this acknowledgement? What will be the result of consulting the Father, some little benefit, some worthless token? Certainly not! No worthless benefit or worthless token by our Father for our Father always gives good gifts. Our Father promises something right here in Proverbs 3:6, that is more valuable, has more benefit, and is of utmost importance to his children for He gives us a guarantee!

He guarantees that if you

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FOCUS ON RELIGION

Standing With Christ

Rev. Adam Watt

I Peter 4

Throughout the last several years, the attack on religious liberty in America seems to have greatly increased. Several incidents have surfaced because of the aggressive LGBT agenda as well as the Affordable Health Care Act. The Houston incident in which the mayor ordered pastors to turn over sermons dealing with homosexuality or gender identity is but one example of the current threat on religious liberty in America. In other instances, members of the LGBT community have claimed discrimination when bakeries or wedding rental venues declined service for civil union ceremonies. These incidents in which the majority of America is bound to the wishes of a small 3-4% minority (statistics from July *USA Today* article) will only increase as the multicultural and tolerant philosophies continue to thrive in our country. Christians, however, should not be dismayed, but realize they are standing with Christ. This article could have easily been entitled "Standing Alone," but that title emphasizes me instead of Christ. Even in our conservative churches today, we seem to promote a prideful spirit as we tout ourselves as the only remnant, the only ones with light, and the only ones who are right. This "Elijah complex" prohibits the believer from seeing beyond

"I am alone;" rather, the believer should focus on the privilege of standing with Christ, for as Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. often stated, "You and God make the majority in any community."

Peter writes many encouraging dictates for believers who find themselves in difficult situations of persecution. These early church believers faced not only the wrath of Rome but also the mockery of their fellow citizens. In chapter four, Peter hopes to encourage these pilgrims as he gives three defining factors of standing with Christ.

Differentiation

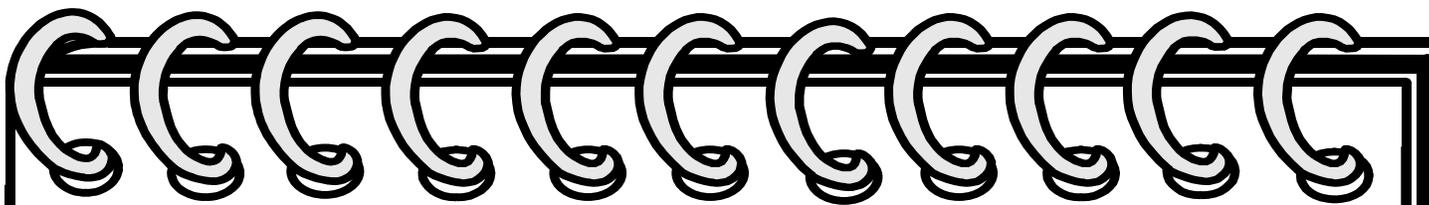
First, standing with Christ means differentiation (4:3-4). The world in general will think it very strange that you have left your former life of worldliness and sin, and will, therefore, disparage you. As believers, identifying with Christ means that we have been transformed as a new creature, becoming a stark contrast to the old lifestyle of sin. Sadly, our modern Christianity has promoted the belief that God will accept me just the way I am, and therefore, I can worship and live any way I please and still be accepted of a holy God (seeker movement and New Calvinism). This lie has

been promoted for many generations, and is one of Satan's ploys to lessen sin's guilt. As we stand with Christ, our differentiation from the world will cause increased persecution, mockery, and scoffing. As verse 4 states, the world thinks it strange that we run not with them; in other words, the believer avoids cultural conformity, and the world naturally attacks that which is differentiated.

Prayerfully Vigilant

Second, standing with Christ requires the believer to be prayerfully vigilant (4:7). We should not be shocked about the situation of our world, for the end of all things is at hand. Our responsibility, then, is to be sober and watch unto prayer. Verse seven's dictate involves maintaining a clear mind of vigilance that understands the times in which we live and remains focused in prayer upon the Savior. In this mindset, the believer understands the attack on religious liberty in light of the conditions of the last days. Standing with Christ, therefore, keeps our focus on the fact that even though the world is declining, our prayerful vigilance is to be stayed upon Christ and His soon return.

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Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

Putting a “Shine” on Compositions

The Institute for Excellence in Writing has developed a seminar for teaching writing to students in upper elementary through high school. The DVD’s are created to teach the teacher how to introduce writing techniques to their students. The video demonstrations, which will provide practical applications, stress modeling and build a firm foundation of specific writing skills.

Here is an example of a checklist that will help your students put a “shine” on their compositions.

Composition Check Sheet

- Composition is double spaced.
- Dress-ups are underlined
- Sentence Openers: numbered
- Title is underlined

Dress-ups: - (middle of sentence)

- who/which _____
- “ly” word _____
- strong verb _____
- quality adjective _____
- adverb clause _____
- because _____

Sentence Openers:

- (1) Subject _____
- (2) Prep. Phrase _____
- (3) “ly” word _____
- (4) “ing” verb _____
- (5) Clausal _____
- (6) VSS _____

(Students need an adverb list from which to choose. Teach them that nouns that end in “ly” do not count: family, butterfly)

(Comes in middle of sentence and starts with one of these clausal words: **when, where, while, since, as, if, although.**)

(Young students need a preposition list and an adverb list.)

(Clausal sentences start with one of the above clausal words.)
(Very Short Sentence – 5 words or less)

Procedure:

1. Give students a copy of the Composition Check Sheet every time a new composition is assigned.
2. Teach only one dress-up and one sentence opener.
3. Students write their paragraph and underline the “who/which” and write the number “1” above any sentence that starts with the subject. They only mark one in each paragraph.
4. When that concept is understood, I continue down the list of dress-ups and sentence openers.
5. Do not be in a hurry – the younger students will move down the lists one per month/older students will move down the lists one per week.
6. After all the dress-ups and sentence openers have been taught, require that every paragraph includes all of them – one each per paragraph.

Consider the grade level of your students. They can learn to write a prepositional phrase sentence if they have

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right life, to love that life and to fight for it. You cannot serve God in this world without a militant stance. It is not possible. A.W. Tozer understood that in his time, and we must understand it, too. You cannot maintain Biblical truth without crusading for it. The new impulse within the heart of a Christian brought about by conversion is to crusade for Jesus Christ and all that He stands for. Dear Reader, it is time for a reality check. Is that impulse in your life? Ω

¹ Gerald B. Smith, *The Tozer Pulpit*, Vol. II, Book 6 Christian Publications, Camp Hill, PA, 1994, p.8

² Gerald B. Smith, *The Tozer Pulpit*, Vol. I, Book 1, Christian Publications, Camp Hill, PA, 1994, p. 80

(Continued from page 6-Standing With Christ)

The Joy of the Lord

Third and finally, standing with Christ requires the joy of the Lord (vs. 13-14). Unfortunately, we often look at the situation surrounding us with the liberal government, media, and societal agendas, and we become discouraged. Peter writes, however, that we should rejoice over the privilege to partake with Christ's sufferings. The religious society of Christ's day poured extreme hatred upon Him, and the same reproach and hatred will come on those who identify and stand with Christ. As we stand, however, we need to maintain an attitude of joy because of what Christ has done for us. The "poor

me," "I am the only one who is right," and "sombre-faced" attitudes that often overtake the believer's heart result from a failure to realize the incredible glory of God that can result even in hardship.

Yes, the believer is faced with a society that aggressively works against the truth of God's Word. However, standing with Christ is a spiritual commitment that rests in an eternal God. As Peter writes in verse 19, those that suffer according to God's will are to "commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing." These encouraging dictates from Peter should remain in our hearts as we continue to serve the Lord in a decaying world. Ω

(Continued from page 5 - Proverb Practicals)

acknowledge him and look to him for guidance he will give it to you. He guarantees that you do not have to be ignorant as you walk through life. He will not let you down. God directs your paths as a conductor directs an orchestra, he tells your paths what direction to go, your paths are under his command and they go where he directs.

Light will be cast on your path. You will know which way to go. What does it take to access this great and mighty power? It takes acknowledgement! Acknowledge your maker and acknowledge your own

weakness and inability to find the way. In all thy ways. Check it out! Make a list of your ways and ask God about them, one by one. Even your personality is according to your ways. Your thought life too, your prayer life, your bible study ways, your giving ways, your work ways, and relationship ways, even your appearance and shopping ways. "In all thy ways", means just that. God wants to converse with His children and what better way to do that than in all thy ways acknowledging Him, knowing that he promises to direct your paths. Our God is so Good! Ω

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(Continued from page 7 - Putting a "Shine" on Compositions)

a list of the prepositions. They might not understand the term preposition, but they can write a sentence beginning with one if they have the list. The same is true of clausal words. Clauses are usually taught in the upper grades, but even younger elementary students can write clausal sentences by simply using the words: when, where, while, since, as, if, and, although in their sentences. Writing in this way allows students to gain confidence by checking off each requirement on the check sheet. They are almost assured of a good grade if all the items assigned are included in their composition.

Examples:

Elementary - (one dress-up and one sentence opener marked)

Don't Feed the Bears

My mom and dad took me on a vacation to the Smokey Mountains. I saw a bear which was standing in the road. He looked hungry. A sign said, "Do not feed the bears!" We took his picture with my mom's phone. I liked seeing that bear, but did not throw him any food.

Middle School - (All dress-ups and sentence openers marked)

We Should Be Like Him

At the time of his birth, George Washington Carver was a slave. As a young babe, George and his beloved mother were captured and taken away. A search was conducted straightaway to find the two slaves, but only young George was found. Voluntarily, the Carvers, who owned the plantation on which George was born, decided to take baby George into the family as a son of their own. He always wanted to learn when he was young, but because of his color no schools would allow him. George was devastated. When he turned fifteen, he found a school that would allow blacks. It was eight miles away, but finally, George could go to school. Over the next fifteen years, Carver diligently worked at his schooling. Following high school, George, now Mr. Carver, went to college. When he graduated from college, he was near the top of his class. Mr. Carver then decided to teach at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, since he was capable. That is when he became a famous inventor. Over the span of his lifetime, George Washington Carver came up with three hundred different uses for a peanut. Since he believed God gave him this gift of inventions, Carver never accepted money for his work. George Washington Carver was a very humble man. Why can't we all be like him?

Ω



Two little BIG Words

by Pastor Tod Brainard

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 5:20

Lauren Hill, a basketball player for Mount St. Joseph University, a small college near Cincinnati, Ohio, is dying of Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, an inoperable brain cancer. With her days narrowing, all she has wanted to do is play basketball in a college game. She got the opportunity to play in a game against Hiram College recently. She scored four points in the game. Her team won the game 66-55. Her second shot was even more spectacular because she made it with her right hand and arm, which is the most affected by the brain cancer.

After the game she remarked that she was just happy to be there. She expressed thanks to all who cheered her on and helped her fulfill her dream of playing one collegiate basketball game. She will not play again due to her right hand and arm affected by the brain cancer. There will be no basketball next year. Doctors have given her months to live. Our verse tells us to be thankful for **ALL** things. **Could you be thankful for cancer?**

Our forefathers who conceived of the season of Thanksgiving as a group of believers had hearts of gratitude even though they had very little of this world's treasure. They had suffered terribly from sickness and lost half of their friends. Some people unfortunately do not have gratitude on any level. Grumbling and whining about everything seems to be the norm. A sense of entitlement that we should always be treated as kings and queens is how many live.

I am in the process of finishing a book entitled, *In the Kingdom of Ice* by Hampton Sides which tells the story of the doomed 1879-1881 North Polar Expedition led by Lt. Commander George W. DeLong. The book begins with the account of the doomed 1870-1873 North Pole expedition led by Commander Charles Hall. After several months of travel in dangerous ice packed channels, The

USS Polaris became stuck in the ice floe and was crushed by an iceberg after all aboard had escaped. A group of 18 of the ship's crew and families were on a large piece of ice that broke loose from the rest of the group during the night and floated away. For 8 months these people lived on the large chunk of ice; living off raw seal and dwelling in make-shift igloos. The six Inuit natives on board were skilled in living off the ocean. They floated an estimated 1800 miles during the eight months enduring storms, high waves and bone chilling temperatures. They were rescued off the coast of Newfoundland by the sealer *Tigress*. The people in the ice floe were elated as the ship pulled along side. The crew of the *Tigress* were appalled by what they saw. The faces of every man, woman, and child were greasy and blackened by dried blood from eating raw seal meat. The stench of death was on everyone. But there was not one complaint from any of these ice-marooned people. Each gave accounts of their harrowing ordeal but without any complaint. Not one person died on the ice floe during the eight months. They were full of gratitude that God had spared them. Our verse tells us to be thankful for **ALL** things. **Could you give thanks when catastrophe comes?**

ALL and IN

Giving thanks always for **ALL** things **IN** the name of Christ! **Always pay attention to the small words in Scripture.** These two words, **ALL** and **IN**, may be small in size, but not in meaning. Paul does not say to give thanks always for the good things; he says to give thanks for **ALL** things **IN** the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. These words give us the scope and the wherewithal for giving thanks.

Elsewhere, the apostle Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11). All Christians should say with Paul, "In whatsoever state I find myself, I will be content."

But how can I possibly give thanks for cancer or catastrophe, you might ask? **IN** the name of Jesus Christ your Savior and Lord you can give thanks for **ALL** things. Some of God's greatest

blessings accompany affliction. Many of the dearest saints I have known through the years have had poor health and affliction. For the Christian, cancer or catastrophe can be the greatest God-given blessing of your life.

Many today are clamoring to have legalized euthanasia. They do not want to deal with pain, they do not want to suffer, because they have no hope. For the Christian, relying on Jesus Christ in the midst of suffering is the greatest blessing one could imagine. The experience of trusting **IN** the Lord in our great difficulty is part of our growth **IN** the Lord that has eternal value and blessing.

When I read in Acts 16 of the imprisonment of the Paul and Silas, I am filled with joy and shame. Joy for the testimony of Paul and Silas. Shame for my utter failure to thank God for **ALL** things. Certain men who had made a profit from a young girl's prophesying and cultist behavior, became angry and reported Paul and Silas to the authorities. They said, "There are some preachers here who are spoiling our means of making money. Lock them up!"

Paul and Silas were jailed. At midnight, after being beaten and shackled, these two godly souls were praising and rejoicing in their God. Our Lord used these two men and their rejoicing to reach the jailer and his family for Christ. They were thankful for **ALL** things **IN** the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

I believe that the unconverted world will listen to God's people when God's people quit whining and start giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness in **ALL** things. When God's people live realizing that everything comes from God, they will be more effective in reaching the lost.

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. used to say, "When gratitude dies on the altar of a man's heart, that man is well nigh hopeless." Would you consider this powerful verse of Scripture and the immense importance of these two little words, **ALL** and **IN**. Our God desires and deserves our thanksgiving! Ω



Stars
of the Morning

JUST SAY 'NO'
by "Aunt Carolyn"

It happened before, and Mandie handled it pretty well. Since she trusted Jesus Christ as her Savior, she had concentrated on memorizing some Scriptures, one of which was, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it* (I Cor. 10:13). So when the kids piled into Thad's car to go riding, Mandie stood back.

"C'mon, Mandie. Hurry up! Let's go!"

Mandie hesitated a little but then said, "No, I don't know where you guys are going or how long you're going to be gone. I'm not going with you!"

"Oh, Mandie, don't be a killjoy! It'll be fun! We'll be back pretty soon. Your folks won't even know you're gone. C'mon, hop in!"

Mandie took a step backward. "No. Thanks anyway, but I believe I'll skip it."

"Okay, but you'll be sorry when you hear all the fun we had! 'Bye!" and away they went amid bursts of laughter and a screech of tires.

Mandie watched for a minute then

turned to walk away. She felt a little "down" for a minute, but she knew she had done the right thing and that helped her spirit. She was doubly glad for her decision when a few hours later, news came of a car wreck, one girl in serious condition in the hospital and the others all banged up. That joy-ride had serious consequences!

When Mom heard about it, she was mighty proud of her girl. She understood it was hard for a teenager to stand for the Lord and do right, and her quiet smile meant everything to Mandie.

Time marches on. So do teenagers, and so do temptations. When her classmate and friend, Joyce, invited the girls to her home for her birthday supper, Mandie accepted, glad to be able to be with friends and celebrate Joycie's birthday. What could be wrong with a birthday supper? The meal was delicious, and the time for Joyce to open her presents was filled with fun and laughter. But when things quieted down, Joyce said, "Well, what do you guys want to do now?" The girls made several suggestions, but in spite of Mandie's dissent, the vote carried on going to the movies, "the picture show," as Mandie called it. Her heart dropped. What should she do? What could she do? As a Christian, she didn't want to go to such a worldly place of

entertainment. She didn't want her mind to be filled with the stuff Hollywood produced. She wanted to be a testimony for the Lord, but what could she do away from home at a friend's house? She soon was in tears when the girls pelted her with questions and didn't understand why she wouldn't go with them. And she still couldn't keep the tears back when she phoned her mother.

"What's wrong, Mandie?"

"Oh, Mother, I'm sorry, but could you come pick me up, please? The other girls have gone to the movies. Could you, please, come?" Although it was night time and a little distance, Mother picked up Mandie as soon as she could. By that time the tears were gone, and they had a good talk on the way home. It was good that Mandie did the right thing even though she was the only one. "Temptations come in many ways, Mandie" Mother said. "You will always have to keep your guard up. The other day you were left standing while the crowd whizzed away. Tonight you had to be resourceful to get away from the tempters, but either way, God 'made a way to escape.'" Each time you take your stand for the Lord, it will make you stronger for the next time, and God will reward you in His own way and time. You may not always be the most popular girl,

(Continued on page 12)

