

A PERSONAL NOTE
FROM
THE PASTOR

THE GREATEST NEED ON PLANET EARTH

Dear Friends of the "DeWitt
Tabernacle Teaching Series",

We decided to do something different this month concerning the sermon. For over 20 years now, we have been publishing one sermon each week in our local newspaper, "The DeWitt Era-Enterprise." We have preached the End-Time Message in these sermons, and from time to time have used this means to notify the people of our community that God has sent a modern day Prophet. This month we felt led to use the last four of these newspaper sermons that deal with the Salvation of the Soul, for our monthly publication. You will notice that there are no statements of our Prophet in these. The reason being that our readers in this area are denominational people who do not believe in Prophets for today. Therefore, we only give them scripture, since the words of our Prophet would mean nothing to them.

They do not have the revelation that Brother William Branham was the man mentioned in Mal. 4:5 that was to come and restore the Gospel that the Apostle Paul preached. But, should that be a reason for with-holding the Gospel of Salvation from them? We have the promise that the Word will not return

By C.W. Wood

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void! If the Word produces the New Birth in some of them, then the Spirit in them will lead them to the Prophet. If not, then perhaps the Foolish Virgins among them will receive something that will help them take their stand for God and Truth during the Great Tribulation Period!

Also, we do know from experience that some precious people who believe our Message intellectually (perhaps were raised in a Message home) still need the personal experience of the New Birth. It is commendable that these precious ones have seen that the Message makes good sense, and have decided to believe it. But, this is still not the "LIFE" we must have in order to be raptured. If this message should fall in to the hands of one such person, let it be said that we do not say these things to condemn, but rather in the spirit of teaching.

It is no disgrace not to have, as yet, received the New Birth. The disgrace comes after the need has been shown to us, and we continue our way, ignoring the convicting Spirit of the Lord. More and more the Lord impresses us to

preach the Gospel of Salvation to Message believing people. I do believe that He dearly loves every person who has intellectually accepted our Message, but He will never be satisfied until He has been able to come into the Soul and change the Old Nature. Please Read the following quote from our Prophet:

QUOTE: THE IMPERSONATION OF CHRISTIANITY, PAGES 11-12, "Now I...I want you to get this, and never let it slip. If we only need the intellectual conception of man, we don't need the Holy Spirit. If the church is to be run and governed upon the intellect, the educational program, and upon the intellects of mankind, we do not need the Holy Spirit.

Now, mental emotion, now, if we only, 'The smarter the man would be, the more intellect he is, the more schooling he got, the better grammar he can use, then the better off the church is, better off the people are.' If He can present the program, and say, 'Now we'll build a great church. We will call it a certain name. We will attract the attention of the people; all through the city, when

we can play chimes every Sunday morning, on our spiral. We shall attract the attention of the poor, lost sinner, in the gutter, when he sees that we wear the better clothes; when he sees that our women can fix their hair, the poor women can see how our women can do their hair, what nice hats they wear. And when we present this to the people, the poor and hungry will then come to our meetings and will desire to be as these women are. And the men will see what nice suits we wear, and how we dress, and how...what cars we ride in, and what we do, and how we stand in the social ability of the city, with the Kiwanis and other clubs, and the things that we join. They'll see that, they...and then the -the poor and the illiterate will come and desire to bring their children and educate them, so that they can become a member of this great society called the church.' Now, if that is God's program, they're right. But Jesus never quoted it that way.

Jesus said, **'If I be lifted up, I'll draw all men unto Me.'** So, through the world's educational program, which is all right, it's all right if it don't leave *This* out. But man is not drawn to Christ by intellectual, by theology. The Holy Spirit, alone is God's drawing power." (End quote)

*God Bless You,
Brother C. W. Wood*

THE GREATEST NEED ON PLANET EARTH (NO. 1)

There is a need in our midst that supersedes by far all other needs. The unregenerate mind would, no doubt, have differing thoughts as to what this great need is. Without question, education, more money for scientific research, better leadership in government, new and better laws, as well as more welfare for the poor, would be named. But, the Bible sets forth one basic need that is to be the foundation upon which all people base their lives! Jesus stated it plainly in John 3:7, **"Ye must be born again."**

This statement is perhaps the most misunderstood scripture in the Bible! A master in Israel, Nicodemus, didn't understand it, and thousands of times thousands do not understand it today! The New Birth is the changing out of man's "inner" nature.

We were all born with an inner nature that was **"dead in trespasses and sins."** (Ephesians 2:1) We loved certain sins, and unless this sin-loving nature in us is changed, we continue to love them.

But the New Birth is the slaying of that old nature and replacing it with the nature (Spirit) of Jesus Christ (The Holy Ghost). It is this inside nature that controls the man. His "outward acts" stem from his "inward nature".

To be born-again, is to be given this new, inward nature! It produces as radical a change as would be seen in a pig that hated to wallow in mud! If it were possible to put a lamb's nature in the pig, we would

have a pig that hated mud. When God puts His nature in a person, we have a human being who hates sin! It is as drastic a change as making a lamb out of a pig. It is supernatural, and no person can do this for himself!

But Jesus delights in making saints out of sinners, and the first step toward such change is awareness of our need. Having one's sins forgiven is a glorious experience, but it is not yet the New Birth. Having one's sins forgiven is being cleansed on the inside. But, the New Birth is having our old *sin-loving nature* replaced by God's holy *sin-hating nature*. Friends, have you never seen a person who was suddenly and mysteriously changed so as to astound family and friends?

This is what we all need. It will change people from the pulpit down to the most indecently dressed woman in the church! Amen!

THE GREATEST NEED ON PLANET EARTH (NO. 2)

We have said that the statement Jesus made in John 3:7 is perhaps the most misunderstood scripture in the Bible! He looked at one of the masters of Israel (a minister), and said to Nicodemus, **"You must be born again."** Nicodemus was a **"ruler of the Jews"**, he was a leader in the Jewish church; no doubt he was a moral man, and an upstanding citizen. But, according to Jesus, he was not a Christian. He had not been **"born-again."** Nicodemus had no knowledge of the supernatural experience that makes one a **"new creation."**

Today, thousands of people in the churches of America are as Nicodemus was. They are good people perhaps, at least on the surface, but they only have a "*form of religion*."

A born-again person differs from the formalist. The presumptuous professor is filled with pride and has a high opinion of himself. He is quite sure he is saved. He does not like any searching test; he considers it to be harmful to his faith. He loves the preaching that keeps a respectable distance from his conscience, which makes no search of the heart! He is perfectly satisfied with his church and his religion. Should a real Christian try to convince him that his hope is only a delusion because he has had *no* change of heart, he would consider him an enemy seeking to fill him with doubts.

There is more hope of a murderer being saved than one of these satisfied church members! Only he who has turned his life completely over to Jesus is a Christian. Many people suppose they can be Christians on easier terms than this. They suppose it is enough to trust in God, while they do not live for him.

A true Christian consecrates his life to God's service. It is absurd for any people to pretend they are Christians while they do not show forth the "*fruit of holiness*" in their daily walk! They who flatter themselves that they will go to Heaven without living *holiness* seem to think they can make a fool of their great judge. Nothing more dishonors God than for unholy pretenders to hide their wickedness under His holy name, calling themselves

Christians! But how loving-kind He is toward those who see their need and repent. Amen!

THE GREATEST NEED ON PLANET EARTH (NO. 3)

Having been a *church-goer* for many years, but not knowing about an actual experience that removes sin and allows the Spirit of Christ to then enter the soul, I continue trying to get this message over to other *church goers*.

Pride holds many back. We think highly of ourselves and doubt that there is any need to search for *proof* to test ourselves by scripture, to see if we are "*new creatures in Christ Jesus*." Some were brought up in a religious atmosphere, where none of those expressing the Name of Jesus had any doubts about their salvation. Many of these good people are taught that to doubt is of the enemy. This is true, once you are sure you are Born-Again, but it cannot be wrong to check ourselves, because the Bible says, "**If any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his.**" (Romans 8:9)

Church-goers have heard testimonies such as "**I know my redeemer liveth,**" and have felt it their duty to echo the same, while the truth is they only know certain facts about God, but have not had an actual encounter with him personally!

How can it be wrong for us to examine our heart to see if God has "**written his laws**" upon it? (Hebrews 8:10) How can it be wrong to look and see

whether or not God has begun "**a good work**" in me? (Philippians 1:6) How can it be wrong to check ourselves to see if the "**oil**" of the Holy Ghost is in our vessel? (Matthew 25:4) How can it be wrong to make sure I am indwelt by him? The scriptures are full of commands and warnings that we should be diligent in determining our full salvation. Is not this in itself proof that there is danger of being mistaken?

And, dear friends, we *are* mistaken if the miracle of grace has not been applied to our mind and soul. You may ask, "By what fool-proof way may I check myself?" There is a scriptural way! I John 2:15, "**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the father is not in him.**"

Once the spirit of God comes in, the things of this world start to lose their hold on us. God bless you as you check yourself.

THE GREATEST NEED ON PLANET EARTH (NO. 4)

An intellectual knowledge of Jesus Christ will never, by itself, save a lost sinner who is "**Dead in trespasses and sins!**" there must be an actual experience; God must do a work in the soul. Just as a blind man may, through effort, acquire a notional idea about many subjects which he has never seen, so may a man who has never been saved acquire sound doctrinal knowledge about God. Yet, he has no vital life-changing acquaintance with

Him! In Romans 10:1, Paul prayed for Israel, that they might be *saved*. Those Jews were instructed in the scriptures, and considered themselves qualified to teach others, yet the truth had not been placed in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. They had a form of knowledge in their heads, so that they were able to discourse fluently upon things of God. Yet, they were without the Life of God in their souls. For this reason Paul prayed that they might be *saved*!

How many today have a knowledge of salvation, yet do not have salvation itself! As always, we fall back on the scripture that declares, **“.....Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world**

is the enemy of God!” (Not saved)

A person who believes he can follow what the world is doing, and follow Christ at the same time is deceived! Reader, you may be a diligent student of the Bible (and that is good), you may be able to teach, or preach, and yet be yourself a stranger to God spiritually! **“Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** (John 3:3) True, they may *see* it in a natural way, and even admire it, but the heart not be changed. As this truth is of such vital importance, let us try to illustrate it again. Suppose a man who had never heard any music, but had been told of its beauty, decided to make a study of it. He might

familiarize himself with the art of music; learn the different notes and the keyboard on a piano. But what a different thing that it is from hearing an accomplished person play a beautiful song! The ear now taking into the spirit what before had only been in the mind! Still greater is the difference between a natural knowledge and a spiritual knowledge of God! Every real Christian has a knowledge of divine things that no unsaved person has. If I study the picture of a man, how different is my knowledge of his character and personality when I see him and talk with him. Far greater is the Christ living and talking *in me*, than the Christ in the pages of the Bible!

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**SUNDAY MORNING10:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY EVENING.....7:00 P.M.**

ATTENTION

The DeWitt Tabernacle Teaching Series is sent out as the Lord leads and is free of charge. You may be added to our list of readers and receive these messages.

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DeWitt Tabernacle
C/O C.W. Wood
#17 Scott Landleveler Rd.
DeWitt, AR 72042**

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