

DEWITT TABERNACLE TEACHING SERIES

A PERSONAL NOTE TO OUR READERS

Despite an increased effort on my part, I have now come to the place where I can no longer answer each individual letter with a personal letter of my own. For many months now, this has been a source of grief to me, because I greatly desire to fellowship with you through the mail when a personal contact is impossible. However, I have had to make a decision concerning the matter. Shall I continue trying to answer each letter when it is taking away my time for prayer and study? To do so, would be to sacrifice the revelations that we so desperately need.

We read every letter, and pray over every prayer request, and many times we are greatly blessed and encouraged by your letters. Though we have stated that we do not charge for any of our material, some of you have felt to send offerings, and they are very much appreciated. To these people I would say that we are very aware that one day we will stand before the Great Judge and give account for how we spent each dollar. Because of this awareness, we are very careful to pray before we use it. May the Lord help us to make the best possible use of your gifts.

We have not set out to build anything for ourselves. Only recently have we owned our own home, and that was left to my wife when her mother went to Glory, may God rest her gallant soul. For many years we have rented a building for our church, the cost of which is \$150.00 per month. I tell you this so you will know that your offerings are not used for a building program. We chose rather to focus our time,

GOD THAT CANNOT LIE, PROMISED

By C.W. Wood

September/October 2005

money, and efforts toward preaching and publishing the Gospel.

I recently received some advice from a friend of mine, who reminded me that I am not to try and pastor all the people who receive our material and write me. He continued by saying that most all of them have their own pastors who are responsible for their church members. I at once knew he was giving me some good, Scriptural advice. God's plan is that local pastors are to tend the flocks. Then if these local pastors, especially overseas, do not have all the study material needed, a teaching ministry can be of help. I have no desire to override the authority of God's local pastors.

To sum up my visit with our readers, I am asking if you will allow me to use the monthly sermons as my response to your many letters. But please continue to write, because it is from you letters that I am made aware of the sermons needed. If you will allow me this freedom from answering so many letters, I will do my best to stay before the Lord and write what He lays on my heart.

Let the monthly sermons be to you personally, and know that we love each one of you. One day when the hustle and bustle is over, we will sit down together and talk it over.

To the many of you who have requested our books but have not received them, let me say that I am

very sorry that I have not been able to send them, and in many cases I have not even had the time to answer your letters. I am one man in an office swamped with your requests and I am doing the best I can. All I know to do is trust our Lord to get His Message to you that we all so desperately need. Please know that we are getting the books out as the Lord provides. Pray for us here as we pray for you.

Br. C.W. Wood

Titus 1:2, "In hope of Eternal Life, which GOD, THAT CANNOT LIE, PROMISED." From this small verse we will take a part of our text, "GOD THAT CANNOT LIE, PROMISED." For our other text Scripture, we go to I John 5:10, "He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave His Son." In Titus, we see five words that are absolutely life-changing. Our great God, for whom it would be impossible to lie, has made many great and glorious promises, promises that will change the lives of the unsaved, and also of the believer who is beset with many doubts concerning these said promises.

Our burden is two-fold: number one is to so preach the Gospel as to see the lost converted, and number two, to help us converted ones see the terrible sin of our unbelief. It is not good that men should continue in darkness now that

God has sent His End-Time Prophet to shed the Light. Although, it is true that our preaching will not always be received, our duty does not vary. We are to be witnesses for this Light. We will first speak to the unsaved, and show that their lost condition is not God's fault, but their own. Too often in our Message Churches the Message of Salvation is hindered by doubts concerning the individuals Election. We want to set forth each person's individual responsibility!

Election is none of our business, our business is to preach the Gospel to "Every Creature" and show that if he is lost it is because he *chooses* to be. When our race had been lost because of sin, it was God's Amazing Grace that provided a way of Salvation for "Who-soever will." But you say, "No man commeth to me except the Father who has sent Me draw him." This is true, and we do not attempt by any means to dispute this statement. But, the Lord explains His statement in another Scripture. Do we not know that Scripture must explain Scripture? In John 5:40, the Lord explains His words in John 6:44 by saying, "Ye **will not come to Me that ye might have life.**"

Do we understand then that the sinner's inability to come to Christ lies in his own will, and it is because he doesn't want to come (does not will to come) that he cannot come? Let every lost person be certain of this, ".....him that commeth to Me I **will in no wise cast out.**" (John 6:37) Your unbelief is your own fault! Or will you accuse God of refusing salvation to an honest heart that comes to Him? If any man goes to Hell, it will be because he refused God's remedy for his sins. In God's statement, "...many be called, but few chosen" (Mat. 20:16), we are to understand that ALL men are called at one time or another. Even Cain, who was pure Serpent Seed, was called, (Gen. 4:6) but refused the call. Of course, God knew he would refuse, but on Judgment Day, he will be

held accountable for his refusal, and so will you, my Dear Lost Friend. You can call on Him today and be received.

From my own experience, and from trying to speak to others about Salvation, I know their lost state is because they do not wish to think about the subject. But, if you were smitten with a death-dealing disease, and your doctor advised he had a guaranteed cure in the form of a certain medicine, would you take it? He advises that it is the only medicine that will save your life! Suppose you do not take the medicine. The doctor will quite understand your lack of action, even though you do not say a word. If you grow worse and die, he will feel that the cause lies at your own door. When you hear the Gospel and do not come to the Lord Jesus for the healing of your soul, you as much as tell the Lord that your life in the world that now is, is more important than the saving of your soul. But the Lord will know that the cause of your lost state lies at your own door.

You are also saying that you do not feel any pressing danger, and at this time you have no need of a Savior. You are saying that the hope of Heaven is not worthy of being sought first, above all other things! You are also making Him a liar, who has said that, "Today is the day of Salvation" and that you have no promise of tomorrow. One may say, "You give me a bad reputation and character." It is your true character, one you were born with, and unless you yield to Christ and let Him birth you spiritually, you will die in your sins. The Bible declares that all men were born spiritually dead because of what one man, Adam did. (Rom. 5:12)

When Adam sinned, his nature took a turn for the worse, and his God-like nature was spoiled. Therefore, all of his descendants have inherited his fallen nature. Rom. 5:19 says, "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners....." You and I were born sinners because we inherited

Adam's fallen nature. This was no fault of our own, and God does not send us to Hell because of a condition that we had no say about. Now, let us read the last part of the verse in Rom. 5:19, "So by the obedience of One (Jesus) shall many be made righteous." Here is the answer to our problem, if we were lost because of one man's sin (Adam), we can also be saved by the obedience of one man (the Lord Jesus Christ). He paid our sin-debt and offers Salvation free of charge.

So then, it should be clear to us that we do not go to Hell because we were born lost, but rather because we reject God's plan to save us from this spiritual death. Many, however, do not believe the Gospel because they are too proud to accept the fact of their lost condition. They set much store in their good works, forgetting that God has said that one violation of His Law will result in spiritual death, unless we believe in the perfect life of Christ, and the giving of that life, in our behalf, on the Cross!

James 2:10, "For whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Do we understand the meaning of this most important verse? A good, clean-living person, one whose morals are above reproach, and who has done many wonderful works for the Kingdom of God, even one such as this will miss the Rapture, if he one time breaks one point of God's Law. That is to say, unless he is trusting in the Sacrifice of Christ that washes away all sins. One sin, not washed in the Blood, will cause us to miss the Rapture. That is "Thus Saith the Lord." (James 2:10)

When we add to the above statements the fact that no human can perfectly keep God's Law at all times, we can at once see our predicament without the Blood of Jesus to wash away our sins. How then do we arrive at this place of sins forgiven? There must be an initial experience wherein we turn to Jesus Christ with a repentant heart and receive forgiveness of all past and pre-

sent sins. This experience, called Justification, is so life-changing that we will forever be able to point back to it, telling the time and place it happened.

Although Justification is life-changing and unforgettable, it is only the first step toward full Salvation. There are two more steps before we are ready for the Rapture. Number two is called Sanctification. This is a big word, but it simply means that after your sins are forgiven, you must come to an iron-clad decision to serve your new found Savior with all your heart, mind, body, and soul. You must pray until you can honestly say to Him, "Lord, I am yours for the rest of my days. You show me what you want and I will obey."

When the Lord sees this commitment and has read your heart and knows you are sincere, then you are ready for the last step of Salvation. This step is referred to by the Lord Jesus as the New Birth. In reality, it is the placing of His Spirit INTO YOU. At Justification, His Spirit has been WITH YOU. In John 14:15-17, when the Lord Jesus was admonishing His Disciples before His departure, He told them, "I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." (Verse 16) Then He said in Verse 17 that this Spirit of Truth had been WITH YOU (Since their Justification) but at a later date (The Upper Room experience), He shall be IN YOU.

Dear Friends, there is a world of difference between His Spirit being WITH US, and in His Spirit being IN US! It is true that we are changed at our Justification, but it is also true that we do not have the power to serve our God as we should. The Apostle Peter is our prime example. After following his Lord for over three years, and with only a Justification experience, he denied Him three times. Afterwards, he went out from Pilot's Judgment Hall and repented. He wept bitterly. (Mat. 26:75) In my opinion, it was at this time that

he was Sanctified and made a candidate for the Holy Ghost (New Birth). He received the third step of full Salvation in the Upper Room. From that day forward, he did not waiver. Certainly he made other mistakes, but he never again denied his Lord. In our Message Churches today, we have some wonderful people who were raised in our churches. From their youth up they were taught about God's Prophet and his Message from God. It is commendable that they followed their parent's and accepted the teaching. God will surely honor that. But we must press upon you the truth that correct doctrine is not the same thing as the New Birth, just as Justification and Sanctification is not the same as the New Birth. In these stages the vessel has only been cleansed, emptied out, but we must be filled back up. And if we are not filled with God's Spirit, we will be filled with another spirit.

Jesus taught this all important truth in Mat. 12:43-45. the unclean spirit that leaves us at our Justification experience will come back, warns the Lord, unless we fill the empty space with His Holy Ghost. Finding our vessel empty, no Holy Ghost there, he will come back in and the last state of that man will be worse than the first. Why will he be worse off, Dear Lord? Because he will only be a religious person, following the customs and teachings of men, not having the desire for a holy life, separated from the world, nor the power to live the same. He may suppose he is ready for the Rapture, when in truth, he is about to miss it. In other words, he is under a delusion, and if he will not listen to preaching, such as he is now reading, according to Jesus, his last state is worse than his first!

Some are so in the habit of accepting no teaching but that which agrees with their own notions, that because the Gospel is true, and comes against your thoughts, you cannot endure it. If we were to water it down somewhat, and make it to better agree with your

thoughts, you would receive it. But, by His Grace, we will not do it. We won't do it because we fear God, and we won't do it for your sake, for to preach another Gospel to you would be to deceive you. A Prophet has said, "...The Devil does not care how correct our doctrine is, as long as we do not have that Life." Justification is not yet that Life, sanctification is not yet that Life, the infilling of the Holy Ghost is the Life.

You may ask, but how do I receive this Life? A more important question could not be asked! If there were some great thing for you to do, perhaps you would do it. But, because there is nothing for you to do except believe Him when He said it is for you (Acts 2:37-38), you hesitate to claim it. In our false pride we had rather do something to earn this priceless gift, and the enemy, knowing our thinking, continues to tell us we have not yet earned it. So, we start down a road that has no end, trying to EARN a gift that will not be sent until we accept it just as we are, failures and all.

Haven't you supposed that God holds back His Spirit until we have somehow improved our walk in the flesh? This is not the reason He holds it back. He waits until we reach out with a hand of Faith and take it, imperfect beings though we are!

If you had a child that was school age, would you wait until he had learned his ABC'S, and how to do his math before you enrolled him in school? Or, would you enroll him and understand that AFTER he was enrolled he would be so instructed? Of course, we know that his enrollment was for the purpose of his instruction. Then why do we suppose that our ALL-KNOWING God would wait until we have reached a certain place in our spirituality BEFORE He would give us the Holy Ghost Teacher? No, this is not true; he does not require any diploma before He sends the Teacher! The Teacher is sent to perfect us in faith

and character! Let me say it in more simple terms. He does not require any degree of perfection in us before He will send His Holy Ghost. The Pentecostal teaching that says God will not dwell in an unclean temple has been grossly misunderstood, and often misstated! The Holy Ghost is not sent AFTER we have come into all Truth, but to LEAD us into all Truth! The way we cleanse our temple is by simply repenting and being justified. Justification means to be in God's sight just as if we have never sinned. It does not mean that our days of sinning in the flesh are over; it simply means that by FAITH we are clean, and ready to be filled with His Spirit.

Do you need the Holy Ghost, Dear One? Then be sure you have experienced Justification, and then be certain you have dedicated your life to Him for as long as you shall live, take on His Name by being baptized in His Name, then just hold out your hand and take the Holy Ghost. If perhaps you have already been baptized in His Name, but did not receive His Spirit, it is not too late. You may even at this moment look up to Him and simply say, "Lord, I now take your free Gift, by Faith I receive you into my life." Do this with child-like faith, and then understand that there must come the EXPERIENCE of the INFILLING.

We receive Him by faith, and then He will send the experience. If not at the very moment you release your Faith, then it will not be long before He will honor it. As I travel from church to church, I am burdened by the lack of separation from the world in so many lives. I am burdened by the lack of Holiness, and by the lack of Faith. Separation from the world, Holiness and Faith are true signs of the Holy Ghost (New Birth). Where these are lacking and the person has been long in the Message, I am persuaded that one of two things is missing; either they have not had proper teaching, and have not read for them-

selves, or they have not been filled with His Spirit.

"God, who cannot lie, has promised!" He has promised to give His FAITH to those who have His Spirit. He has promised to make us HATE the world that we once loved. He has promised to make us HOLY in the WORD, DRESS, and DEED. Everyone sees according to his own eyes. A man without the Mind of Christ cannot see Purity and Holiness. Grace sends the Holy Ghost, then we see Him as He is, and strive to be like Him. In preaching these things, we dare not claim that we ourselves have arrived. We do know that we will still be striving toward the goal when the Trumpet sounds. My message is not to those who are striving, but to those who have settled down and are satisfied short of being filled with God's Spirit.

Now a word to those who have been filled but are not yet able to believe for all that they should. May I respectfully say that the difficulty is in yourself, and not in the Word that is to be believed? There is one excuse for unbelief, and only one. **"How can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"** The heathen may avail himself of that excuse, but it will not work for those of us who have heard of Him and His Prophet's Message. We have heard so very much, and we know the Gospel, so that the only excuse for unbelief is not for us. Of us, it can only be said, **"He that believeth not God hath made Him a liar."** (I John 5:10) this is a hard saying, but it is not mine! If a poor repentant sinner comes to us and says, "My sins are so great I do not believe they can be forgiven," then we say to him, **"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."** When he believes what he has heard, then the work is done, for "God who cannot lie has promised!" When a Saint of God comes to us with a problem (sickness or whatever), and says they cannot believe, then we take a somewhat different course. We must

come to close quarters with this Christian and say, "Very well then, stand up and say to the Lord in very plain words, You promised in Ps 103:3, to heal me of all my diseases, but it is a lie, and I cannot believe it! I have heard it and even read it, but I cannot believe it"

If you shrink back from making such a statement, you need to understand that the charge has already been laid to your account, for you have made it in your heart. It will do you no good to deny the charge, because God is reading your heart! What is that but accusing the Lord of falsehood? In Ezk. 18:32, God has said, **"As I live saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, but had rather that he turn unto Me and live."** This speaks not only of the death of a sinner, but also to the saved who say they cannot believe God for deliverance and healing.

Over and over again the Lord assures us that He delights in mercy. Now then, Christian Friend, if you say God is unwilling to heal and deliver you, and He says He is willing, and Jesus took the beating and died to prove it, how will you escape the charge of having called Him a liar?

What more evil thing could the Devil himself do than to call God a liar? Yet, God's own Children, His professed Bride, are often guilty! Nothing proves our unspirituality more than our refusal to believe promises that our Lord has made, and nothing proves true spirituality more than believing what **"The God who cannot lie has promised."** God is not a liar, and if we believe not His Word, we will be utterly ashamed at the Judgment Bar. May He move us all to the place of believing all He has said! Amen.

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