

Forgers of The Word

Victor Paul Wierwille
Summer 1978

In the February 27, 1978 Time magazine, under the category of Religion, "New Debate on Jesus' Divinity" states that Hans Kung, 49, of the University of Tübingen, Germany, has been accused by his country's bishops of disseminating dangerous views about Christ. According to this article, the first two church councils crafted the Nicene Creed, which was formulated by A.D. 381 and has been recited at every Sunday mass since the eleventh century. And it states that Jesus is "eternally begotten of the Father; true God from true God; on in being with the Father." The council of Chalcedon (A.D. 451) refined it further, decreeing that Jesus Christ has two natures -- divine and human -- which were merged without confusion or change in one person -- of the Trinity. Kung's own paraphrase of the dogma: God was present, at work, speaking, acting definitively, revealing Himself in Jesus.

Joseph Cardinal Hoffner, chairman of the bishops' conference, wrote a letter accusing Kung of evading a binding creed and demanding in exasperation: "Is Jesus Christ the preexisting, eternal Son of God, one in being with the Father?"

The Roman Catholic hierarchy last November issued a formal warning that the book that Hans Kung had written created a "distressing insecurity of faith" and charged that Kung had failed to explain how his Christology could be reconciled with the historic creeds.

Christology cannot be reconciled with any historic creed because historic creeds are in error on Christology. They took from paganism the concepts of man, nature and God and baptized the pagan teachings and placed these "baptized" errors in the creeds.

As recently as 1966, the late Ansfried Hulsbosch from the Netherlands, who was an Augustinian, issued a manifesto against the Council of Chalcedon. "The Church," he wrote, "should no longer speak of a union of the divine and human nature in one preexistent person."

Jean Galot, at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, fears that the essence of the faith is being challenged. Says he: "The basic question is this: Does the Church have an authentic teaching on Christology? It does. Hence, theologians who claim to be representatives of this Church must teach the authentic teaching of the Church."

Rev. Walter Kasper, from Tübingen, in his *Jesus the Christ*, published in 1976 by the Paulist Press, makes the statement that “far from considering himself only a man, Jesus understood himself ‘from above’ in his whole human existence.” Kasper concludes that the Council of Chalcedon provided a “valid and permanently binding” version of what the New Testament teaches, namely, that “in Jesus Christ, God Himself has entered into human history.”

If Kasper meant what he said, it would be true because God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself (II Corinthians 5:19). God in Christ did enter into human history, but that may not be what Kasper means. As a theologian, Kasper would most likely mean it was God who came -- not Jesus Christ the Son of God, but Jesus Christ, God the Son.

The truth of Jesus Christ the son of God was deliberately forged into the doctrine of God the Son. Seeds of Jesus Christ as God the Son were planted and sprouted during the lifetime of Paul, continued growing during Timothy’s lifetime and flourished shortly thereafter, reaching full bloom for all future creeds by 325 A.D.

The doctrine that Jesus Christ the son of God was God the Son was decreed by worldly and ecclesiastical powers. Men were forced to accept it at the point of the sword or else. Thus, the error of the trinity was propounded to the end that ultimately people believed it to be the truth. Thus, Christianity became in essence like Babylonian heathenism, with only a thin layer of Christian names.

Throughout the centuries following 325 A.D., unknowledgeable believers, because of previous teaching and believing, deliberately forged scriptures in support of the doctrine of God the Son by purposely tampering with manuscripts and by false translations.

Most theologians, professors, teachers, preachers and evangelists who direct the theology of Christianity still continue to teach the doctrine of God the Son which the false translations and forgeries report and, thus, continue to instill their errors in the minds of not only adults, but also children. For instance, the hymn, “Holy, Holy, Holy”... “Merciful and mighty God in three persons, blessed trinity.” The verse in the hymn... “Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God.”

The question of who is Jesus Christ is absolutely essential to Christianity. Without him we would continue to look for his first coming. With him we are looking for his return, his second coming, his *parousia*, culminating in the fulfillment and stupendous promises of Daniel and the Book of Revelation.

To say Jesus Christ is God the Son is idolatry. To say Jesus Christ is the Son of God is truth.

The Judeans, during Jesus’ lifetime on earth, said it was blasphemy for him to say he was the Son of God.

Matthew 26:63:

But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

It was the high priest who asked Jesus whether he was the Christ, the son of God. The high priest did not ask Jesus if he was God. He asked if he was the Son of God.

Verse 64:

Jesus saith unto him, Thou has said:...

Verse 65:

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy [because Jesus Christ said he was the Son of God. That's why the high priest rent his clothes, believing Jesus had spoken blasphemy]; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

Verse 66:

[The high priest asked] What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

Verse 67:

Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and other smote *him* with the palms of their hands.

Why? Because Jesus said he was the Son of God, and the high priest believed that that statement was blasphemy.

Mark 14:61:

...Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ the Son of the Blessed?

Verse 62:

And Jesus said, I am:...

Verse 63:

Then the high priest rent his clothes (his mantle) and saith, What need we any further witnesses?

Verse 64:

Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.

Verse 65:

And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him...

Again, the high priest said it was blasphemy because Jesus said he was the Son of God. Had he, Jesus Christ, said, "I am God," they would have considered him insane.

Even at the cross they "cast into his teeth" according to Matthew 27:40, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." They didn't say, "If you're God, come down from the cross."

John 10:31:

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Verse 32:

Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

Verse 33:

The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

Let us look at the deliberate tampering of the scriptures of truth. In the King James Version the word "god" has a capital "G." there is nothing in the original Greek or Aramaic to cause the translators to endeavor to make the Jews to say that Jesus made himself God. All that the Jews charged Jesus with was that he made himself a god, small "g." The scripture immediately following the reply of Jesus in verse 34 clarifies this truth. Jesus quotes the scripture to show that the Law says "Ye are gods." Verse 34, "Jesus answered them. Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?", which is a quotation from Psalms 82:6.

They accused Jesus of blasphemy because they said he said he was a man who makes himself a god, not the God. They, the forgers, put a capital "G." They deliberately forged this so that they could promulgate the doctrine and error of the trinity. How foolish for the Jews to say that Jesus Christ blasphemed when the scripture says of you, "Ye are gods?"

The translators, by using the capital "G" for God in verse 33, endeavor to make the reader believe that the Jews understood Jesus to claim to be God. to turn aside from Jesus' own explanation and to work for Jesus' enemies by putting a capital "G" on that word indicates a willingness for the translators to be with the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ. To knowingly and deliberately forge scripture is sin.

Section II

Now we shall continue to consider some scriptures which have been deliberately forged to teach the wrong doctrine about Jesus Christ.

The opportunity with I John 5 is revealing.

I John 5:7-8

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

In these two verses the words beginning with “in heaven” of verse 7 and closing with the word “earth” in verse 8 are not in any text until the 16th century. Furthermore, I John 5:7 is omitted completely by the English committee and the American committee in the 1881 and 1901 editions. Yet, both the American and the British Bible Societies, knowing there was no text substantiating the insertion, have continued to insert the error in the King James Version as a genuine scripture. That is deliberate immorality with scripture and, as such, sin.

The weak excuse given for the insertion of this passage in the text is that some copyist wrote it in the margin only as a comment, and the scribe who copied that particular manuscript mistook it for omitted matter and copied the comment into the text. For the Bible Societies, both British and American, to print these verses for many years after it was known not to be true is an immoral act.

The trinitarians demanded the insertion of I John 7:7,8 because it speaks about “these three are one,” and then they could speak of three persons in one.

Storey and Flatt’s Biblical Theology, 2d edition, page 301, states regarding the words three persons, etc... “Among the advocates for their expulsion...were a number of the first divines of the age, not excepting Hunnis and even Luther himself. -- Yet, to prevent the charge of Arianism or Socinianism, which he (Luther) knew his enemies would eagerly seize the least pretext to prefer against them, Luther yielded to Melancthon’s wishes, and in the Ausburg Confession, the doctrine of the trinity is couched in the old Scholastic terms.”

This indicates clearly that Luther and other men of the Reformation period did not put the trinity into the creed because they believed it to be true, but in order to escape the charge of heresy which was labeled against Arius and Socinius. I’m surprised by a great man’s action; but that is man.

The American committee translates Philippians 2:5,6:

Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped.

These words are significant -- “counted not on being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped (a thing to be understood).”

In our work, I have written and spoken the following regarding these verses in Philippians: Equal does not mean identical, as the trinitarians believe. The word “equal” in Philippians 2:6 is the Greek word *isos*, from which is derived the English word “isosceles.” An isosceles triangle has two angles which contain the same number of degrees. Even though equal, the angles are not identical.

The word “equality” of Philippians 2:6 is explained by the Jews as brought to light in John 5:

John 5:18:

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him [Jesus Christ] because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

According to Biblical culture, a son is referred to as being equal to his father. When Jesus Christ said that God was his Father, he put himself as equal with God. It did not make him God, but it gave him many of the same privileges. Similarly, a son born into the family of a king has many of the same basic privileges as his father, yet the king represents the greater of the two. The father is always greater than the son, yet their privileges are many times equal because of the father’s power and the position to make them so for his son. God is superior to Jesus Christ.

In John 5:19, Jesus goes on to explain equal with God:

John 5:19

Verily, verily, I say unto you, the son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do...

Thus, “equal” by no stretch of the imagination can mean Jesus Christ was God.

For one man to claim to be the son of another does not imply that he is identical to his father; therefore, Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God never implied that he was identical to God. Truthfully, the Jews never said that Jesus made himself equal with God. That’s what the translators said, and the English translation is an intended forgery and morally offensive to the integrity of the scriptures. The word *isos*, equal, is translated “equal” four times in the King James Version. It’s translated “agree” twice, “as much” once and “like” once. It took a deliberate forging of the scriptures, at this point, to make the word *isos* mean “equal.”

What the Jews were arguing was that Jesus, by making himself the Son of God, made himself *agree* with God, or like God, in the sense of the figure, *simile*. The Jews, believing that Jesus Christ was an imposter and not the Messiah, became very disturbed.

In the footnote on page 52 of our work, *Jesus Christ Is Not God*, I wrote: “The Jews never even considered the possibility of Jesus being God. They knew the Messiah would not be God. Thus, a man claiming to be God wouldn’t have agitated them for they would have recognized such a person as being mentally insane. But a man claiming to be the Son of God was disturbing because, according to Judaic doctrine, that was a possibility. The Jews simply rejected Jesus as their promised Messiah.”

In Philippians 2:6, the word the trinitarians have place great stock in is the word “form,” which is *morphe* in the Greek. This word, with its variations, is used in the following scriptures:

Mark 16:12 “...he appeared in another form [*morphe*] unto two...”

Romans 2:20 “the form of knowledge”, *morphosis*

II Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness,”, *morphosis*

The word *metamorphoomai* appears in Matthew 17:2, Mark 9:2 and Romans 12:2. The word *metamorphoomai* is transliterated into the English “metamorphosis.”

Thus, the “form of God” in Philippians 2:6 has to mean, by the genitive of origin, “who being in an external appearance, given to him by God.” This expression means he was the “Son of God.” “Who being the Son of God” would be a beautiful translation according to Biblical usage and understanding. It is the same, in essence, as “I and the Father are one,” or “He who hath seen me hath seen the Father.”

The word “fashion” in Philippians 2:8 is the Greek word *schema*, which means “scheme.” Scheme is a plan, a blueprint. When Jesus Christ was found in fashion like a man, it was the plan the blueprint, the scheme.

Philippians 2:9 says, “God also hath highly exalted him [Jesus Christ].” How could God highly exalt Jesus Christ if Jesus Christ is God?

Looking at the scheme or blueprint, let us note Hebrews 1:3:

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness [effulgence] of *his* glory [God’s glory], and the express image of his person,...

The word “express” is not only superfluous; it is not in the text. “Image” is the Greek word *charakter*, meaning “the thing impressed,” or the “stamp”* -- Jesus Christ, being the effulgence

**charakter* from *charassw* -- to engrave; impress; stamp; notch *A Critical Lexicon and Concordance*, E.W. Bullinger, p. 401, “image” (express), col. I

of God's glory, the stamp of God, meaning God's son because he was conceived in the womb of Mary by God's creative ability.

The word "person" in Hebrews 1:3 is the Greek word *hupostasis*, which means "standing under."** -- that which is underneath, substructure, that which is out of sight, but it's still there. Jesus Christ being the effulgence, the brightness of God, is in essence like "He who hath seen me hath seen the Father." Jesus Christ is the image, the impress, the stamp of God, God's only-begotten Son. Jesus Christ is the "image of God" because God was underneath. God was standing under. God is the substructure under Jesus Christ and that, again, agrees with the Word which states God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.

God is not a person; "God is Spirit" -- John 4:24.

In Job 13:8, the word "person," in the King James Version, should be translated "face." *Panim* is the Hebrew word. More than 300 times, *panim* is translated "face" in the King James Version. *Panim* is the face of God, what God's face stands for. It is the figure, *condescensio*. There is colloquial usage of a man's face, as "Pan" comes from the Hebrew word *panim*. *Panim* was translated "person" in the King James Version because it was, and is, a deliberate forgery to put the trinity into scripture.

In Luke 18:19, a ruler came to Jesus and said, "Good Master." Jesus said, "Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, *that is*, God." This declares plainly that Jesus Christ was not God. Jesus never claimed to be God. He said in John 14:28, "...my Father is greater than I." Endeavoring to make Jesus God does not add to the glory of God at all, but manufactures a second god set over against the true God who said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." In essence, we have idolatry and humiliate the true God and degrade the greatness of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

One can readily see how one error leads to another because, if Jesus Christ is God the, by sheer logic, Mary has to be the mother of God. One of the great reasons why they have not understood, and continue to refuse to understand, Jesus Christ as the Son of God is because they do not understand the accurate usage of "formed, made and created" or "body, soul and spirit" in the Word of God.

The logic of the trinitarians is interesting. The trinitarians represent the Son as being identical to the Father God. Then, when Jesus said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," he, Jesus, must have commended a spirit to the Father fully identical to the spirit of the Father, which would make four identical spirits in the tri-personal trinity.

***Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible*, no. 11 under "person", p. 747, co. II

Consider this: God is God. Jesus Christ is God. Holy Spirit is God. How many gods? Three. Now, listen. God had a son, correct? Jesus Christ as God then must have had a son; the Holy Spirit as God must have had a son. That makes six in the God-head.

In Acts 20:28 the King James reads, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost [God] hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he [God] hath purchased with his own blood.” This is so forceful because, in this short verse of scripture, if you retain the words “of God,” as in the King James Version, the argument could be that the trinity slays one of its gods, God the Son. If Jesus Christ is God, and God purchased the church with His own blood, then one god slew the other one. Adamantly adhering to the erroneous doctrine of the trinity led the trinitarians to place the following matter in the margin: “Some ancient authorities, including the two oldest manuscripts, read ‘God.’” Neither one of the two oldest manuscripts they refer to is any earlier than the period of the fourth century and, by that time, the erroneous teaching that Jesus Christ was identical with God had already matured into full bloom. In the annals of church history prior to this time, there is no quote of the words, “of God” in any record of Acts 20:28. Under the pretext of endeavoring to exalt the Son of God to God the Son humiliates God even to the death of a god, by one god killing another god on the cross.

In John 17:22, in Jesus’ prayer to his Father about his disciples, the last word, ‘one’ -- “even as we are one:” -- the trinitarians say means Jesus is God. If that is true, then the word ‘one,’ referring to the disciples in the earlier part of verse 11, makes the disciples God, also. Yet, Jesus, when he was in a severe controversy with the Jews, exclaimed, “My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all;” (John 10:29).

In John 1:1, let the trinitarians explain how “the Word” could be with God while literally being God Himself. The difficulty cannot be escaped, for how could it be *the* God and be *with* the God at the same time? According to Winer, in his *New Testament Grammar*, page 122, he says of John 1:1, *theos hen ho logos*: “The article could not have been omitted if John had intended to designate the *logos* as *ho theo*, the God, because in this connection *theos* alone would be ambiguous. But that God designedly wrote *theos* is apparent partly from distinct antithesis *pros ton theon*, verses 1 and 2, and partly from the whole description of the *logos*. The distinction in Greek is by the use of the Greek article, since in Greek a sense distinction could not be by the use of capitals and small letters, as we might do in English.”

The English translation is a clear case of forgery to mislead the reader. The persons who committed the forgery had been trained to believe that there were three persons, each of whom was infinite God, yet there was but one God. If three equals one, and one equals three, the mathematics of theology must be a mysterious thing, and the trinitarians are always insisting on the mystery of the trinity. It is not a matter of mystery; it is a matter of deliberate lying and of plain contradicting of scripture.

THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WILL OF GOD

The theologians, to prove their mystery ideas, use I Timothy 3:16; but Paul is not speaking, in I Timothy 3:16, about the mystery of the trinity, nor the mystery of the godhead, but the mystery of godliness. The translators have been honest enough, at least, to state in the margin, “The word ‘God’ in the place of ‘he who’ rests on no sufficient ancient evidence. Some ancient authorities read ‘which.’” This stamps the King James Version as outright forgery.

In the days of Jesus Christ, they crucified him for being the Son of God and, according to John 19:7, saying, “...he made himself the Son of God.” Trinitarians in our day abolish the “Son of God” and crucify God the Son. There is absolutely no mystery concerning the trinity because there is no trinity.

The trinitarians have made void the law of God, not merely by their tradition, but by deliberate forgery. Their trinitarian doctrine humiliates God under the pretense of honoring Jesus Christ. They don’t want to understand. Satan has blinded their eyes and given them a spirit of slumber. They should have inserted in the scripture, “No man hath seen God at any time except Jesus Christ who is God and, don’t forget, the *pneuma hagion* is God also.”

John states, “This is life eternal, that they may know thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” Jesus thus establishes his Father as the true God. The trinity forgery is continuing to be pushed on individuals and nations. Today we do it by the pen or by the tongue while, previously and originally, it was done by the sword of a Roman emperor. How futile and weak is an argument when its proponents have to resort to such methods to perpetrate and perpetuate it. Yet this very day I Timothy 3:16, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”, which has been forged, is quoted by clergymen who know better. The revisers have corrected the forgery as far as English is concerned. One may correct the text, but not the heads of the theologians and clergy who refuse to believe.

In I Corinthians, chapter 8, verses 4-6, the word for “God” is *theos*. The plural is *theoi*. The Greek word *theos* is generic. We read: ...*there is* “none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods [*theoi*] many, and lords [*kurioi*] many,) But to us *there is but one God* [*theos*], the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord [*kurio*] Jesus Christ, by [for] whom *are* all things, and we by him.”

In Colossians 2:9, had they translated “godhead” “head God,” it would have agreed with God in Christ. The word translated “godhead” appears nowhere else in the New Testament. The use of the capital letter “g” enables the trinitarians to argue for the essential godhead of each of the three persons in the trinity -- a deliberate forgery.

Theologians do not teach that Jesus’ body was the body of the Holy Ghost. Jesus Christ was *not* God the Son; he was the Son of God *and* the Son of man. He was the Son of God because of divine conception, the Son of man because he was born of woman.

Romans 9:5 is frequently quoted as a proof text by the trinitarians, but the American committee placed the following in the margin as a translation: “Whose are the fathers, and of whom is Christ as concerning the flesh; he who is over all, God, be blessed forever.” Up until the Roman emperors had stamped out the resistance against the trinity by the use of the sword, there was no writer who ever advocated Romans 9:5 as a scripture for the trinity. This came centuries later. Romans 9:4,5 may be punctuated as follows: “Who are Israelites? To whom the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service, and the promises? Whose the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh? Christ. Who is over all? God. Blessed forever. Amen.”

God is supreme. Jesus Christ is subordinate, for he is God’s only-begotten Son. And to him God said, “Sit thou on my right hand.” -- God, commanding His Son’s obedience. The Son prayed, but God never prays. The Son said, “Now, Father.” If Jesus Christ’s nature were divine, if he were God, he could not have had a father.

The mystery of the trinity is in the creeds of men, not in the Word of God, the Scriptures. In the Greek language, the word *pneuma* is always neuter in gender, and every pronoun agreeing with it -- and every adjective -- is in the neuter gender. There is not exception. Then why do the theologians in Romans 8:16 want us to use the masculine pronoun? The answer is very simple. They want us to have the people believe that the *pneuma hagion* is a person and, thus, identical to God the Father. To do such violence makes this act forgery, not a mistranslation.

At the baptismal time of Jesus, if it were true what the trinitarians believe, you would have one god speaking from heaven, you would have a second god coming up out of the water in the form of a man and you would have another god descending from the skies in the form of a dove, all at once. Sounds sort of ridiculous, doesn’t it? One of those infinite gods says to another infinite god, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” How foolish!

The trinitarians call themselves orthodox and everybody else heretics -- those who differ with them on this subject. They consider themselves custodians of evangelical truth.

The respect of thinking people cannot be permanently retained, for the seekers after truth will sooner or later discover the mistranslations, as well as the forgeries, on which the trinity has been based. At the present time, there is no Roman emperor’s sword to sustain it, only the tongue and pen of men. The trinitarian teaching has destroyed both good sense and good morals for Christian leaders and Christian thought. The church has lost its hold on thinking people. People will not continue following Christian leaders in whose honesty they have no confidence. The early church taught, with emphasis, one God; but the trinity was forced on the world by the sword of the Roman power. The early Christians had no conception of the doctrine of the trinity as it is now taught.

Bible societies and Bible translators continue to issue these forgeries, yet they endeavor to tell us they stand for honesty and integrity. Why not just simply believe the truth of God’s Word

when Jesus said, “My Father is greater than I”? What do we gain by trying to make three persons, each of them God? The errors of so-called orthodoxy are continuing to be the forgers of the scriptures. Thus, they are adulterating the truth -- the very people who profess to teach truth.

In John 20:30, 31 we read, “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” John did not say Jesus is God. To the Jews, even Jesus as the Son of God was a stumbling block -- a blasphemer.

One of the reasons for the promulgation of the trinitarian doctrine today is because the almighty dollar has replaced the Almighty God; and today, it’s like the days of Elijah -- calling people back to the worship of the true God is considered a “troubler of Israel.” He is disseminating dangerous views.

Endeavoring to sustain a doctrine disproved by human intellect and by the integrity of the Word of God is putting forth a great deal of effort in trying to believe a lie. Anyone questioning the settled dogma of the trinity is advised not to do so because it would upset the orthodoxy relative to the doctrine of the trinity which was established by the sword, by persecution and by cruel oppression, until the church which was corrupted by statesmen and ecclesiastical hierarchy in a civilized world became only an imitation of heathen religions using Christian names. All This teaching of the trinity and the unification of the declaration thereof is concealed from the average student who is not told that it was unified by persecution. It is concealed from the student that Theodosius the Great in the latter part of the fourth century made, by force, the trinity the official doctrine of the Roman Empire. And, at that time, there were not enough trinitarians in the capital city of Constantinople on the first Sunday thereafter to place even one single worshipper in each church building in the city.

The first commandment states, “I am the Lord thy god; thou shalt have no other gods before me.” Another great truth in the Word says, “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord.” These are never emphasized in any creed that man has made. Yet today they sit like diamonds with great accuracy in the Word.

The Word of God opens with one God. The Word of God closes when the Son, himself, is “subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (I Corinthians 15:28). I know of no denomination that does not treat the greatest and most beautiful of all the commandments, the one leading to all other excellence, as though it is obsolete, and anyone disagreeing with it is a heretic. Until the truth of the greatness of God’s Word is revived and believed, Christendom will be the laughingstock of the world, and it will truthfully only be a venerated heathenism.

This article is taken from a loose leaf handout which was placed in the public domain by Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille, founder and first president of The Way International, being distributed without copyright notice during the Advanced Classes on Power for Abundant Living between 1978 and 1985. Formatting and graphics © 2011 *Biblical Research Journal* (www.biblicalresearchjournal.org). See website for permissions.

GOD'S BANK AIN'T BUSTED YET

Victor Paul Wierwille
The Way International Headquarters, January 6, 1980

Take your Bibles tonight and go to Galatians Chapter two. I would like to share from the Word of God tonight on the subject of victorious living. As a Christian believer, your believing dare not be based on gold. It has to be based on God. They say that a man's best friend is his dog. Man just got it backwards, like man always does.

No born again one conquered the Adversary. It was Christ Jesus who conquered the Adversary for every believer — and we were completely identified with Christ in his complete work. In Galatians 2:20 it says:

Galatians 2:20

I ["was," that is the text] ... crucified with Christ: ...

I was crucified with Christ. So when Christ died, we died with him. The believer, the one who is to be a believer, the one who God knew from before the foundations of the world would believe the Word when they heard it — for that individual when Christ was crucified, that individual went with him.

"I was crucified with Christ: ..."

Galatians 2:20

...nevertheless I [what?] live; yet not I, but Christ liveth [what?] in me:

Ladies and gentlemen, if that is true, this has to be a victorious living reality. Christ liveth in me...

Galatians 2:20

...and the life I now live in the flesh [in the senses category, in this world, the life I now live in the flesh], I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and who give Himself [for what?] for me.

Isn't that fantastic? You see, the Adversary, he is the keeper of the Prison House of Death. But our God blew the doors off in the resurrection.

In Romans chapter four, talking about Abraham who is the father of all believers, the Word of God says:

Romans 4:20

He [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of [what?] God through unbelief; but was strong in faith [“believing” is the text] giving glory to God;

Strong in believing, giving glory to God. And verse twenty-one:

Verse 21

And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

He was fully persuaded, fully persuaded — no doubt left in his mind. Fully persuaded that what He, God, had promised him, He, God, was also able to do what? Perform.

And therefore, therefore because Abraham didn’t stagger at the promises of God through unbelief but was strong in believing...

Verse 22

And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Therefore it was “set to his account,” accounted. Imputed means “accounted.” It’s like somebody going to the bank and putting money in the bank for you. Set to your account. That is this word.

It was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. His believing was accounted to him for righteousness.

Verse 23-24

Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

But for us [the born again believers, the body of Christ] also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

It “shall be accounted,” “set to our account,” if we do one thing — believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.

You see, the Adversary being the keeper of the prison house of death. The only one that ever got up from the dead, so far, was the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why I said, in the resurrection God just blew the doors off of that prison house that the Adversary thinks he had everybody locked up in.

God raised Jesus our Lord from the what? The dead.

Verse 25

Who was delivered...

...delivered to death. Jesus Christ, delivered to death. The Adversary took the advantage and had him killed. He was delivered...

Verse 25

... for our offences ["our sins, but"] ... was raised again for our justification ["when we were justified."].

Boy oh boy, tremendous truth. Jesus Christ laid down his life because of our sins. The Adversary really socked it to him. And he stayed dead until everything was completely covered, everything was completely fulfilled. That is why three days and three nights. That was the legal requirement. Christ was the end of the Law, the fulfillment of it, and he stayed dead three days and three nights. But he was raised again when we were justified. When it was completely paid for, in all the requirements of God.

Jesus Christ paid for them, then God raised him from the dead. Therefore, therefore, because of that...

Chapter 5, Verse 1

Therefore being justified by ["believing," by believing what Jesus Christ did] ..., we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Therefore being justified by believing he staggered not at the promise of God, fully persuaded. Therefore being justified by believing we have what? Peace.

The whole world is in a turmoil. Everybody crying about peace. No one has any, except the believer. Because you can't have peace people without the Prince of Peace. The Word says we are justified and we have peace.

Well, if you've got it, you don't have to pray about it. If you've got it you don't have to pray about it. If you've got shoes on your feet, you don't have to pray for a pair, you've got one. Justified, we have peace. We've got it. We've got it, peace with God.

God is not angry at us. God is not running around looking to beat us over the head to line us up with His will or something. That's not our God. It may be somebody else's but it is not the God of the truth of the Word. Our God is a God who has justified us, Who has given us peace.

And that is through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Verse 2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

By whom, our Lord Jesus Christ, we have access. We have access into this grace. Into this grace, divine favor, perpendicular God to man. We have access into this grace of God wherein we do one thing: Stand.

We don't sit down. We don't lie down. We don't mope about it. Into this grace stand.

If the people want to get saved by good works, that's their privilege. We have nothing to do with that. That's their business. We just know we are saved by grace and that's where we stand. And, not only do we stand, but we rejoice. And the only reason we can rejoice in a world in

like which we are living is because of the hope. That's the last part of that verse. Rejoice in the hope of the glory of the second coming.

Abraham looked forward to the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, that was his hope. You and I have experienced the first coming and the reality of Christ in us, the hope of glory. We look forward to the second coming. And in the time we are living here, standing in that grace, in the household, as one body, we stand looking for the hope.

Look at Colossians chapter two. Some more of this wonderful Word along this line. Chapter two, verse ten:

Colossians 2:10

And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

You are what? "Complete in Him." You are complete in Him who is the head of — the word "of" is the word "over." Jesus Christ is "the head over all principality" and what? "Power."

Look at verse fifteen:

Verse 15

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

"Having spoiled," the word "spoiled" is "put off from himself principalities and powers." He, Jesus Christ, "made a show of them openly." He made an exhibition of them, because God raised Him from the dead "triumphing over them in it."

In chapter three, look at verse one:

Colossians 3:1

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

We died with him, we arose with him. "If ye then being risen with Christ, seek those things which are" where? "Above." "Where Christ sitteth on the right hand of" whom? "God."

Verse 2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

"Set your affection on things above, not things on the" what? "Earth."

Verse 3

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

"For you are" what? "Dead." "And your life is hid" – your life is hidden. Your life is hidden. It is already "hid with Christ in God." Boy, that's victorious living. Look at Hebrews chapter two, a very familiar verse, verse fourteen:

Hebrews 2:14

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same;...

“He,” Jesus Christ, “also himself likewise took part.” He didn’t partake, he only took a part. The part he took was of the flesh of Mary. The soul life that was in him was by the creation of God. “Likewise took part of the same...”

Verse 14

...that [he, Jesus Christ] through death [his own death] he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

“He might destroy,” the word “destroy” in Rotterdam’s translation is “paralyze.” “Paralyze” the “death-dealing power of Satan.” That he might “destroy him holding the power of death.” The “death dealing power of Satan,” “the power of death,” that is held by who? “the Devil.”

See? Beautiful. “Paralyzed” him. We know he is not completely out of commission. We see him in high gear in operation. But the battle for us, people, has been won. It has been fought for us by Jesus Christ. There is no battle for you to fight but the battle of your own mind. Believing, that is the battle for you.

You and I must fight the Adversary with words. Words that are believed.

None of the prophets, Old Testament, none of the prophets of God or men of God throughout the entire Old Testament — or Jesus Christ himself — spoke or believed the Word of God more than you. If you use His Word.

The Word of God is as efficacious, as powerful on the lips of believers today as it was the first time the Word was ever given. And the Word of God believed on your lips carries the same weight, the same power, as it did on the lips of Jesus Christ. Same God, same Word of God.

In Genesis it says that, “In the beginning God created...” Then it goes on and it says, “God said” — I forget how many times that is used in the first chapter. Innumerable times. “God said.” “God said.” You see, God created by His Word. He spoke it into being. He just spoke it into being.

After the day of Pentecost, you can trace this now through the Old Testament. But now, my mind flips to Pentecost.

Peter, some short time after the day of Pentecost ministered to a man seated at the Beautiful gate of the Temple. He didn’t lay hands on him. He didn’t anoint him with oil. He simply spoke the Word to him. And he said, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and” What? “Walk.”

Laying on of hands, anointing with oil, is for those who have not been completely initiated into the Mystery, so to speak. It is for those who are pledges, not for the the full fraternity of God’s children. Paul delivered men and women by just speaking the Word. You and I will live victoriously or we will live defeated by words.

You bless, and you can comfort people with words. You can bring deliverance to people with words. In Isaiah 53 look at verse four:

Isaiah 53:4

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

“Surely he hath borne our griefs,” the word “griefs” is “sicknesses.” “He hath borne our sicknesses.” It would be nice if sometimes we worked on things he did. Those two words, “he did.” He bore our sicknesses. He did.

Now He is either lying or He is telling the truth. These are words.

We were talking a little bit this morning about one of the heart rending things in my ministry, is that people just don't get around to believing God's Word. It's just unbelievable but they don't. It blows my heart.

Look, you go to the grocery store. You look on the label of the can, and you believe it. People watch TV, they believe that. They read a newspaper, and believe it.

That thing just cuts me inside. The Bible says that every man is a liar but the Word of God is truth. We will believe what that man writes on a can or puts on a piece of paper or puts on a loaf of bread. But we will not believe God and His Word.

Somebody has us duped good and proper. Sorry, but that's the truth I am telling you and you all know it.

A fellow sends you a bank report and you believe it. Why not get to the point to where you just believe God's Word. It is God's Word. And down through the centuries when men believed God's Word the results came.

It may have taken Abraham until he was ninety-nine. But I want to tell you something, God's Word did not fail. He tried to help God along a little bit, but that did not work. Even Sarah tried. It did not work. Never worked. The only thing that ever works is just literally believing the Word.

Isaiah said, “Surely He hath borne our sicknesses.”

Psalm 107:20

He sent his word, and healed them...

God sent His what? “Word.” And what? “Healed them.” God sent His what? “Word.” Now He sent that Word, sir, through the prophets. Then it was in writing — written form.

Then He finally sent His Word through His only begotten Son — Jesus Christ. Who is The Word of God. He is the living reality, God's Son — the Word. That's why Jesus Christ is The Word, The Word.

God sent His Word and healed them. Jesus Christ is that Word. But tonight, today it is Christ in you the hope of glory. Where is the Word? In you. And “He sent His Word” to what? Heal them.

Therefore everywhere you go, wherever you walk, wherever you speak; if you speak God's Word it is a victorious life. Victorious living, for you are that Word in living reality.

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

"My God" — yours too. My God shall do what? "Supply all." My God shall do what? "Supply all your" what? "Need according to His riches in glory." Through whom? "Christ Jesus." That's right.

My God shall supply all your needs. That is victorious living. That is why I said when I opened tonight, our believing is not based upon gold. Our believing is based on God and His Word.

God will supply our need. Not the government. Our God supplies needs. But we have all been taught through the years, you have to have others do this. You have got to renew your mind to believing and get fully persuaded that it is God who supplies needs. And He does this according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus.

III John 2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

"Beloved I" what? "I desire above all things" — the word wish is the word desire. "Beloved, I desire above" what? All things. Well if He desires it above all things, what does He desire above all things? What He desires above all things. Right?

It is His Word. People, you have got to get to believing that Word. "I desire above all things that you may prosper." God never made a failure. God never made a beggar. God never made a poor person. Somewhere I think it's in the Old Testament. God's people, "I never saw one begging bread."

Where is that? Psalm what? Thirty-seven. Good, bless you. Read it. Psalm thirty-seven. I am glad you are here to help me find it. Psalm thirty-seven, what verse? It says in verse four in Psalm thirty-seven:

Psalm 37:4

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give you the desires of" what? "Thy heart." Verse five:

Verse 5

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord" — trust in Him — "and He" is going to do what? "Bring it to pass." Verse twenty-five:

Verse 25

I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

“I have been young and now I am old yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed” doing what? “Begging bread.”

“Beloved I wish above all that thou mayest” what? Prosper. That’s God is will. That is God’s desire. That is God’s Word. And you have to believe words.

I have said this time and time again — so I will say it again. Whenever there is an unbeliever, a God rejecter. A Bible unbeliever, who just does not believe in God in heaven much less care. And he is more prosperous, more successful, than the Christian businessman, there is something wrong someplace. And it cannot be with God.

Our God is in favor of His men and women prospering. The Devil is in favor of you not prospering. Which ever way you believe God’s Word determines the election.

“I wish above all that thou mayest” what? “Propser.” And be what? “In health.” And that doesn’t mean that you sit down here and say, “Lord send me a million.” No, you go to work, you use your strength, you use every ounce of your being, every fiber of your being, to do your utmost.

Likewise with health. You don’t go out here and load yourself up on a fifth of whiskey and say, “Lord I don’t want to get drunk” or something. You are stupider than a dead jackass to do that kind of stuff.

No, that is stupidity and our God is not stupid. It says in the Word, if you don’t work you don’t eat. All that stuff you know. But it is His will that the Christian believer prospers. It is His will that the believer be in health.

You know, the kingdoms of this world and the unbelievers are the Adversary’s. They are his, but not the believers. He has no right to put his dukes on the believer. Absolutely none. In Matthew Four Jesus Christ had an opportunity with him; look at four, I am in verse eight:

Matthew 4:8-9

Again, the devil taketh him [Jesus Christ, God’s only-begotten Son] up into an exceeding high mountain, and [the Adversary, the Devil] showeth him [Jesus Christ] all the kingdoms of the [what?] world, and the glory of them;

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee...

Now before we read the rest, let us settle one great truth. Can you give anything if you haven’t got it? I should say not. There are other records in the Word to show the Adversary, that the kingdoms of this world belong to him. But, you can’t give anything if you haven’t got it.

And he took Jesus Christ up there and he just showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and all the glory of them. All the power and everything that goes with it. He would get in the blue blood line or whatever that is.

You would get invited to all the right parties. You would have a great coming out party for your daughter. You are just with the right people, in the right schools, having the right degree.

Showed Him all of this, all the glory of it — God’s only begotten Son. Boy. When I read this I get chills going up and down my spine because of a scripture, “Jesus Christ tempted in all things like as we are yet without” what? Sin.

He has never showed me all of the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them and said I will give them to you. But he did it with Jesus Christ.

For most people he doesn’t even have to show them a half a kingdom. If he would give them one square block in town they would sell out to him.

He said, all of this I will give you, but there is just one little trick to this. One little commitment.

Verse 9

... if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

All you have to do, just “fall down and worship me.” I will give you all the kingdoms of the world, all the glory of them, if you will but “fall down” — which simply means to do reverence to him, bow down to him. And worship him.

Look at Ephesians chapter two, verse three. Not only the kingdoms of this world but the unbelievers — watch it:

Ephesians 2:3

Among whom also we all had [our “do,” or] our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature...

“By nature,” by natural birth a man of body and soul, by nature, is a child of whom? The Devil. They are his property. Because you know that a man of body and soul is dead in trespasses and sins, without God and without hope. Has no eternal life, no spirit. Right?

That is why the unbeliever, the natural man, belongs to the Adversary. He can whop him when he wants to, bless him when he wants to. He belongs to him.

Look at Colossians chapter one, verse thirteen, however. Talking about God in Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:14

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Who has delivered us from the power of what? “Darkness.” Power of darkness. And “has translated” or has “given us citizenship in His kingdom by the work of His dear Son.” God has delivered us — by nature, the children of what? The Devil.

But when we got born again, with Christ in us the hope of glory, we got out of the Devil’s realm. Out of his territory. Out of his jurisdiction. God delivered us. He delivered us.

The translation that many of you have seen — I think it may be in the PFAL class, but I’m not sure. It is someplace:

Colossians 1:14

God rescued us out from the exercised operative influences of darkness and separated us bringing us as citizens into His kingdom by His dear Son.

That is verse thirteen. Look at First Corinthians, chapter six, verse twenty:

I Corinthians 6:20

For ye are bought with a price:...

For “you are bought with” a what? “Price.” God delivered us. You are bought with a price. It cost God His only begotten Son, remember?

“For God so loved that God gave His only begotten Son.” We are “bought with a price.” Paid for. Completely justified, remember? Raised when it was all over.

Then what right, sir, does the Adversary got on any of God’s property? None, that is right. “Bought with” a what? Price.

Look at I Corinthians chapter seven, verse twenty-three.

I Corinthians 7:23

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

It means, don’t be a slave to the senses world or to men. You are bought with a price by God’s only begotten Son. You are bought with a price.

Romans chapter eight verse thirty-one:

Romans 8:31

...If God be for us, who can be against us?

“If God be” what? “For us. “Who can be” what? Against us. That’s right. “If God be for us then who can then be” what? “Against us.”

Our struggle for victorious living, people, is with defeated principalities and powers. That is spiritual powers. Defeated principalities and spiritual powers.

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

“For we wrestle not against” what? “Flesh and blood.” “But against” what? “Principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness from on high.”

So our struggle as believers — our fight, if you want to call it that, our living for victorious living — is with defeated principalities and spiritual powers.

Why do we ever want to mess with them if they are already defeated? The Adversary knows, he absolutely knows, he is whipped and defeated. But you know something? He does not want you to know it.

He knows it. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. God blew the doors open to the Devil's Prison House of Death. He knows it but the Adversary does not want you to know that he knows it.

He wants to keep the born again believer ignorant. And to keep the believer ignorant all he has to do is keep him from the Word. For the Word of God is the will of God. You cannot know the will of God without knowing the Word of God.

The Adversary wants to keep you from the Word and get you to believe everything else. Get you to believe what people say about the Word — the advertisement on the can, remember?

Get you to believe everything except the Word. Keep you from the Word, but keep you believing that you think you know it. Man, what a tricky bird he is.

He knows he is defeated. And he has done such an admirable job defeating the believer, because he walks around like a roaring lion and people freak on him. That old boy has no teeth in his mouth left. He is defeated in Christ Jesus, for the believer.

If he wants to bite someone, let him bite his own. He has no right. "You have been bought with a price," class. Paid for in full.

Not of your works, but of "God's grace wherein we" what? Stand. Boy oh boy!

Look at Ephesians chapter one, verse three.

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

"Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, "who hath." Who hath, who hath. Not "going to." He has already blessed us with every spiritual blessing. "All spiritual blessings" in whom? "Christ."

Ladies and gentlemen, are we blessed? Oh God... We are blessed! We are bought with a price. We are blessed.

Verses 4-5

According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

"According as He," God, "hath chosen us." I didn't chose Him, He chose me. He called us. He chose us.

If you were the daughter or the son of the governor of your state or the province, or whatever you've got up there in Canada — the prime minister or something — if you were their son or daughter, do you think maybe you could get into his office? Occasionally? And do you think maybe you would have some things? I think so too.

Hey! God chose us. And most Christians walk around worse than whipped dogs. They live in condemnation and everything else.

God chose us. Man if that doesn't do something for you someday, you are never going to make it.

God chose us. Boy, when you have a basketball team, the coach chooses the first five that opens. God chose us. He chose us. We are playing first string, people. We are not second-rate Christians.

There is only one category. First. Let the rest of the unbelievers play second, third, quadruple (or something) or nothing. We play first.

We walk with the greatness of the power of God. His Word. He chose us before the foundation of the world in His foreknowledge.

Verse six says:

Verse 6

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

"To the praise of His glory." "To the praise of His glory of His grace, wherein," in which, "He has made us acceptable." He made us acceptable. He made us — the word is "lovely" for you girls. "He made us acceptable."

Well, ladies and gentlemen if God made us acceptable, why do you walk around and say, "I'm no good," "I don't amount to anything"?

Wait a minute. You are a liar, for He made you what? "Acceptable." Well act like it.

There is therefore, after He has made you lovely, — "all kinds of condemnation." No. There is therefore what? "No condemnation."

Walk with the greatness of God's Word. That is victorious living. Everything else is living below par and being a liar. For you are what the Word of God says you are. You have what the Word of God says you have. You will be what it says. It is His Word.

I had rather believe that than what I read on a beer bottle. "Fire brewed." Must have got it from Hades or something.

Verse 7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

"In whom we have redemption through his" what? "Blood," right. Through his blood, not mine. I did not "strive unto blood against sin." His blood, his sacrifice, his substitution for us.

We have forgiveness, "forgiveness" is the word "remission." We got remission of sin according to the riches, "the riches of His" what? Grace. "Wherein we" what? "Stand."

"Wherein," verse eight, the riches of His grace:

Verse 8

Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

"He hath abounded." Not just sprinkled, but abounded. "Poured out in all wisdom and prudence," and the word "prudence" is "good sense."

Verse nine:

Verse 9

Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

“Having made known unto us the mystery of His” what ? “Will.” Fantastic.

Remember? “If God be” what? “For us, who can” what? “Be against us.”

People, our worst enemy is not a foreign nation. It is our own nation. Our own selves within a nation.

It is the truth of God’s Word that is foreign in our nation. Today there is an atmosphere and aroma of defeat — your nation in Canada like ours in the United States.

Ask yourself a question: Has God gone out of business? Has He changed His ability? Is His Word no longer His will?

I would like for you to just take your mind for a moment, and go back in history and think a little bit. Look at the heathen world that twelve men faced after the day of Pentecost. And how they took that heathen world.

And when you look at it you look at the intellectual skepticism of the Roman Empire. You look at the political and military power of Rome. Twelve men who dared to start to believe God.

They turned the world up-side down. They changed nations. They carved out new nations.

They won, they won! We too can still win!

For our God has not changed. His ability has not changed. His Word is still His what? Will.

But you’ve got to stand up and get committed and counted. You have got to take a stand.

Stand up. Get counted.

You have got to take your place as a born again believer and speak the truths of the greatness of God’s Word.

As I said, we are what the Word of God says we are, we have what the Word of God says we have, we can do what the Word of God says we can do.

For we are His. Why? Because His is ours. He chose us, people.

This is victorious living.

You and I just have to meet every circumstance as conquerors. Even before you start in it, you meet it as a conqueror. For in all situations we are “more than” what? “Conquerors!”

Isaiah, I think it was who said — also Joshua isn’t it? “Fear thou not for I am” what? “With thee. Whithersoever thou goest, I will go.”

Our God — His wonderful Son. Jesus Christ is with us. He is with the believers.

That is why we live above the circumstances of the world because we live in Him.

They tell me this Mountain Top Checkbook is no longer available. No longer in print or something. So those of you who have one better hang onto it. And use it.

Years ago I had this done. It’s done with a regular checkbook cover and everything. There are ten blank checks that God gives in His Word. They are all in here.

But what I want to read to you tonight, I have written in the back page here. This is my name here at the top. “Victor Paul Wierwille, In Account with The Bank of God.”

How wonderful it would be for you with your conscious and subconscious mind to respect the promises of God with the same fervency as mankind honors the names

and checks of men. Think for a moment of the possibilities – the miracles that will come to pass when you consciously and subconsciously begin to honor and respect the name of the Father here upon earth as it is hallowed in heaven.

Our heavenly Father has left us numerous definite checks for definite needs. Furthermore, in His infinite wisdom and foresight, He left us ten blank checks. Seven of which we may write in “WHATSOEVER” we need and three we may fill in with “ANYTHING.”

Gilt edged securities issued by the most financially sound corporation in the whole world are not as sound as the promises of God. Wall Street fluctuates the value of your money in the bank but the promises of God has suffered no fluctuations in any way whatsoever.

The resources in the vault of the great bank of God are not only unlimited and infinite, but are the same always — where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt nor thieves break through and steal.

A remarkable privilege is yours in that you may reuse the blank checks over and over again with a new set of requests and desires. The more these checks are used, the more powerful and meaningful they become. Thus, I invite you by faith — by believing — to step up to the Cashiers Window of God’s love and bravely countersign His promises, saying “Father I believe Thy promise.”

On the back page, the last page, is this little old poem, “God’s Bank Ain’t Busted Yet,” written by Alice P. Moss.

This poem was written after the Depression in the United States. And I picked it up somewhere along the line. I forget all the history of it, but this is the background of it.

God’s Bank Ain’t Busted Yet.
by Alice P. Moss

The bank had closed, my earthly store had vanished from my hand.
I felt there was no sadder one than I in all the land.
My washerwoman, too, had lost her little mite with mine,
And she was singing as she hung the clothes upon the line.
"How can you be so gay?" I asked. "Your loss, don't you regret?"
"Yes, ma'am, but what's the use to fret? "God's bank ain't busted yet."

I felt my burden lighter grow, her faith I seemed to share.
In prayer I went to God's great throne and laid my troubles there.
The sun burst from behind the clouds in golden splendor set,
I thanked God for her simple words: "God's bank ain't busted yet."

And now I draw rich dividends, more than my hands can hold,
Of faith and love and hope and trust, and peace of mind untold.
I thank the Giver of it all, but still I can't forget
My washerwoman's simple words, "God's bank ain't busted yet."

Oh, weary one upon life's road, when everything seems drear,
And losses loom on every hand, and skies seem not to clear,
Throw back your shoulders, lift your head and cease to chafe and fret.
Your dividends will be declared, "God's bank ain't busted yet"

We just have to get out there and stand up and get counted. God's bank is not busted. His Word is His Will, people.
That is victorious living. And it is made for every believer.
Okay? Okay.

Thank you Father for Your Love and Grace and Mercy and Your Goodness. Thank you for the great reality of Your Word. And Father, that Word is a living reality and we sure want to believe Your Word more than we ever want to believe the words of men. So I thank you for giving us a defeated Adversary. And that in the midst of all trials, tribulations, temptations — everything else Father, and the whole mess of the world, we can stand more than conquerors — declaring boldly the ineffable greatness of your love and grace. Thank you in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

God bless.

This is a transcript of an audio teaching which was placed in the public domain by Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille, founder and first president of The Way International, being distributed without copyright notice on Sunday Teaching Service cassette tapes between 1965 and 1985.
Formatting and graphics © 1994-2010 *Biblical Research Journal* (www.biblicalresearchjournal.org). See website for permissions.

THE —RED-THREAD—

Victor Paul Wierwille
The Way College of Emporia, March 12, 1978

Take your Bibles and turn to the book of Colossians, Chapter 1. Tonight I'd like to open The Word with you. And, if I were to give this a topic or a title of what I have in my heart to share with you tonight, I would call it "The Red Thread." You find him everywhere in The Word.

It has been sin-consciousness plus condemnation that has robbed Christians in the past of their believing. It has robbed Christians in the past of their sense of worthiness before God. It has robbed Christians in the past of the joy of their sonship.

We, as believers, just had not been taught, and consequently and subsequently we did not know, the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. We did not know we were more than conquerors through him who loved us and who gave himself for us. We did not know that we could do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We did not know that we were complete in Christ. We did not know that we were seated in the heavenlies now. People, we just did not know. For no one taught us.

In Colossians Chapter 1, in Verse 13 we read:

Colossians 1:13

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness [Past tense. He hath delivered us from the power of darkness...], and hath translated [The word for "translated" in the Sanskrit is the word "given us citizenship." He "hath given us citizenship in]...the kingdom [the text reads "in His kingdom," in His, God's, kingdom "by the work"...] of His dear Son [Jesus Christ];

Today, in our Way Ministry around the world, we as believers believe that we are in Christ, and we act as it is true. He has delivered us, past tense, from the power of darkness. And class, if we've been delivered then we've been delivered. It's either the truth or it's a lie. Well, we believe this is the truth of God's Word, that God in Christ Jesus has delivered us from the power of darkness. And that He has given us legal citizenship – sonship rights in that citizenship – in His own kingdom, in God's kingdom, by the work of His dear Son.

Man's basic need throughout the years, as well as man's basic need at this particular moment, is righteousness. Every human being who sincerely desires to make his or her life meaningful while here upon earth has an inner yearning, an inner desire, an inner gnawing in the innermost part of that being, to want to be righteous.

In Romans Chapter 3, and in Verse 20 we read:

Romans 3:20-21

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight [that's God's sight]: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WILL OF GOD

But [But, but, Verse 21. But, in contrast...] now [Right now. Not when you die, not some day maybe, but right now. Beloved, now...] the righteousness of God [the righteousness of God] without the law is manifested [The word “manifested” means clear. It is not hidden. It is beautifully in view.], being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Verse 22, very carefully:

Verse 22

Even the righteousness of God [Whose righteousness? The righteousness of God. God's righteousness...] *which is* by [and the word “by” is the Greek word *dia*, it means “through”; by way of what Jesus Christ did. The righteousness of God by...] faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them [who do one thing. what?] believe...

The human mind can never comprehend it. But the spiritual man within can absorb it, utilize it, believe it, walk on it, and bring the greatness of this truth into manifestation.

The righteousness of God! Well, how righteous is God? He is righteous! And all that righteousness of God – because of Christ Jesus and what he did for every born again believer – that righteousness of God is unto all and upon all who do one thing, and that is believe. So when you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, you got the righteousness of God – which is that Christ in you the hope of glory. That righteousness of God.

And if man has that righteousness, why should he ever want to live below par? Why should he want to walk in negatives? Why in fears, and worries, and anxieties, and frustrations, when we have what the Word of God says we have, when we are what the Word of God says we are? And it says that every believer – unto every believer – because of the work of Jesus Christ, that individual believer receives the righteousness of God.

“Unto all and upon all that believe...”

Verse 22

...for there is no difference:

There is no difference between a man or a woman. There is no difference whether he is the governor of the state, or the president, or if he is the local individual delivering the milk. There is no difference whether it is a housewife or just a beautiful young lady, no difference. There is no difference whether it is white, or black, or red – no difference. But the great difference that He sets in here is the difference that had been between Jews and Gentiles. And now He says, there is no difference between Jew or Gentile.

Verse 23

For all have sinned [Verse 23] and come short of the glory of [what?] God.

All have sinned – man, woman, black, white – doesn't make any difference. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. So man's basic needs, his basic needs people, is in the category of righteousness. And, once men and women receive Christ within, they have that righteousness of God. Isn't that a fantastic reality!

You see, Jesus Christ has dealt with the root problem of man. Jesus Christ has dealt with sin. He dealt with it. And the root of man's unrighteousness is sin. Jesus Christ has dealt with the root – the “sin problem.” Therefore today it's no longer a "sin problem," but a "sinner problem."

Does the individual, who has not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, does he want to believe? Does he want to receive the greatness of what God has made available in Christ Jesus? God dealt with it in Jesus Christ. It's over with. Now it's a question of the individual believing to receive what God made available in Christ Jesus. That's why the problem is a "sinner problem."

And when that individual believer confesses with his mouth the Lord Jesus, believes God raised him from the dead, he is saved. Romans 10:9. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness, with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 9:10. Or 10. Well, whatever it is. It's in Romans. 10:9 and 10, I guess. Someday I'm gonna work the Word just to see, bless your heart. Look at Romans Chapter 4, Verse 25. Talking about Jesus Christ:

Romans 4:25

Who was delivered [Verse 25 of Romans 4. “was delivered”...] for our offenses,...

And the old text reads “for our sins.”

He was delivered for our sins. Ladies and gentlemen, it is so easy and so simple. All it requires is believing. He was delivered for our sins. Isaiah says, in 53 I believe, that upon Jesus Christ he laid our iniquities, our sins. Let's say this teaching platform would represent the Lord Jesus Christ and what he did. He laid upon him our sins. There they are, laid on him. Once they're on him, are they any longer upon me? Are they any longer upon you? No.

Boy, what a fantastic thing the Word of God makes known to people who want to know the will of God. And ladies and gentlemen, you've got to come back to the Word of God if you want to know the will of God. You can't go by what some individual says or what the world says – because we're are circumstance-conditioned, we're not world-conditioned, we are not conditioned by the traditions of men. We are Word-conditioned. You've got to come back to the Word of God if you want to know the will of God.

And it says Jesus Christ was "delivered for our offenses and was raised again for our justification." I think it's Conybeare and Howson who translate this, “he was raised again when we were justified.”

Boy what a reality! That's the truth of that verse! He was delivered, delivered, for our sins. And he was raised again, God raised him, when we were justified. Look at Verse 1 of Chapter 5:

Romans 5:1

Therefore...["Therefore." Whenever you read the word "therefore" in The Word you ask yourself, "Why-for?" Because of that previous verse. "Therefore"] being justified [justified] by faith [by the believing, by the action, by the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Therefore being justified"...] we have peace...

We receive the righteousness of God when we are born again. You could not receive the righteousness of God if God had not previously justified you. And He justified you in the death

and in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. And when He raised him from the dead, we were justified. We were made righteous. Therefore being justified by faith – the faith of Jesus Christ, the believing of what he did – we have peace!

Everybody seems to be looking for peace, except at the right place. You don't get peace by legislation. You get peace by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. You don't get peace by starting a war. You don't get peace any other place than from the Author of peace who is God through Jesus Christ, ladies and gentlemen. You can't legislate peace. You believe for it. Because it is available to every believer to be born again, and not only have the righteousness of God, but to be justified, and to be at peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, all these places where they sell those things you take at night to go to sleep on... (Here Chuck. It's getting warm up here. I don't know if it's warm down there.) ...they'd all go out of business if we believed God's Word. You know why? We don't need a sedative to go to sleep at night. The reason you need a sedative is because you're all shook up inside, you haven't got peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, we've got peace! We've got it! We do not have to bite our fingernails up to the second knuckles. We don't have to lay awake at night counting sheep. We can just believe in the Shepherd, and keep going. See. That is right! Boy! We've got it. We have peace. It's not something you pray for. It's not something you ask God for. You've got it. It comes wrapped up in that spiritual package of Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Boy! It's in there. Sure! Boy, we've got it, people. Every believer's got it. Peace. Peace. Peace with God! Peace with God! We're not at loggerheads with Him. God isn't mad at us. We're not at enmity with Him. We've got peace with God! Man, what a tremendous "umph" that puts in the soul of a man or woman, when he comes to that day of realizing that he is at peace with God. All those little devil-things lay down then, all those problems sort of evaporate; like happens to the dew in the morning when the sun shines on it. It just evaporates. Boy, what a tremendous reality!

Look at II Corinthians Chapter 5, bless your heart. Verse 17. II Corinthians 5:17:

II Corinthians 5:17-18

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature [That's what your King James says. The text reads, "...he's a new creation." You are a new creation, with Christ in you the hope of glory. And to the end you're in Christ...] old things [old things, old what? former things; all those fears, those worries, those anxieties, those frustrations all those negatives that have been built in your life by exposure to the world or to individuals. All of those things] are passed away; behold, all things are become [what?] new.

And all things [Verse 18; all things? what "all things"? all things new] *are* of God, Who hath [past tense] reconciled [past tense] us to Himself by Jesus Christ...

He hath, past tense, not only made righteousness, justification – all of those available – but He hath reconciled us. That which separated man from God has been reconciled, brought together. It's like the snapping of a telephone line, and the repairmen going there and putting that line back together. Or like an electric line being broken, and the repairmen going in and reconciling it. That's this word "reconcile," which literally means "to bring back together that which has been severed."

Boy oh boy! That man in Christ, in that new creation, old things are passed away. You don't have to be concerned about the sin you committed 25 years ago. Old things are what? Passed away. You do not need to be concerned about how you treated your family in the past, and all the problems you had with your wife or husband, or with your kids. Old things are what? Passed away. It's a new day, it's a new time, it's a new moment in a man's or a woman's life. Old things are passed away, behold all things are become, what? New.

You see, when you are born again of God's spirit, having Christ in you the hope of glory, that's all you are ever going to get spiritually. It is all you need! That's a full deck, full house. So the thing that you have to work on yourself on, is to get your mind with that spirit of Christ in you in alignment and harmony. Get the mind and the spirit in fellowship, and that is the renewed mind – to renew your mind according to the revelation given in God's Word. And this is why that Romans Chapter 8 speaks so loudly to a man or a woman who has ears to hear.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore [Chapter 8, Verse 1. "There is therefore"] now ["Now" means what? Now. You don't need a concordance or a dictionary. You know what the word means. "There is therefore now..." Now means when? – Not tomorrow, not ten years from now, not in the sweet by and by, if you say your doodles often enough. No, no, no! Right now. Right now] there is no [what?] condemnation [there is no condemnation] to them which are in Christ Jesus...

There is no condemnation spiritually. And yet a man can have Christ in him the hope of glory, and live far below par. We have seen this by the thousands across our country and the world, perhaps millions. Born again believers, but from their walk they might as well be unbelievers. Because their walk does not indicate the fruit of the spirit. It doesn't indicate that Jesus Christ came that they might have life and have it more abundantly. Because many times you will find a Christian just as negative, just as full of fear, just as full of anxiety, just as sick as the unbeliever.

Why? There has to be a reason. For every cause has an effect and every effect has a cause. The cause is that that individual – who has Christ in him, he's born again – has not been taught what's available, or he has not believed that it was available. That's why you have to get your mind in fellowship with the spirit, which is the Christ in you, and that's renewed mind.

The psalmist said:

Psalm 18:33

He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*, And setteth me upon my high places.

A hind is a mother deer, d-e-e-r. And the mother deer places its front feet up there, and tests out the rocks on the slopes, on the hills, on the mountains. And then the mother deer places its back feet exactly where the front feet were. It is only when you domesticate animals that their back feet do not track with their front ones. "He maketh my feet like hinds feet, and setteth me upon my high places." That mother deer could never climb to those high places, nor could its fawn. And by the way, the little baby deer steps its little 'ol tootsies exactly where mama did. Mama goes up, tries it out, then the little fawn comes behind it. "He maketh my feet like hinds feet, and setteth me upon my high places."

There is therefore now no condemnation. No condemnation. Boy, that's a new day in the life of a man or a woman. And you have to get your mind in harmony with the spirit of God in Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Romans 8:1

...who walk not after the flesh, but after the [what?] Spirit.

You know, my people, there was a time when we were blind, but now we see. There was a time when we were unsaved, but now we are saved. There was a time when we were groping and hoping, but now we know and we believe. We are no longer at the mercy of the enemy. Romans Chapter 8:17 says:

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of [what?] God, and joint-heirs with Christ...

We're not at the mercy of the enemy. We are children in the wonderful household of God, in His family. Joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, and a joint-heir is one who shares fully. What a fantastic reality! This day and time in which you and I are living, for us – for many of us at least – it's a new age of knowledge of what we are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:26 says:

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities [The word “infirmities” in the text is singular. The “infirmity” that he helps us with is in the next phrase] for [or because] we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself [the Spirit itself] maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

This is the Christ in you, the hope of glory, the fullness of the power of God from on high, His holy spirit, His gift, Christ in you. And that spirit of God in you – which is in Christ in you – that spirit makes intercession for you. He's making intercession for you at this moment. He's making intercession for all of his people where they're operating the principles of God's Word according to the renewed mind. He makes intercession with "groanings" – that word means "with everything he is" – which cannot be expressed, "uttered in words."

Verse 27

And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints...

He makes intercession for the saints. A saint is a born-again believer. It's not someone who's been dead a thousand years and somebody says they ought to "saint 'em." Jesus Christ coming in makes you a saint. You're a saint now. (You're never gonna be an angel, so quit worrying about it.) He's the one that makes intercession for the saints. Man, how thankful I am for that!

I don't know how many times you may have thought about this, some of you older men and women, but I thought about it a thousand times in years past. I wondered why my saintly mother – who was a great woman of God who passed away before I went into the ministry – if she was what I had been taught, erroneously in my Christian experience – if she was already there in heaven close to God with Jesus Christ up there, why wasn't she doing more for me down here?

That's right. I thought, man, if I was up there I'd do something for my brothers and sisters. And I knew my mother, the great woman she was. I just knew that, somehow or other, there had to be more than I had been taught. Because, if I was up there in heaven, I'd work for you. If I had an interview with Jesus I would intercede and say, "Hey send a little down there to Emporia, they need it down there." That's right. But then I discovered one day from God's Word and the integrity of it, that the dead are dead until Christ's return. That was a release in my heart and mind, and great understanding. And then I discovered that there is something up there that is a lot better than my mother, and that is Jesus Christ!

Boy. Boy! He's seated at the right hand of God, and he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Man, and he doesn't loaf on the job. He's up there pitching for you, working for you. All you need to do is get down here and work for yourself a little bit. Believe God's Word! Start walking on it! Well bless your heart. Boy!

Verses 27-28

...[makes] intercession for the saints according to [what?] the will of God.

And we know [No question about it, no "if's and's or but's. "we know"] that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [God's] purpose.

The word "purpose" is the word "will," according to God's will. Ladies and gentlemen, I never willed to be upon this earth. My mother and father made that decision for me. That's right. And as far as my will was concerned, I never willed to be God's child. I just heard the Word and believed it. That is how I got to be one. Look what it says here, "...to them who are the called." God called. I heard that call and responded to it. I heard it via the revelation of the Word. Revelation 3:20 says

Revelation 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and openeth the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me.

If any man hear and open the door. You've got to open the door. You've got to believe God's Word. You've got to act, then God will act, for God has already acted in Christ Jesus. Now it is your move and mine. Then it's God's move. Verse 29:

Romans 8: 29-37

For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He [his Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover [Verse 30] whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also [what?] justified: and whom He justified, them He also [what?] glorified.

What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? [If God be for us, who can be against us? No one.]

He [Verse 32] that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely [freely] give us all things?

Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? Shall God who justifieth?

Who *is* he that condemneth? Shall Christ who died, yea rather, That is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ...tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter [No!] .

Nay [No! Nay! Nay! Verse 37], in all these things we are more than [what?] conquerors [and he words "more than" is the word "super;" it's bigger than Superman, this is Super Conquerors. "super conquerors"] through Him [who] loved us.

Read Verse 38. It's electrifying, people:

Verse 38

For I am persuaded [and to be persuaded is not to have one iota of a doubt; to be convinced that you're convinced that you're convinced; to know that you know that you know that you know that you know. "For I am persuaded"] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other [what?] creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our [what?] Lord. [Nothing able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!]

My people, the light has dawned. And it is rising to the height of its midday brilliance among us today. Why? Because he is the Way, that's why this is our way. He is the Truth, and this is our truth. He is the Light, and, this is our light. He is the light of our lives, people. He is, therefore we are.

In Genesis he is the promised seed of the woman.

In Exodus he is the Passover lamb.

In Leviticus he is the High Priest.

In Numbers he is the star to rise out of Jacob.

In Deuteronomy he is the two laws: Love God and love your neighbor.

In Joshua he is the captain of the Lord of Hosts.

In Judges he is the covenant angel named Wonderful.

In Ruth he is the kinsman redeemer.

In Samuel he is the root and offspring of David.

In Kings he is the greater than the Temple.

In Chronicles he is the King's son.

In Ezra-Nehemiah he is the rebuilder.

In Esther he is the savior of God's people.

In Job he is the daysman.

In Psalms he is the song.

In Proverbs he is the wisdom of God.

In Ecclesiastes he is the one among a thousand.

In The Song of Solomon he is the bridegroom of the bride.

In Isaiah he is Jacob's branch.
In Jeremiah he is our righteousness.
In Lamentations he is the unbelievers' judgement.
In Ezekiel he is the true shepherd.
In Daniel he is the stone that became the head of the corner.
In Hosea he is the latter rain.
In Joel he is God's dwelling in Zion.
In Amos he is the raiser of David's tabernacle.
In Obadiah he is the deliverer on Mount Zion.
In Jonah he is our salvation.
In Micah he is the Lord of kings.
In Nahum he is the stronghold in the time of trouble.
In Habakkuk he is our joy and confidence.
In Zephaniah he is our mighty Lord.
In Haggai he is the desire of the nations.
In Zechariah he is our servant The Branch.
In Malachi he is the son of Righteousness.

This is the go-thrum, the red thread. You find him everywhere throughout the Word.

In Matthew he is Jehovah's Messiah.
In Mark he is Jehovah's servant.
In Luke he is Jehovah's man.
And in John he is Jehovah's Son.
In Acts he is the gift of holy spirit.
In Romans he is the believers' justification.
In Corinthians he is the believers' sanctification.
In Galatians he is the believers' righteousness.
In Ephesians he is the believers' heavenly standing.
In Philippians he is the believers' self-adequacy.
And in Colossians he is the believers' completeness.
And in Thessalonians he is the believers' soon-glorification.
In Timothy he is the faithful men.
In Titus he is the fellowlaborer.
In Philemon he is the love of a believer.
In Hebrews he is the High Priest for sin.
In James he is the royal law.
In Peter he is the pastor.
In John he is as we are.
In Jude he is the beloved.
And in Revelation he is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Who is this Jesus Christ? Yes, who is this Jesus Christ? He is the Red Thread that binds together the Word from Genesis to Revelation.

THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WILL OF GOD

He is the doom of the Adversary as promised in Genesis 3:15 and accomplished in Revelation 20, Verse 10. He is the "no night" of Revelation 22:5, of which Genesis 1:1 is night. He is the light of Revelation 21:13, of which Genesis 1:16 and 17 is the sun and moon. He is the "no more death, neither sorrow or crying" of Revelation 21:4, of which Genesis 3:16 and 17 is sorrow, suffering, and death. He is the "no more curse" of Revelation 22:3, of which Genesis 3:17 is the curse. He is the welcome home to paradise of Revelation 22:2, of which Genesis 3:22 to 24 is the banishment from paradise.

Who is this Jesus Christ? He is Abel's sacrifice, Abraham's ram. He is Isaac's well. He is Jacob's ladder.

Who is this Jesus Christ? He is Judah's scepter, Moses' rod, Joshua's ram's horn, Samuel's horn of oil, David's little-ol' slingshot, Hezekiah's sundial, Elijah's mantle and Elisha's staff.

Who is this Jesus Christ? He is Job's prayer, Isaiah's fig tree, Ezekiel's wheel, Daniel's Jerusalem window, Jonah's sea monster and Malachi's storehouse.

Who is this Jesus Christ? He is Peter's shadow, Paul's handkerchiefs and aprons. He is the lily of the valley and the rose of Sharon in life's desserts. He is the pearl of great price. He is the Rock for pilgrims in a weary land.

He is the believer's justification. He is the believer's righteousness. He is the believer's sanctification. He is the believer's redemption. He is the believer's knowledge. He is the believer's wisdom. He is the believer's all-in-all in all. He is the believer's completely complete completeness.

Who is this Jesus Christ? He is the bright and morning star, and he's my Lord and my Savior.

Thank you, Father, for the wonderful joy of knowing your wonderful Son our Lord and Savior. Thank you, Father, for the great Red Thread of the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, that runs throughout the entire Word of God, and that we find him everywhere in the Word. And I thank you tonight for the greatness of Your love, and mercy, and grace, and the greatness of that Word that sets us free. Thank you, Father, in the wonderful name of our living Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

This is a transcript of an audio teaching which was placed in the public domain by Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille, founder and first president of The Way International, being distributed without copyright notice on Sunday Teaching Service cassette tapes between 1965 and 1985.
Formatting and graphics © 1994-2007 *Biblical Research Journal* (www.biblicalresearchjournal.org). See website for permissions.

Stones of Witness

Victor Paul Wierwille

The Way International Headquarters, February 22, 1976

I'd like for you to take your Bibles and look at Acts Chapter 1, please. Tonight I want to share something along the line, if I were to give it a topic, I would call it "Stones of Witness." In Acts Chapter 1, Verse 8 Jesus Christ said to his apostles, before he ascended:

Acts 1:8

But ye shall [absolute tense] receive [*lambano*, receive into manifestation] power [*dunamis*], after that [or when] the Holy Ghost [*pneuma hagion*, holy spirit] is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The "uttermost part of the earth," that has to include this meeting tonight. It says "ye shall be witnesses unto me." And the thing that has been burning in my heart is along this line of "Stones of Witness." I got this title, and the impact of it, from an Old Testament record in the book of Joshua, where I would like for you to turn, please.

You will remember that after the death of Moses, Joshua was called to lead the children of Israel. There is no man in his right mind who would have wanted to have Joshua's job. Now you may vie for a lot of jobs that pay \$250,000 a year. But Moses' job didn't pay that. And nobody was anxious to have Moses' job. Because, who wanted to lead those two and a half or three million of stubborn, hardheaded, bullheaded, Israelites? – always kicking the traces and so forth.

But God called a man called Joshua. And He promised him that as He was with Moses, so He would be with him. He said, "No man shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life." And finally Joshua said, "Well, if you feel that way, I'll do 'er." Heh, I don't really know if he said that. But he did it. And all through the next years, this wonderful man Joshua led those children of Israel. And it came right toward the close of the end of his ministry and of his life, that the record in the twenty-fourth chapter of Joshua comes to pass. And that is what I would like to share with you tonight.

Joshua 24:1

And Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

In other words, he called for all the leaders. He got all the Twig leaders, he got all the Branch leaders, he got all the Limb coordinators, he got all the Region men in, all the elders, the president's staff – he got them all in. It was Joshua, it says, who called them in, right? And they presented themselves, it says, before whom? God. That means they presented themselves before

Joshua who represented God upon earth. That's what it means. God is Spirit, right? They didn't come in there, and collect around, and God was sitting on a footstool over there, and then moved into a sofa over here. No. Joshua called them in, and they all came because Joshua said, "I want to see you."

Verses 2-3

And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

The reason He split Abraham out, was because Abraham's father and his uncle were all serving other gods. But He took Abraham out, because Abraham had only One God. That is why He took care of him.

Verses 4-5

And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau; and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.

I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out.

You see, it is Joshua talking, but he is speaking for Who? God. He is speaking for God. Because in Verse 2 it says, "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel..." So he is speaking for God.

Verse 6

And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea.

The vividness of that experience I cannot picture for you. You must read it in the Old Testament yourself, and get a picture in your mind. The children of Israel did not have any armaments. They didn't have machine guns, they didn't have poison gas, they didn't have any of that. The Egyptians had it all; the children of Israel didn't have those kind of armaments to fight the Egyptians with.

Verse 7

And when they cried unto [whom?] the Lord...

They cried to the Lord. I haven't checked that word out, but I'll bet you it's Jehovah. Anybody have a quick reference on that word Jehovah in Verse 7? It has to be Jehovah. Does Bullinger have it? No, he doesn't have it. Well, I'll bet it is. Has to be. Has to be. Else the Bible would fall to pieces. They cried unto Jehovah, and:

Verse 7

...he [He, He, He. He who? Jehovah -- God, The Lord -- Jehovah. He, He...] put darkness between you [the children of Israel] and the Egyptians,...

And I want to tell you when the Lord put it there, it was so dark you couldn't cut it with a knife. You couldn't even see your hand in front of your nose. It was that dark.

Verses 7-14

...and brought the sea upon them, and covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season. [That's right. Forty years.]

And I brought you [finally] into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you.

Then, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you:

But I would not hearken unto Balaam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand.

And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I [Jehovah] delivered them into your hand.

And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, *even* the two kings of the Amorites; *but* not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, [That is grace. They did not work for it.] and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

Now therefore fear the Lord [Jehovah], and serve him in sincerity and in truth:...

"Fear" is the word "reverence," "respect," "have awe," "admiration for" Jehovah. "In sincerity and in truth" means "in truthful sincerity," "in truth which will be sincere," "truthfully sincere." Serve Him in truth. Not in lies, but in what? Truth.

Verse 14

...and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.

Class, that tells you why they were not delivered sooner. God can only deliver when people believe. And He could not deliver them, because they were still serving other gods. They wanted to hold on to their old machinery, their old way of life, their old way of doing things – literally unto other gods.

Verse 15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, [In other words, if it is evil on your part to get rid of the gods – to get rid of your reading material, to get rid of your pendants, medal-

lions – if that seems evil unto you] choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Boy! That's Joshua! No wonder he was leading the children of Israel. He wasn't "flippy." He wasn't cold for God one minute and hot the next. He had no other gods to worship but the One True God. And before the elders, before the top men, old Joshua had to take a stand.

He said, "Listen president, board; listen Limb leaders, Branch leaders, Twig coordinators, College WOW leaders. What are you going to do about the other gods you are serving? Make up your mind. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

That threw down the gauntlet. Now they can make up their minds, because the man of God has taken a stand. Now they can say, "Okay Josh, go shove it." That's right. Some of them did. But those who did died. Those who stood lived. Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Verses 16-19

And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods;

For the Lord our God, he *it is* that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed;

And the Lord drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: *therefore* will we also serve the Lord; for he is our God.

And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the Lord: for he *is* an holy God; he *is* a jealous God...

You know why He is jealous? If you have any other god but one God, He is jealous. He is the only God. And anytime you have any other gods – and when you've got the trinity you've got three, baby – that is why you will never live, you will never move, you will never have God's blessing, because you are serving other gods.

He said, "If you have any other gods, man: God is a holy God – there is one God – and He is a jealous God."

You know, it would not have made God one bit of difference if they had all gone out and chopped up their corn fodder and ate it backwards. Chopped up their beets and shoved them up each others nostrils. Ate their horseradish from the top of their head with spoons. That wouldn't have bothered God one bit.

But do you know what shook Him? Do you know what kept the children of Israel in Egypt all those years? Do you know what kept them wandering for forty years in the wilderness? Because they were still trying to serve more than one God.

Verse 19

...he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins [as long as you have got these other gods].

You see, in Acts 19, when the Word of God prevailed, and the Word of God moved and when the Word of God finally prevailed, it moved because the people brought their curious arts and their books, and they burned them, and the price of them was fifty thousand pieces of silver. Then it says the Word of God prevailed.

We are still playing around in the Way Ministry with the Word of God. It is great to hear me teach The Word. It is great to hear Walter teach it. It is great to hear others of our men teach. But it is still a mental assent to you. You have not gotten to the place where you have taken a stand, come hell or high water, to having done all, STAND! And unless The Way Ministry gets there, there is no hope for you, our country, or the world.

It is God who brought the children of Israel with a high hand out. They had no armaments. But they had God. But today "God" is a wishy-washy word. You know, He's a fine guy, I guess. You know, He has a big, long white beard and smokes a fifty-cent cigar, dangles His feet.

Oh, people! He is the God of light. He is the only God of reality. And we have got to get rid of the junk in our life, if you expect God's blessing on your life. Well, I didn't write the book. It is God's Word, you see, and God's Word is not something you toy with. You can toy with this building, you can toy with a lot of things. But God, ladies and gentlemen, He stands, and His Word stands. If nobody believes it, it is still God's Word!

And I hear people say, "Well, you know, I pray. I'm sincere. God doesn't answer my prayer." Oh, you old liar! That's right. The word of God says, be it unto us according to our believing. He is more anxious to answer our prayer than we are to pray it! Who is man that stands up against God and says, "God, you don't know what you're doing"?

Verse 20

If ye forsake the Lord, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

After all He has done for you, then you are going to go and serve other gods?

Verse 21

And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the Lord.

The people said unto Joshua, "Oh no, Josh. Oh no Josh. We'll only serve the Lord." And Joshua said unto the people, "Okay..."

Verse 22

And Joshua said unto the people, Ye *are* witnesses against yourselves ...

That means, You have said it with your mouth, now you are witnesses against yourself.

Verses 22-23

...that ye have chosen you the Lord, to serve him. And they said, *We are* witnesses.

[Then he says, Alright...] Now therefore put away, *said he*, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the Lord God of Israel.

Now ladies and gentlemen, your idols can be a lot more than something of wood or stone. It can be idols you fashion in your mind. It can be idols of power, idols of position. Idols of, "Oh, I want to be a Limb leader." "Why, I'm gonna get in the Way Corps, 'cause that's how you get to be a Limb leader." Is that right? You try me. I'm not developing Limb leaders in the Way Corps. Do you know what I am trying my best to do? – and I'm not even doing such a good job of that! – I'm trying to make first-class Twig leaders. I'm not building any Limb leaders. I'm building Twig leaders in the Corps. Men and women who should at least be able to run a Twig half-way decently according to God's Word. I know they can't run a Limb, that I know. Twig leaders is what I'm building in the Corps. You know why some of you guys are Limb leaders? Nobody else there to do it, so you've got to do it for a while – that's all.

Just sort of clear the air a little bit tonight, okay? I hope they hear this in Kansas before I get back there. Boy! I never had any idea of building Limb leaders. I am not in the business to teach you God's Word to develop your ego. I am in the business of teaching God's Word to get you to God, and the greatness of God – and the closer you get to God, the greater servant you are. You are not looking for the presidency of The Way International – though I wish to God you had it sometimes, especially when I come home. I like you, but baby it is the Word, the Word, the Word.

Joshua said "incline your heart unto the Lord God of Israel."

Verses 24-25

And the people said unto Joshua, the Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day,...

Wait a minute. Who made a covenant with the people? The man of God. The man of God made a covenant with the people. He made a covenant with the people. The people said, "We're going to be witnesses. We're going to do it." And he said, "Well you are witnesses against yourself. We'll make a covenant."

Verses 25-26

...and set them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, [Joshua did the writing in the book of the law of God ("holy men of God spake as they were moved").] and [he] took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak that *was* by the sanctuary of the Lord.

That means, "you think about it, man." That is why it is under an oak, because when you really wanted to concentrate, when you wanted to get into the depth of commitment, when you really wanted to think a thing through, they would go and sit under a oak tree. They didn't lay that stone under a sycamore – they had to have a place for Zacchaeus to climb that one, I guess – no. Or under a dead old elm. He wrote it, and set a big stone, right underneath that oak tree. And he said, "Now all you leaders, you look at that stone. You see that stone?" And he said:

Verse 27

And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the Lord which he spake unto us:...

The stone is the witness. It was there when Joshua made the covenant, when he said "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord;" the stone was there, and they took it, set it under an oak, and he said:

Verses 27-28

...it [the stone] shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.

So [after that] Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

And Verse 31 says:

Verse 31

And Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that over-lived Joshua [that lived beyond Joshua's lifetime], and which had known all the works of the Lord, that he had done for Israel.

The stone of witness, the stone of witness to Israel, was that stone underneath that oak that had heard the commitment; that was there when the commitment was made. He set the stone up and he said, "As long as that stone is there, you – every time you see it underneath that oak tree – you think about it, you elders: the commitment you made. Because if there are any strange gods in the family, it is because the leadership was not on top of the leadership. The Twig coordinator let the little old strange gods get in.

Joshua said, "Every time you see it, you remind yourself you are a witness against yourself of that stone underneath the oak." Now let me take you to Luke, please. Listen to this record:

Luke 20:1-2

And it came to pass, *that* on one of those days, as he [Jesus] taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests [that's the high caste, you know] and the scribes came upon *him* with the elders,

And spake unto him, saying, [Jesus] Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?

"Hey Jesus, who gave you your doctor's degree? What college did you graduate from? Who ordained you? Who gave you that authority?" Do you see who came after him? – the top brass, the chief priests and the elders. Now I want to remind you, they are talking to God's only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Verses 3-7

And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?

And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then believed ye him not:

But and if we say, Of men; all the people will stone us; for they be persuaded that John was a prophet. [They were real sharp politicians.]

And they answered, that they could not tell whence *it was*.

The liars. Jesus knew, and he said, "Okay fellas, I'm not going to tell you either by what authority I do these things."

Verses 8-20

And Jesus said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time.

And at the season he sent a servant to the husbandmen, that they should give him of the fruit of the vineyard: but the husbandmen beat him, and sent *him* away empty.

And again he sent another servant [a more important servant]: and they beat him also, and entreated *him* shamefully, and sent *him* away empty.

And again he sent a third [more important]: and they wounded him also, and cast *him* out.

Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence *him* when they see him.

But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.

So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed *him*. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them?

He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard *it*, they said, God forbid.

And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him [Jesus. It wasn't to bless him I guarantee]; and [but] they feared [or revered] the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them.

And they watched *him*, [sent the F.B.I.] and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves [you know, plainclothesmen] just men, that they might take hold of his words,...

In other words, that they might listen to what he said, and then twist those words around.

Verse 20

...that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor.

In order to put him in jail and have him executed.

Verse 21-25

And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person *of any*, but teachest the way of God truly: [Bunch of liars.]

Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or no?

But he perceived [by revelation] their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

Shew me a penny [give me some money]. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said Caesar's.

And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

If only we could believe that today. We don't render to Caesar what is Caesar's. Caesar doesn't even give us the permission to render to him; he comes and takes it away. That's right. And we Americans haven't got the guts to stand up, because we have no leader, we don't know how to go about doing it. Seventy-two percent of the national gross income last year went to run the Federal government, and you know who paid it? The common people of America. The people who are making eight, seven, six, five, ten, twelve, fourteen thousand a year, basically. The Word of God says you render to Caesar what is Caesar's. It does not say you render to Caesar what Caesar determines you render to him. It says you give Caesar what's Caesar got coming, and that's all.

What about God? More people are afraid of Caesar than they ever were of God; you know that. You will allow yourself to be taxed thirty or forty percent of your income, and never say a lousy word. And if I said to you tonight, I'd like to see you share thirty percent of your income with the Way Ministry, it would be written all over the magazines in the country, and all over the newspapers.

But not a one of you squawk; you just talk, but you don't do anything about it when the government takes thirty percent. They don't ask you for it. They take it. They don't even take it after you've given your tithe; they take it before. That makes the government God. My Bible says we are not to have any idols, and we have only one God, and we serve God first. Our God comes first. Render to Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.

Verse 26

And they could not take hold of his words before the people: and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace.

I want to show you Acts chapter 4. Remember what he said about the stone that the builders rejected?

Acts 4:9-11

If we this day be examined of the good deed [or the benefit] done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the stone...

This is the what? Stone. Joshua that day – when he made that covenant with the people – Joshua saw the day of Christ. Like all the prophets of the Old Testament. It wasn't just that he set a stupid stone there and said, "Now fellas, that's the oak. Every time you look at that stone you think, 'stone.'" No. Every time you look at that stone you see the future of the coming of the Messiah, and that you made a commitment. That is what Joshua was talking about.

Verses 11-12

This is the stone [This is the what? Stone.] which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. [Verse 12, and you read it carefully:]

Neither is there salvation in any other:...

Men come to me and say Buddha is as good as Jesus; Mohammed is as good as Jesus; somebody else as good as Jesus. Ladies and gentlemen, that is a lie from the pit of hell. That's right. There is no salvation, and the word "salvation" is *sozo*, meaning wholeness – mental, physical, spiritual, financial – complete deliverance. There is no other salvation, because:

Verse 12

...for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved [made whole].

Class, there is no salvation in any other. For there is none other name under heaven, whereby we must – absolute tense – be saved. Now somebody says they don't believe that. That is perfectly alright with me, but "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The Word of God is the will of God to me. The Word of God is the will of God. If I want to know the will of God, I read the Word of God. A man says he doesn't believe it; that's perfectly okay with me. If he wants to go to hell, he can go. But he doesn't have to tell me that I have no right to believe The Word.

I believe that the Word of God is the will of God, it means what it says. And I do not believe there is any other name given among men whereby men can be saved, but the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the rock. He is that stone which the builders rejected.

In I Peter, look at Chapter 2. Now, I know I Peter is not addressed to the Church of the Body, to which you and I belong. Yet, I know that things which are addressed to other parts of the Body, you can utilize them as illustrations, to the extent that they agree with that which is addressed to the Body.

I Peter 2:1-2

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Grow by what? The Word. Not *Readers' Digest*, not *Newsweek*, not *Time*, not the Six O'clock News, not the Eleven O'clock Show –with your pretzels and potato chips, and your Coke or Pepsi, or beer, cheese – no, no, no. You do not grow by that. The more time you spend sitting in front of that Idiot Box, the greater idiot you are. And sitting there already indicates we are idiots. Because anybody with an ounce of brains has never gotten one more brain sitting there.

If you want to grow, you grow by The Word. So why don't you get into The Word? If you haven't taken a class on Power for Abundant Living, let me introduce you to it. It's got The Word in it, baby. No private interpretation – not what I think, but what does The Word say, just like I am reading you tonight.

I'm not up here flipping my chips, I'm not up here moving my brain cells, I'm not up here because I need exercise. I just came off of almost six or seven weeks of almost twenty hours a day of hard work. I want to tell you, baby, I'm not here spinning my wheels and wasting my time. I am speaking with all the authority of the Word of God in my soul, that when you walk out of here tonight, and our people hear this around the nations of the world this week, they can make up their mind whether they really want to stand with God, or if they want to get out of the way and pussyfoot. That's right.

If you are going to grow, you grow by what? The Word. I'd get The Word then. Not what V. P. Wierwille thinks about it, or Henry Bulloco, but, what does The Word say? If V.P Wierwille reads exactly what The Word says, we're in business. If he doesn't, you believe what The Word says. You got it straight? You grow by what? The Word. That is what it says.

Verse 3-5

If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious. [No kidding about that.]

To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, [This Lord Jesus Christ is a living stone.] disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

Ye also, as lively stones,...

Because you have Christ in you the hope of glory. That stone whom the builders rejected, who is the living stone, is now living within you. That's why you have power.

Verses 5-8

...are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Unto you therefore which believe [or, who believe] *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient [the unbelievers], the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word [they stumble at the Word], being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Look once more at Verse 8: "And a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the Word." Jesus Christ and anyone who believes in Jesus Christ will be a

THE WORD OF GOD IS THE WILL OF GOD

stone of stumbling. He will be a rock of offence to those who stumble at The Word, who don't believe God's Word, who don't want to come back to God's Word. What are they going to say about us? Every name in the book. Everything that will degrade. Everything that will – you know, say nice things badly about you, or bad things as nicely as they can about you – just to degrade. Because, they are stumbling at The Word.

You know, people, stones are sort of interesting. You can either fall over it, or you can get crushed under it, or you can stand on it. As for me and my house, we stand on it.

Now I started out with Acts 1:8 tonight. The manifestations of the spirit are the witness, it says. The witness of what? Of that stone who the builders rejected, who is a living stone, who now lives within me, for I am born again of God's spirit. I have Christ in me the hope of glory. Now what proof? The manifestation. The manifestation. "Ye shall be" a witness, witness, witness. Stones of witness! The manifestations set as a witness. Set as a witness. That manifestation – or those manifestations – are set as a witness against those who disbelieve, and it is set as a witness for those who believe. That's the Word.

This is a transcript of an audio teaching which was placed in the public domain by Dr. Victor Paul Wierwille, founder and first president of The Way International, being distributed without copyright notice on Sunday Teaching Service cassette tapes between 1965 and 1985.
Formatting and graphics © 1994-2007 *Biblical Research Journal* (www.biblicalresearchjournal.org). See website for permissions.