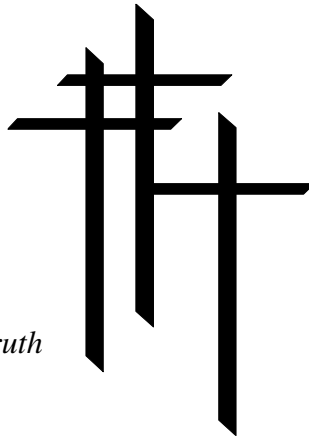


# Timely Messenger

*Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth  
Speaking the Truth in Love*



Volume 65 No. 3

March 2005

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## GOD'S HELPERS

By Charles Wages

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*“Therefore we were comforted in your comfort; yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.” (2 Cor. 7:13)*

Those who love the Lord and love His children should realize that all ministry, that is true to the Word, is important. However, there has always been a tendency to limit the work of the Lord to preaching and teaching. No doubt that preaching (heralding the good news of salvation)

and teaching (edifying or establishing the saints) is of utmost importance, but there is more.

There are so many discouraging things in this life, a ministry that is so needed is

### **Encouragement.**

In our text, the great benefits derived from “comfort” are clearly shown. Paul wrote this verse to the believers as they had gone through a great problem and he was joyed that they had been comforted by the Scrip-

tures. The word “comfort” is similar to a description given to the Holy Spirit, that is “one called alongside to help.” God is our Comforter. However, He delights in using Spirit-filled believers to bring encouragement and hope to the discouraged and hopeless.

Comfort and encouragement have a tendency to go both ways. Paul not only noted the comfort that had come to the Corinthians, but said that he had been “comforted in your comfort.”

Encouragement is akin to kindness. It is interesting to see that the world observes a “Be Kind to Animals Week,” but forgets to be kind to human beings. A little boy was quick to respond when asked to give an example of his being kind to an animal. He said excitedly, “I kicked a boy for kicking his dog!”

*“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” (Eph. 4:32)*

The Bible teaches us that the world is in darkness. It also teaches that we all were at one time in darkness as to God's plan of redemption and His purpose for our lives (Eph. 5:8, Col. 1:13). In view of this there is a great need for the ministry of

### **Enlightenment.**

Enlightenment is a far greater ministry than just listening to someone sing, "You are the Light of My Life." Paul, under inspiration, prayed for the saints of God,

*"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." (Eph. 1:18)*

The rest of this great truth in Ephesians 1:15-23 should be read and studied carefully in order to be enlightened as to our real position in Christ and that He is "the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of

Him that filleth all in all." It is one thing to know about Him, and quite another thing to know Him in His fullness.

It is tragic how many people who have been saved by God's grace are not really prepared to serve the Lord. Life has often been described as a journey. There are classes to teach us how to pack our clothes for a trip. Much attention is given to preparing ourselves for any excursion such as, having enough funds, clothes, food (if it is a camping trip), and even "shots" (if it is an overseas trip). Some first grade children went on a field trip. They noticed that the birds seemed excited as they chirped in the trees and bushes. The little children conjectured as to what the birds were saying. One of the little girls had the answer, "The mother birds are telling their children they had better go to the bathroom before they start the trip." Well, at least some know that preparation is needed for a trip in this life. How much more is needed to live, love, and learn about our service for

Him! Enlightenment is a needed ministry, but must be more than giving of information, it must be sharing by word and deed (1 John 3:18).

An arm that is put in a sling and never used will atrophy. That is, it will shrivel up and waste away because of inactivity. All saints need to be active and useful for the Lord in scriptural and meaningful endeavors. This takes

### **Involvement.**

Those who want to participate in the Lord's work need to experience the joys and sorrows of other people. We never know how to sympathize with a person who has a toothache until we have had a toothache. It is amazing how often we are ignorant of the needs of others. A wealthy little girl wrote an essay on "The Poor." She started off by saying, "Once upon a time there was a poor family. The mother was poor, the daddy was poor, the children were poor, the chauffeur was poor, the maid was poor, the cook was poor, the gardener was

poor, they were all poor!”

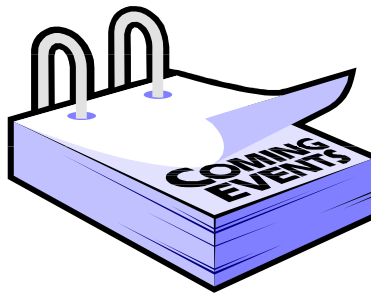
In Ephesians 4:12, there are three things enumerated in which we all could be involved in doing or helping,

- Perfecting the saints
- Work of the ministry
- Edifying of the body of Christ.

Of course, these things are vast and all encompassing, but they do show us we need to be involved. There is plenty of work for every child of God to exercise his or her talents and time. However, none of us will ever really believe it until we become a part of this great ministry!

Yes, we can all encourage, enlighten, and be involved in helping others along the way as we faithfully serve our wonderful Lord. Ponder on these points and remember,

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15:58)*



### **MINERAL WELLS ANNIVERSARY**

**March 6, 2005**

Pastor R.B. Shiflet and the Eleventh Avenue Church in Mineral Wells will celebrate 55 years of service to the Lord as a local church on Sunday, March 6, 2005 with special services at 10, 11 A.M., lunch at Noon, and a service at 2 P.M.

### **ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE**

**March 18-20, 2005**

Our Annual Bible Conference will be March 18-20 this year at Grace Bible Church in Fort Worth. The theme will be: “Our Wonderful Lord — *Studies in the Life of Christ.*” See page 5 for more details.

### **Timely Messenger**

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*Gregg Bing — Editor*

Sent **free** to anyone upon request. If you live in the Fort Worth area, we invite you to worship with us.

#### **Sunday Services:**

10:00 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Morning Worship  
6:00 PM Evening Worship

#### **Mid-Week Services:**

Tues. 10:00 AM Ladies Class  
Wed. 7:00 PM Bible Study

### **ADDRESS CHANGED?**

If so, please notify Grace Bible Church. Be sure to include your name, your old address, and your new address. This will help us keep our mailing list current and reduce the cost of postage.

*Thanks for your help  
in this matter!*

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# *For the Ladies*

by Beverly Wages



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## Relationships

As women we have many relationships and titles. When we come into this world we are daughters to our parents. If there are other children in the family you are a sister. I was a middle child of five children. I experienced being the younger sister of two older sisters. In later years, I was a sister to two younger children in the family. When we grow up and are married, we become wives. Then if the Lord blesses us with children of our own we become a mother, and a grandmother and perhaps a great-grandmother. I have had the great privilege to experience each of these relationships.

These are all wonderful relationships, but there is a more important relationship. We should all ask ourselves, “What is my re-

lationship to God?” There is only one way for anyone to have any knowledge or relationship with the God of Heaven, and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ. If we don’t know Him as our Savior, then we will not have any relationship with God. That is why we have such scriptures as John 3:16,

*“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.”*

It was God’s great love that made provision for us. This came through His Son, the Lord Jesus, who came to earth and went to the cross to pay for our sins — the sins of the whole world! The Scriptures tell us that the wages of sin is death. There was no other

way to pay for our sins. Christ did this for us! In John 14:6, we read,

*“Jesus saith unto Him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.”*

We cannot know God unless we come to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ. He made it possible for us to know God as our Heavenly Father! What a wonderful relationship! However, we must come to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ. That is, we must believe that Christ died on the cross of Calvary for the sins of us all. This He could do because He was righteous and had no sin of His own. The wages of sin is death and Christ died in our place that we might live and know God as our Heavenly Father.

This then is the greatest relationship of all, to be a child of God and know Him as our Heavenly Father. When we have this relationship with God, all other relationships are made richer.

My prayer is that you

will accept the Lord Jesus Christ and become a child of God that you may know Him as your Savior, and then know the God of heaven as your Heavenly Father.

*“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.” (John 3:17-18)*

**F**OR YE KNOW THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THAT, THOUGH HE WAS RICH, YET FOR YOUR SAKES HE BECAME POOR, THAT YE THROUGH HIS POVERTY MIGHT BE RICH.  
—2 CORINTHIANS 8:9

# Annual Bible Conference

March 18-20, 2005

## Our Wonderful Lord



*Studies in the Life of Christ*

### Friday — March 18

7:00 P.M. .... Jud Lively  
*The Promised Seed*  
8:30 P.M. .... Wayne Schoonover  
*The Eternal Word*

### Saturday — March 19

7:00 P.M. .... Bill Hudson  
*The Spotless Lamb of God*  
8:30 P.M. .... Jim Roberts  
*Israel's Promised Messiah-King*

### Sunday — March 20

10:00 A.M. .... Jim Morrison  
*Our Suffering Savior*  
11:00 A.M. .... Mark Carr  
*Our Risen Lord*  
7:00 P.M. .... Charles Mays  
*Our Exalted Head*



## Grace Bible Church

*Speaking the Truth in Love*

1450 Oak Hill Road  
Fort Worth, Texas 76112

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## UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE

By Gregg Bing

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*Continued from last month*

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it ...” (Psalm 127: 1)*



In this series, we have been looking at God’s principles for building a godly home (or family) as found in Colossians 3:18-21. The last three issues we examined the institution of marriage and God’s instructions for husbands and wives. Now, we turn our attention to children and parents.

Whenever we see a moral and spiritual decline

in society, one of the contributing factors to such apostasy is disobedience to parents. Paul lists this as one of the characteristics of the Gentile world prior to the call of Abram (Rom. 1:30). He also tells Timothy that during the last days of this present dispensation “perilous times will come;” times during which men will be “disobedient to parents” (2 Tim. 3:2).

Proverbs 30:12-14 describes a generation that is “pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness.” But if you look back at verse 11 we also read:

*“There is a generation that curses its father, and does not bless its mother.” (Prov. 30:11)*

The family clearly has a tremendous influence on society as a whole. Children who grow up disobedient and disrespectful of their parents’ authority, will probably never de-

velop respect for other authorities, such as school, church, government, or business. This is why Paul stresses the importance of homes and families being built on spiritual principles; homes where each family member understands and submits to his or her God given responsibilities.

### **Children—Obey Your Parents**

*“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.” (Col. 3:20)*

The primary responsibility God gives to children is to obey their parents. The word “obey” is literally “to hear under.” It means not only to hear with the ears, but to take heed to what is said and to do it. The same word is used to describe how unclean spirits obeyed Jesus (Mark 1:27), how the winds and sea obeyed Jesus’ command to be still (Matthew 8:27), and how slaves are to obey their masters according to the flesh (Eph. 6:5). In each of these cases, we find that

obedience involves submission to authority, God-given authority. The unclean spirits obeyed Jesus because they knew who He was, “the Son of God.” The winds and sea obeyed Jesus because He is the Creator of all things. Slaves were to obey their masters because they had authority over them under Roman law.

Children are placed under the authority of their parents by the laws of society, but more importantly, by God. The importance of this authority is seen in the fact that it is one of the ten commandments, the foundation of the laws given through Moses to God’s chosen people, Israel. The first four commandments spell out Israel’s duties to God, the last six their duties to one another. The first commandment in this second group is: “Honor your father and mother.” (Exo. 20:12)

While this commandment does not specifically mention obedience, it does emphasize the importance of children recognizing and respecting the authority God has given to their parents.

Even the Lord Jesus, who grew up under the Mosaic law, was “subject” to His earthly “parents,” His mother, Mary, and Joseph, even though he was not Jesus’ biological father (Luke 2:51). Jesus recognized the authority they had been given by God.

### **Hear the Instruction**

One of the key aspects of obedience is “hearing.” Solomon was led of God to write proverbs to instruct his children in wise living. One of things he stressed was:

*“My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains (necklaces) about your neck.” (Prov. 1:8-9)*

The instructions of a godly father and mother, when heard and heeded by an obedient child, will adorn the child’s life with grace and goodness. The same principle is true of believers as children of

God. We have a wonderful Father who has given us instructions in His Word. We are to be obedient to Him. The book of Hebrews describes the obedience of Abraham in this way:

*“By faith Abraham obeyed God when he was called to go out to the place he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” (Heb. 11:8)*

Abraham obeyed God “by faith.” He trusted God and “went out, not knowing where he was going.” How did Abraham have such faith? The answer is found in the familiar passage in Romans 10:17:

*“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”*

This emphasis upon hearing points out how important communication is in the parent-child relationship. Children need to learn to listen to their parents, to hear the instructions and the warnings they give, and then to take heed to them

and do them. Parents need to make sure that they clearly communicate to their children what is required. Don't just expect them to know and don't hold them accountable when you have failed to make yourself understood.

### **Honor Your Father and Mother**

While hearing and doing are included in the idea of obedience, there is more. In Ephesians 6:1-2, Paul declares that children are to "obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right," but he also quotes the sixth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother." Obedience is pri-

marily seen in the actions of the child, hearing and doing, but obedience also involves the child's attitude. Children are to honor their father and mother. The word "honor" means literally "to fix a value or price on." To honor is to see as being of great value, to esteem, to hold dear, and thus to give honor or respect to. Children need to recognize how valuable their parents are, both to them and to God. They need to respect the position and authority God has given to their parents.

Paul points out that this commandment to "honor father and mother" was "the first commandment with promise." What was

the promise? The promise involved two aspects of their life: its quality ("that it may be well with you") and its quantity ("that you may live long on the earth"). While I don't believe we can claim this promise during this present dispensation of grace, particularly the promise of a long life, there is a principle found in this promise that I do feel we can apply. Our family life affects all aspects of our life. A child who honors his father and mother and is obedient to them is much more likely to have a good life, a life that is blessed by God and can be used for His glory.

*Continued next month.*

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