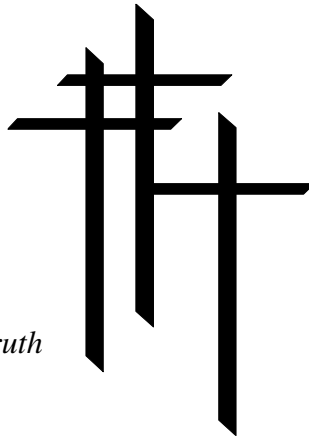


Timely Messenger

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



Volume 65 No. 4

April 2005

THE GOD OF PEACE

by John D. LaVier

The name “God of Peace” is used three times in the New Testament Scriptures: Romans 16:20, Philippians 4:9, and Hebrews 13:20. This name stands in contrast to God as He revealed Himself to Israel in the Old Testament. There He is many times called the Lord of Hosts. This is a warrior’s name. He is the Lord of the fighting armies and over and over again He fought on behalf of His people.

This name stands also in vivid contrast to the world’s past, which has known little of peace. From

the very beginning of man’s history upon the earth, even until the present moment, it has been a continued story of nation being pitted against nation and kingdom against kingdom. Strong nations and mighty empires have appeared upon the scene, flourished for a season, and then vanished away. They have fallen by two causes: (1) an inner decay of pride, envy, greed and lust, and (2) a strong enemy from without that warred against them and won.

As one reviews the world’s past history, as

well as the present, when our armies are at war in Iraq, the Israelis and Palestinians killing each other, and the terrorists doing their dastardly work everywhere, the question arises: Shall this condition continue always, with nations rising, shining, sinning, sinking? It is then the name “God of Peace” comes to mind as the prophecy of a better day. God wants peace and in His own day and way He shall bring peace to the world.

Back in the days of the now defunct League of Nations, when many were congratulating themselves on the fact they had outlawed war, it was my privilege as a young man to speak in a certain denominational church. The subject assigned was World Peace. I was brash enough to tell them that in spite of man’s rosy dreams and schemes, there would be no real peace until the Prince of Peace returned to rule and reign. At the close the pastor publicly took me to task, asserting that it was the duty of Christians to work for peace and brotherhood among men. He

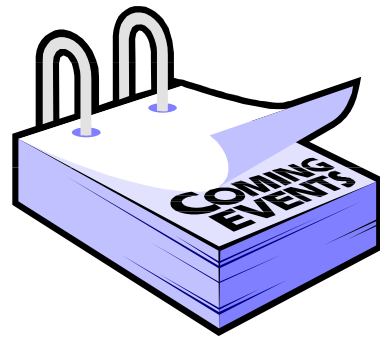
said: "We pray 'Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven' and when we thus pray we are praying for peace on earth." Later I called his attention to the three words just prior to the words he had just quoted. Those three words are: "Thy kingdom come!" Thank God, that kingdom is coming! Then God's will shall be done in earth, and not before. Then the God of Peace shall send the Prince of Peace and He will usher in an era of universal tranquility. Then men shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, and they shall learn war no more.

The blessed name "God of Peace" stands also in contrast to Satan, who is the real god of war. For six thousand years this arch-criminal has instigated war and strife among the nations. Satan wants war and God wants peace, but the question of who shall win is never in doubt. It may seem that Satan is having his way but he has never well run his malevolent course. Listen to what the apostle says in Romans

16:20, "And the God of Peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." The God of Peace shall bring war against Satan, and then Satan will be shut up and sealed under lock and key, so that he can no longer deceive and seduce the nations of the world. Israel and the nations will then enjoy peace, when Satan is imprisoned and Christ enthroned.

Meanwhile, the believer may enjoy peace even in a world where there is no peace. The God of Peace sent His Son to die on Calvary and He made peace by the blood of His Cross. Then we read in Hebrews 13:20 that the God of Peace brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus. Christ Himself becomes the believer's peace. Then as we entrust our all to Him we have the Peace of God which passeth all understanding garrisoning our hearts and minds. And, too, we have the blessed promise: "And the God of Peace shall be with you."

"For He is our Peace..."
—Ephesians 2:14.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 6-10, 2005

Grace Bible Church will hold their Vacation Bible School June 6-10 this year from 9:30 to 12:00 each morning. There will be singing, Bible study, crafts, and memory verse games. More details next month.

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

July 4-8, 2005

Our Family Bible Camp will be held July 4-8 this year at Camp Copass in Denton. This camp is for all ages. We would love to have you come and be with us during this week. Make your plans now to attend. A registration form will be included next month.

GOLDEN TEXT OF THE BIBLE

John 3:16 has long been regarded by Christian believers as the Golden Text of the Bible. A person may be saved and go to Heaven without knowing the true interpretation of difficult passages of Scripture which theologians have struggled over for centuries, but God's simple plan of salvation is made so clear, so concise, so complete in John 3:16 that no one need ever be lost.

The verse is in three divisions: (1) "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son"—That is God's Part in Salvation. (2) "That whosoever believeth in Him"—that is your part in salvation. (3) "Should not perish but have everlasting life"—that is the result when you receive, by faith, what God offers. The basic truth of John 3:16 is made clear by such passages as Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, and Ephesians 2:8-9.

Not only is John 3:16 the Golden Text of the Bible, it is perhaps the greatest and most wonderful passage in all the Word of God. Every word, every phrase has great meaning.

FOR GOD..... the Greatest Person
SO the Greatest Degree
LOVED the Greatest Act
THE WORLD..... the Greatest Company
THAT HE GAVE..... the Greatest Proof
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON the Greatest Gift
THAT WHOSOEVER the Greatest Invitation
BELIEVETH the Greatest Simplicity
IN HIM.....the Greatest Attraction
SHOULD NOT PERISH.....the Greatest Promise
BUTthe Greatest Difference
HAVE..... the Greatest Assurance
EVERLASTINGthe Greatest Duration
LIFE.....the Greatest Possession

Timely Messenger

Published monthly by:

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

1450 Oak Hill Road
Fort Worth, TX 76112-3017
(817) 451-0937

Website:

www.gracebiblechurch-fw.com

Email: gbcfw@sbcglobal.net

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!*

AN INFORMAL SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

A Dispensational Approach

By R. B. Shiflet

II PETER

- I. INTRODUCTION 1:1
- II. INVOCATION 1:2-3
- III. IDEAL SPIRITUAL LIVING 1:5-7
- IV. INCREASING KNOWLEDGE 1:8
- V. IMMINENT DANGER 1:9
- VI. IMPORTANT DISTINCTION 1:10

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” (2 Peter 1:10)

After having given his readers a list of Christian virtues that come from God, Peter calls attention to the responsibility of believers to make sure of their salvation. The expression “give diligence” translates a word that is familiar to all of us who study the Bible dispensationally. For example, in Ephesians 4:3, we read, “Endeavoring [giving diligence] to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” We rejoice in the precious doctrine of the one body of Christ, the church for today. We must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit: one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father.

The word is also found in 2 Timothy 2:15, where it is translated *study*. We are to be diligent to show ourselves approved unto God, workmen that do not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

The appeal that Peter makes in this verse stresses the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of the believer in our salvation. It is a Biblical principle that “salvation is of the Lord” (Jonah 2:9). And yet this salvation, a gift from God, must be received. Our Lord Jesus said: All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; [Sovereignty of God] and him that cometh to me [responsibility of man] I will in no wise cast out. Our finite minds cannot harmonize these two important doctrines, but that does not mean they are not true. When our risen Lord called the disciples to “Come and dine” he had the food ready, but they would not have received the benefit

had they not eaten. A benefactor may give a college scholarship to a high school student, but he will not be college-educated unless he pursues his studies.

The last clause in this verse has been misinterpreted and used to teach the possibility of losing one's salvation: "if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." The word translated "fall" means "to stumble, or to cause others to stumble." The point, as I see it, is that a consistent Christian walk, in any dispensation, results in assurance in the believer's personal life and a good testimony in the lives of those around him.

(To Be Continued)

For the Ladies

by Beverly Wages



Contentment

I wish I was a boy. This is a remark I heard my little girl friend say so many times. We were very young then, and she had three brothers who were older than she. She thought they had so many privileges that she didn't have. Since they were older and were always together, I guess their mother felt freer to let them go more places.

This was just a child's thoughts, but in thinking about this, I thought of how much discontentment there

is in the world. Even we as Christians sometimes show such discontentment. When we are here, we want to be there, or when we have this, we want that. No matter what a human being has, there always seems to be something to desire.

The apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:11, "...for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." In the verses that followed, he said that he knew how to be abased and how to abound; to be full and to be hungry; to abound and to suffer need.

Then in verse 13 he said:

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Surely, as Christian women today we should be content in doing anything the Lord has for us. Only when we are in His will, will we find happiness and contentment. In 1 Timothy 6:6 we read:

"But godliness with contentment is great gain."

With godliness and contentment we can accomplish all the Lord would have us do, and this can bring much happiness and a good life.

It is interesting to see that we are told "godliness

with contentment.” Certainly we should never be content in sinful living or even living as Christians out of the will of our Lord. Many people of the world are content living in sin. They have much fleshly satisfaction. However, contentment alone cannot bring real happiness. We should keep in mind what 1 Timothy 6:6 says—**Godliness** with contentment!

In Hebrews 13:5 we read,

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.”

Perhaps many are not content because they don’t know what we have in Christ. Look again at the Scripture we just read in Hebrews 13:5. He has said He will never leave us nor forsake us. Imagine as children of the Lord, we will never be left alone! If we have Him as our Saviour we will never be left alone!

Loneliness is a hard thing to live with. But we will never have to be alone! As Christians, we have the Holy Spirit living in us! He is there as our Saviour, our Comforter, our Friend, our All in All. How could we

be discontent? How could we wish for more? What contentment we have for our life here on this earth, and what wonderful contentment and anticipation of our life in eternity with Him!

UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE

By Gregg Bing

Continued from last month

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



We have been looking at God’s principles for building a godly home (or family) as found in Colossians 3:18-21. Last

month we began looking at God’s directive to children to “obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.” We examined what is meant by “obey your parents;” now we examine the reason why—for this is

Well-Pleasing to the Lord

Why is it so important for children to obey their parents “in all things?” First, because “it is right” (Eph. 6:1); not necessarily right in men’s eyes, but certainly in God’s eyes. Psalm 19:8 says: “The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.” When a child obeys

his or her parents, they are living right or righteously, which is what God's grace teaches us to do (Titus 2:12).

Second, a child's obedience to his or her parents is "well pleasing to the Lord;" it brings Him pleasure and causes Him to be filled with gladness or delight. This should be the desire of each of us as believers, to bring pleasure to God, to have Him be pleased with our life and service.

Children are to obey their parents "in the Lord." What this means is that when children obey their parents, they are actually obeying God. As they submit to their parents' authority over their lives, they learn the importance of submitting themselves to the Lord and to His authority in their lives. Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify

God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

Final Note to Parents

As parents, we realize, very quickly, that obedience and submission do not come naturally to children. It is not in their nature. Proverbs 29:15 puts it this way: "A child left to himself brings shame to his mother." Children are born with a sin nature. David acknowledged in his prayer of confession to God, "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5). The prophet Jeremiah was led of God to write: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). The world would have us believe that people are basically good, by nature, but this is clearly not what the Bible teaches. When we look at little baby or young child, we often speak of how sweet and innocent they are, but we need to recognize that children are born with a sin

nature; a nature that tends to make them self-centered. Even a baby or young child is primarily focused on satisfying their own needs or wants, something they can often get by crying. As they grow, they will not naturally develop the trait of obedience.

Another thing that children face that hinders their obedience to their parents is the environment, the world in which they live. We live in what Paul called "this present evil age" (Gal. 1:4). John wrote of this world:

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." (1 John 2:15-17)

The messages our children get from the world,

whether from television, movies, books, schools, or their peers, do not encourage children to be submissive to God or obedient to their parents. We need to be aware of, and make them aware of, the dangerous influences that are part of this evil world system they must live in. We need to warn them that Satan is presently the prince (ruler) of this world. While we cannot isolate our children from the world, we need to do all we can so that they are not “conformed to this world” (Rom. 12:2), that is, that their lives are not fashioned or patterned after the world in which they live.

As parents, we need to understand that our chil-

dren are just that: children. They lack the maturity, wisdom, and discernment of adults. Proverbs 22:15 says: “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.” The word “foolishness” simply means they lack fully developed wisdom. They often think, speak, and act in foolish ways. Paul spoke of his own time of childhood in 1 Corinthians 13:

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” (1 Cor. 13:11)

We need to recognize that our children need to grow, develop, and mature in many different areas. Even the Lord Jesus, while here on earth, grew and matured: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:52).

All of these factors contribute to a child’s tendency to disobey their parents. No, obedience doesn’t come naturally. Children need to be instructed, to be trained, to be disciplined.

Next month we will look at this important responsibility that parents have to train their children.

(Continued next month)

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

1450 Oak Hill Road
Fort Worth, TX 76112-3017

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 480

