

Christ is Victor

MAR/APR 2004

The Gift of Forgiveness

I can give you a little experience of my own family. Before I was fourteen years old the first thing I remember was the death of my father. He had been unfortunate in business, and failed. Soon after his death the creditors came in and took everything. My mother was left with a large family of children. One calamity after another swept over the entire household. Twins were added to the family, and my mother was taken sick. The eldest boy was fifteen years of age, and to him my mother looked as a stay in her calamity, but all at once that boy became a wanderer. He had been reading some of the trashy novels, and the belief had seized him that he had only to go away to make a fortune. Away he went.

I can remember how eagerly she used to look for tidings of that boy; how she used to send us to the Post Office to see if there was a letter from

... "GIFT" CON'T ON PAGE 4

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Deviating from God's Will

"For my sake this storm has come unto you." (Jonah 1:9-12)

Many people do not realize how they are the cause of the storms that come into their homes, their lives and their churches. It is sad not to know how much harm you are causing to others. Here a prophet was bringing harm to others. He was fleeing from the presence of God. Any man who knows God and does not live in His will brings harm to others. When we are born of God we have a responsibility towards others. If you do not realize this, you will bring storms upon others. A woman was once confessing in our meetings, *"I know it is because of my sins my two children died."* We pray, *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* But are we doing His will? Is your home the kingdom of God? Is your church so? Then why do we pray the Lord's prayer? When a man comes to the Lord, the next step is to do God's will. There is a plan of God chalked out for everyone who is born of Him. When you are converted, know that God has a plan for you.

Jonah was going out of God's will, but God drew him into it. God brought Gideon into His plan. God gave Saul a new heart. But Saul did not continue in God's will. He thus brought a storm upon his family and it was destroyed. Saul had the privi-

lege of fellowship with the prophet Samuel. But he broke that fellowship. Beware if you are making God sad about the appointment God has given you. If you are deviating from His will you are bringing sorrow and death and madness into your family.

Some people come only half way through to conversion and go back and do much harm to the kingdom of God. God wants you to be engaged in things of eternal value. But you can go right against God's will. Those that are outside God's will and those that associate themselves with the ungodly and the heathen are on the way to danger. Some are associating themselves with those that always talk evil against God's children. Their homes will become a hell.

Joseph was in God's will all his life. He rejoiced in his sufferings. *"I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound; everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."* (Phil. 4:12) It is a great thing to be satisfied in the state you are now in. *"But godliness with contentment is great gain."* (I Timothy 6:6) If your heart is satisfied in joy or in suffering, in want or in plenty that is a true Christian life. Joseph was always with God — even when cast in the

pit, as a slave in Potiphar's house, as one condemned in the prison and also when he was on the throne of Egypt. God was with Joseph and Joseph was with God. You can be with God only in His will. You will not bring storms on yourself and others. You will bring down the abundance of God's blessing. It is a difficult life to be in God's will.

Once as a young man I was anticipating a certain dinner. But just before that dinner God told me to fast and pray. I obeyed. God once asked me to wear very plain and simple clothes. Flashy clothes were then the fashion. People laughed at me. Some thought I was going mad. But that dress did me good.

"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief; when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand." (Isaiah 53:10) Those that are in God's will, take other people's sins upon themselves like Jesus did. They rejoice to suffer with others. Those that walk on this royal highway will have the protection of the angels and archangels. Heaven will be with them.

— N. Daniel

All-Availing Blood of Jesus

There is an apparently authentic story told of the great Queen Victoria, so long ruler of Britain's vast empire. When she occupied her castle at Balmoral, Scotland, she was in the habit of calling, in a friendly way, upon certain cottagers living in the neighborhood.

One aged Highland woman, who felt greatly honored by these visits and who knew the Lord, was anxious about the soul of the queen.

As the season came to a close one year, Her Majesty was making her last visit to the humble home of this dear child of God. After the good-byes were said, the old cottager timidly inquired, *"May I ask Your Gracious Majesty a question?"*

"Yes," replied the queen, *"as many as you like."*

"Will Your Majesty meet me in heaven?"

Instantly the royal visitor replied, *"I will, through the all-availing blood of Jesus."*

That is the only safe ground for

assurance. The blood shed on Calvary avails for all classes alike.

When Israel of old was about to leave Egypt, and the last awful plague was to fall on that land and its people, God Himself provided a way of escape for His own. They were to slay a lamb, sprinkle its blood on the doorposts and lintel of their houses, go inside, and shut the door.

When the destroying angel passed through that night, he would not be permitted to enter any blood-sprinkled door, for Jehovah had said, *"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."*

Inside the house, some might have been trembling and some rejoicing, but all were safe. Their security depended, not on their frames of mind or feelings, but on the fact that the eye of God beheld the blood of the lamb and they were sheltered behind it. As they recalled the word that He had given concerning it and truly believed it, they would have much assurance.

So it is today! We cannot see the blood shed so long ago for our redemption on Calvary, but there is a sense in which it is ever before the eye of God. The moment a repentant sinner puts his trust in Christ, he is viewed by God as sheltered behind the blood-sprinkled lintel.

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This Fellowship is an inter-denominational missionary and prayer group working for revival in churches and amongst students in several countries. We invite every layperson to become God's ally in changing his or her corner of the world. We train people in evangelistic work and to be self-supporting missionaries.

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Honour thy Father and thy Mother

I believe it to be literally true that our temporal condition depends on the way we act upon this commandment: *“Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest live long on the earth.”*

The Scriptures express the outcome of this command in many ways: *“Honor thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God*

hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.” *“Cursed is he that setteth light by his father or mother.”* *“Whoso curseth his father or mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.”*

It would be easy to multiply texts from the Bible to prove this truth. Obedience and respect at home prepare the way for obedience to the employer, and they are joined with other virtues that help toward a pros-

perous career, crowned with a ripe, honored old age. Disobedience and disrespect for parents are often the first steps in the downward track. Many a criminal has testified that this is the point where he first went astray. I have lived over sixty years, and I have learned one thing if I have learned nothing else—that no man or woman who dishonors father or mother ever prospers.

Young man, young woman, how do you treat your parents? Tell me that, and I will tell you how you are going to get on in life. When I hear a young man speaking contemptuously of his gray-haired father or mother, I

say he has sunk very low indeed. When I see a young man as polite as any gentlemen can be when he is out in society, but who snaps at his mother and

speaks unkindly to his father, I would not give the snap of my finger for his religion.

If there is any man or woman on earth that ought to be treated kindly and tenderly, it is that loving mother or that loving father. If they cannot have your regard through life, what reward are they to have for all their care and anxiety?

Think how they loved you and provided for you in your early days.

— D.L.Moody

Sacrificial Love

A little boy had a canary bird, which he loved very much. His mother became ill, and the singing of the bird gave her great annoyance. The boy was told by the mother that the bird gave her great pain by its singing. He went at once and gave the bird away to his cousin, and then came home and told his mother that the bird would not disturb her anymore, for he had given it away.

“But did you not love it very much?” she asked him. “How could you part with it?” “Yes,” he replied, “but I love you a great deal more. I could not really love anything that gave you pain.”

We must love God as this boy loved his mother, more than we love anything else, and also everything that grieves Him we must give up, however much we may like it.

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**REALITY
CHECK!**

**“BUT THE
PATH OF THE
JUST IS AS THE
SHINING LIGHT,
THAT SHINETH
MORE AND MORE
UNTO THE PER-
FECT DAY.”**

— Proverbs 4:18

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him, and recollect how we used to come back with the sad news, "No letter." I remember how in the evenings we used to sit beside her in that New England home, and we would talk about our father; but the moment the name of that boy was mentioned she would hush us into silence. Some nights when the wind was very high, and the house, which was upon a hill, would tremble at every gust, the voice of my mother was raised in prayer for that wanderer who had treated her so unkindly.

I used to think she loved him more than all the rest of us put together, and I believe she did. On a Thanksgiving Day—you know that is a family day in New England—she used to set a chair for him, thinking he would return home. Her family grew up and her boys left home.

I sent letters all over the country, but could find no trace of him. One day while in Boston the news reached me that he had returned.

While in that city I remember how I used to look for him in every store—he had a mark on his face—but I never got any trace. One day while my mother was sitting at the door, a stranger was seen coming toward the house, and when he came to the door

he stopped. My mother didn't know her boy. He stood there with folded arms and great beard flowing down his breast, his tears trickling down his face. When my mother saw those tears she cried, "Oh, it's my lost son," and entreated him to come in. But he stood still. "No, mother," he said, "I will not come in till I hear first you have forgiven me."

Do you believe she was not willing to forgive him? Do you think she was likely to keep him long standing there? She rushed to the threshold and threw her arms around him, and breathed forgiveness.

— D.L. Moody

Waterfalls and Canyons

When I was a boy, my parents took us to Niagara Falls. We rode the boat Maid of the Mist right out into the basin of the falls, and we also tramped down the steps to the edge of the bottom of the falls, and my dad even took me into the caves behind the falls where openings had been cut out. It is a terrifying thing to stand there, only inches from such power and from possible death, deafened by a thunderous roar, the ground trembling from six

million cubic feet of water bursting over the falls every minute and falling 170 feet into the basin below.

On another vacation, we traveled to the Grand Canyon, and I still remember the overwhelming sense of awe, majesty, dizziness, and downright terror as I stood near the edge and gazed into the chasm.

This is akin to the fear of God. It isn't an unhealthy fear, but an overwhelming sense of God Himself.

If we feel a kind of fear and awe over a mere waterfall or chasm, how much more should we feel that way about the Lord, who is a million times more powerful than a cataract, a billion times more pure, and a trillion times more overwhelming and all-engulfing than a canyon?

It is that fear of God that keeps sin at bay in our lives and gives us a foothold for wisdom.

— Robert J. Morgan

EASTER WEEKEND Retreat Announcement

ALL ARE WELCOME

Friday, April 9th Through Sunday April 11th
Mark Your Calendars Now!

For more information or directions to the retreat, please contact us at any of the numbers listed to the right, or e-mail us at: post@lefi.org

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University of Michigan Mondays 7:00 pm
Angell Hall, Room G-144
Call (248) 446-3009
University of Windsor Sundays 5:00 pm
Call (519) 966-4603
Oakland University: (248) 374-5565
Eastern Michigan University: (248) 982-4938
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Buffalo, NY: 99.5 FM (WDCX) Sat. 9:00 am
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Shortwave (Sundays 2:15 pm, EST)
WHRI 19 Metre band 15.355 MHz
Des Moines, IA: 1460 (KDMI)
Sat. 7:30 am, Sun. 11:00 pm
Fort Wayne, IN: 1090 AM (WFCV) Sat. 4:00 pm
Council Bluffs, IA: 1560 AM (KLNG) Sun. 8:00 am
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