

Hebron Messenger

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NO. 7

The Vision of Christ—3

John, the beloved apostle of Christ, was exiled by the cruel emperor Domitian to the island of Patmos. In his loneliness and discouragement God granted His suffering servant special visions. These visions revealed the beauty of Christ and the future plan of God regarding the end times. The vision of Christ encouraged the aged servant and by the commandment of God wrote what he saw. In this study we will consider the Lord's feet. " And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace" (Rev.1: 15).

In the Bible, gold stands for Deity, silver for redemption and wood for humanity. Brass stands in the Bible for judgment. Brass also typifies power. It is power to withstand judgment. In Numbers 16 there was a riot. Korah, Dathan, Abiram and two hundred and fifty princes made an 'improper' sacrifice with brass censers in hand. The fire of God's judgment fell upon them and consumed them but that which endured the fire were the brass censers. Later this was used to cover the altar in the Tabernacle.

The 'brass feet' of the Lord speak of the judgment that they went through but survived. The feet of the Lord in the Gospels were the bruised feet on the Cross. The earliest prophecy of the Saviour in Genesis 3:15 made around 4000 B.C., speaks of the seed of the serpent bruising the 'heel' of the seed of the woman. The Psalmist spoke of the "pierced feet" in Psalm 22:16. The feet, which bled on the Cross, turned into the feet of fine brass in Rev.1: 15. In His first advent, the Lord Jesus came as our Saviour, but in the second advent He will come back to be our Judge.

The holy Scriptures speak of atleast seven judgments. Of these, six concern humanity. Of these, two belong exclusively to Israel. Of the remaining four, the unbeliever faces two judgments. Firstly, the sins of every sinner are judged at Calvary. The unrepentant sinner rejects the only Saviour, the only provision made for his salvation. By despising the blood of the Son of God, the sinner opts for condemnation. The sinner chooses to pay for all his sins by refusing the blood of Christ.

Having despised the judgment at Calvary, the unforgiven sinner faces the sure and certain white throne judgment as described in Revelation 20. Here is the solemn passage to which the whole humanity must pay earnest heed.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before, God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged everyman according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"(Rev.20: 11-15).

Combined with the above passage there is another in the book of Revelation, which describes the dreadfulness of that day.

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev.6: 15-17).

How dreadful then, must the white throne judgment be! The Bible opens with the book of Genesis where Adam and Eve tried to hide themselves behind the fig tree after rebelling against the Lord God. The Bible closes in the book of Revelation where great men, rich men, chief captains, mighty men, bond and free men hide from the presence of the One Who was about to judge them. As Adam and Eve could not hide themselves, no sinner would be able to escape from the searching eyes of God.

The Bible tells us plainly that judgment, the day of judgment and the Judge have been appointed by God. "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"(Heb.9:27). "...he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

The very Saviour Who loved us and gave Himself for us on the cross of Calvary, would be the Judge appointed. On that day mankind would be forced to accept His Lordship, but, such an acceptance would not bring deliverance. Today is the day of salvation. Today is the period of grace. Today the doors of mercy are open to the faintest cry of every lost sinner. The cry of God goes out to every sin -weary human being, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt.11 :28).

(Concluded)

P. S.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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March 24, 2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

May His Name be praised and adored, even the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath called us to be workers together with Him, and labourers sent forth by Him into His harvest. The Lord of the harvest may enable us all, to follow His steps, as He hath said, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (John 4:34) and thus serve Him acceptably, in the up building of His Church.

Apostle Paul writes in 1 Cor.3 concerning, one of the major problems relating to the workman and the work of the Lord in the church at Corinth. It was their man centeredness in all their thinking that was affecting their view of Christian leadership. They attached themselves to men, making carnal comparisons, playing one against another. Thus they degraded the work and ministry, endangering the whole cause of the glorious Gospel of Christ. This issue Paul takes up in chapter three of 1 Cor. and dealing with it, he sets before us some highly significant principles for Christian leadership as well as for all engaged in God's work. We shall consider four such principles.

1. God's primary concern is the worker rather than the work. God's preoccupation is not so much with our service as with our character. What matters to Him is not so much what WE DO as what WE ARE. This is an unchanging law in the work of God. The root problem, which distorted all the Corinthians' thinking and marred their service, was that they were carnal rather than spiritual. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ...ye are yet carnal" (1 Cor.3: 1,3). It is important to notice the language Paul uses. He does not call them 'natural' men, for he does not deny that they possess the Spirit. But he cannot call them 'spiritual' men for they are not led and controlled by the Spirit; so he uses a third term 'carnal' men by which he means men who are indwelt by the Spirit, but apparently not controlled by Him.

Now it is significant that their carnality is evidenced not in some moral sphere, but in the simple fact that they were refusing to grow up. In verses 1 and 2 Paul's concern is that they were spiritual babes. All the attributes of babes are attractive and appropriate during babyhood. But when they persist into later life, then that becomes a tragedy. The particular attribute of babyhood, which he identifies here, is appetite. "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." In the physical realm, that is an indication that something is radically wrong, but in the spiritual realm it is something more serious with those whose appetite is only for spiritual milk and not for solid food. The Apostle was concerned that with the Corinthians this babyhood persisted over the years; they were still the same. We need to examine ourselves before God on this issue. If we are concerned about the whole area of leadership and service, the cause of the Gospel and the work of God in our churches, let us realise that the prime issue is growth in the knowledge of God. In this, what matters to God is what a MAN IS, rather than what he is DOING.

That may not be true in every sphere of life. People may be able to divorce their personal life from their professional competence, but that separation cannot be made in the service of God. God's great business is the training of character. We may be the most brilliant experts in methodology of every kind, but God's prime concern is not that, but the creation of men and women, whose lives will speak for Him. The following is a quotation from the book called Power Through Prayer, by E.M. Bounds.

"We are constantly on a stretch to devise new methods, new plans, and new organizations to advance the Church, and ensure success for the Gospel. The trend of the day is to lose sight of the man and think in terms of machinery. Men are God's methods. What He needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organisations or more novel methods, but men whom the HOLY Ghost can use. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods but through men. He does not come upon machinery but upon men. He does not anoint plans but men. The Church is looking for better methods, whereas God is looking for better men. It is not great talents, nor great learning, nor great preachers that God needs, but men great in holiness, great in faith...great for God." God helping, we shall continue to study these principles later.

Pray for Bro. Tirkey, God's servant at Siyon Prarthana Bhavan, Ranchi and the members of his family, as his wife, Sis. Jemima was called to Glory on 21st March after a period of illness.

The Lord enabled us to have the new Hall of worship, built at Kamalanagar, about ninety kms. from Warangal, dedicated on 21 st March, under its existing name Eshcol. The work began there nearly ten years ago, with servants from nearby assemblies visiting that area with the Gospel. Many of our fellow-labourers from that area were present for the occasion. Pray for God's servant Bro. Benjamin and family stationed there and the responsible brothers helping and labouring with him. The meetings concluded by Sunday the 23rd March.

The Lord granted us an encouraging time for the dedication followed by a mini -Convocation held at the new House of Worship, Bethel, at Andaman Islands, about two hours by air and nearly three days by sea, through the Indian ocean. Nearly hundred or so came from Chennai "to participate in the dedication service of the new two storied building, situated near the main road, about ten minutes drive from the Airport. Brethren going over from Chennai, staying over a period of few months have been helping the

local company of believers, besides others employed in the naval area and shipping areas to minister to the saints. They covet our continued prayers for the future ministries and responsibilities of oversight amongst the flock of God gathering there.

Please pray for the Special Meetings, God willing, to be held at Peniel House of Worship, Gurgaon, Delhi from 28th to 30th March, where they are gathering on the basis of Acts 2:42 in a school facility.

Bro. Eddy Williams covets our prayers for the Gospel Campaign beginning in Chattisgarh and touching many other towns and villages of that state, God willing, from 11th to 24th April, 2003.

Bro. John Subba Reddy and brethren of Eshcol covet our prayers for the dedication of the new construction, First Floor at Eshcol Prayer House, God willing, on 4th April.

Bro. Arvind Christian and saints at Bethany, covet our prayers for the work and ministry of the Lord at Surat, as they have been enabled to have a new place of their own, for worship and fellowship at Christian Park, Extn.201, 2nd Floor Mugaleswarai, Surat.

Let us pray for the sisters from Hebron together with many others involved in the V.B.S. ministry in nearly 70 centres in the weeks ahead besides the special classes in about fifteen places.

God's servant Bro. Caleb and brethren covet our prayers for the Special Meetings, God willing, to be held at Horeb, Sadasivapet in nearby open grounds from April 10th to 14th, when Bro. Paul Sudhakar will be ministering the word.

Praying that we may be found as His true workmen, being made His workmanship in Christ, for the furtherance of the Lord's work in our land and regions beyond,

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

1 Cor. 3 : 9, 10, 11

Heb. 13 : 20,21

Phil. 2 : 12-15

YE ARE MY WITNESSES—5

BAKHT SINGH

Some servants of God expect God to work without giving God's word and praying for the people. Rather than giving God's Word, they give their own word. Because they have not prayed sufficiently, they do not have God's message. They cannot say, "Well, we don't have a message." So, without a message from God they stand before the people and go on saying whatever they like. They begin with a story and then they go on to say many things condemning and rebuking them. Is that a message? They think, rebuking and condemning people and telling stories is sufficient. They will not confess their own barrenness. They spend much time in looking after their children and other worldly activities. They do not wait upon God for a long time for their message and that is why they are dry spiritually. Please ask God to revive you. Do not be angry with God but humble yourself and cry to Him for your need.

When the disciples prayed, God gave the answer and raised up seven men filled with the Holy Ghost. The result was, "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7). Because they obeyed

God, the church was brought into divine order. By obeying God, and by coming into His order, they saw the result. That does not mean that there will not be any kind of opposition. Again and again the apostles had to face some opposition or the other from outside. "Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen" (Acts 6:9). All the worldly-wise people began to oppose the work of God. Throughout the ages we find worldly-wise people who take pride in knowledge, opposing God's servants. God gave Stephen heavenly wisdom. God takes us through sufferings to give us His own wisdom, as we see in the case of Job. He had to pay a high price to receive true wisdom. If you also suffer joyfully, you will be given the same wisdom.

"And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel" (Acts 6:12-15). When they began to accuse Stephen falsely, his face began to shine. He never murmured. He never retaliated. He never used any bad words or said, "Why are you saying these things against me"? He bore everything patiently, he praised God for such a privilege and then his face began to shine. That is how we can defeat the enemy as God's servants. What do you do when you hear someone telling you that So and So was saying some thing against you? Some God's servants wait till Sunday morning, put all their energy into the sermon and speak against that particular person. They will not mention the name. They only look in that person's direction. That is their method. As a result, rather than having a shining face, their faces become dark. They feel so guilty that after the meeting, they are afraid of facing anyone. We are given heavenly weapons to defeat the enemy. We cannot defeat the devil by worldly weapons. We should only desire to honour God, that the Word may have its free course. May the Lord make us true witnesses and give us grace to obey and not become angry and offended. If God has spoken to you, then do not go with angry and sorrowful face; go into some corner and pray, "O God, help me, and forgive all my past failures and make me a faithful, loyal and a true witness".

Acts 7

Because Abraham saw God's glory he could leave everything behind and obey God fully (v.1). By seeing God's greatness and glory we can make any sacrifice to obey Him and follow Him. In seeing God's glory he was able to see the glory of the heavenly city, which has foundations. That is the heavenly church. "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11: 10). That refers to the heavenly city.

When Moses wanted to be a leader himself, he failed (v.29). But when he humbled himself, God made him a ruler. Those who want authority, fail God. But when God distributes authority, you will be filled with the Spirit day by day. But you have to wait for God's time. Then He can help you and use you.

(To be contd.)

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Behold, I Am Alive for Evermore Bakht Singh

We have seven great proofs of the fact that our living Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. If anyone questions us how we know that He is a living Saviour, we can give the following seven proofs.

1. The first proof of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the prophecies made in the Old Testament about His resurrection. "He will swallow up death in victory" (Isa.25:8). "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise" (Isa. 26:19). "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction" (Hosea 13:14). "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption" (Psa. 16:10). That is our first great proof that our Lord is the living Saviour. No one ever dreamt of conquering death. His is the only case in the whole world history.

2) The second proof is the prophecy made by the Lord Himself to His disciples before He was crucified. "And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8: 31. See also Mark 9: 31; 10:34; John 10:18). The Lord Jesus Christ very clearly, plainly and repeatedly told His disciples how He would suffer, be mocked, be reviled for our sakes, die and then rise again.

3) The third proof is the testimony borne by the angels on the early Easter morning. It is found in Luke 24:4-6. "And ...behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee".

4) The empty sepulcher of the Lord Jesus Christ is the fourth proof. "And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus" (Luke 24:2,3). The empty sepulcher can be seen even to day in Jerusalem. Every day people come from many parts of the world to see it. There is no other sepulcher like that in the whole world. Other sepulchers are full of dead people's bones, but see this empty sepulcher of the risen living Saviour.

5) The fifth proof is the appearance of the Lord Jesus to His disciples after His resurrection. Our, Lord appeared ten times in different ways to the disciples for forty days after He rose again-five times on the Easter day, and another five times from the second day to the day of ascension:-

- I) He first appeared to Mary at the sepulcher.
- II) Then to other women who were returning from the sepulcher.
- III) Then He appeared to Simon Peter.
- IV) Then to the two disciples going to Emmaus.
- V) And the same evening to the disciples as they were gathered in the room, the door being shut.
- VI) He appeared to the 500 disciples in Jerusalem as we see in 1 Cor. 15:6.

VII) Then He appeared to James the Apostle.

VIII) For the sake of Thomas He appeared the eighth time on the eighth day.

IX) At the Lake of Tiberius. He appeared for the ninth time.

X) Then He appeared in Bethany before He ascended into heaven.

6) The sixth proof of His resurrection is His appearances to men like Stephen and Paul. He appeared to Stephen when he was about to be stoned reviled and mocked. "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:54,55). He appeared to Saul who became Paul on the way to Damascus. "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks" (Acts 9:5).

7) There is one more proof of His resurrection which is much more important than the other six proofs. It is much more convincing to those to whom you speak. He lives in every believer. He comes to live in those who believe in Him, in any part of the world. All such people can say, "He lives in me, He lives in me". That is the living testimony.

Now we put the same question to you. Does the living Lord Jesus live in you? We do not want to know about your Bible knowledge or how much money you have. This is a simple question, which you must answer before God. You can deceive man but not God. Does the Lord Jesus Christ Who rose again for me and for you, live in you? What is the proof that He lives in you? There must be some proof that He has come into you. The proof is, new life will come into you and lift you up. That is called THE POWER OF RESURRECTION. It is the death conquering power. It is the highest power in the whole universe. That power will enable you to overcome death. That power can make mortal men immortal. That power can make the worst sinner a child of God. It is the gift of God.

If you say, "I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for my sins", then you have to believe that the same Lord Who died for you, rose again for your sake. That is what we read in Rom. 6:5; "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection". Do not think that just by confessing your sins and saying, "I am sorry for my sins", you will receive salvation. Do not just say, "He died for me"; also say, "I know He rose again". That will save you. It is only by His coming into you by faith that you will be saved. We have to welcome Him and receive Him, and believe that He has come in.

Because He died, we die to our old nature. It is the old nature, which is responsible for all our troubles. There are some skin diseases, which have deep inner roots. Unless the root cause of the disease is dealt with, the disease will not be healed. The same thing is true of our sinful nature. Every human being is born with a sinful nature. That nature cannot be changed by fasting, prayer, Bible knowledge, visions and dreams. You have to take into you by faith the power of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other remedy. It is only by that power that you can die to all sinful things. That is why you need the Holy Spirit to come into you by faith.

In the same way to live anew life you need His divine nature. You cannot call yourself an Englishman by putting on a suit and a tie; you must be born in England to be an Englishman. Similarly, you have to receive divine life, which gives you new longing, and new desires. That life will lift you up day by day and more and more. That is why our Lord rose again to live in us, work in us, work through us, and make us completely new and eventually to make us immortal priests and kings. He is calling you for that high purpose. He invites you to an everlasting Kingdom. That is why in Rev. 4:2 John made to see His throne and His heavenly Kingdom. All our sufferings and trials are for a purpose. For a true believer every suffering is a blessing; it is not a punishment. For sinners it is a punishment; for the rebellious it is a punishment, but for a believer any suffering of any kind is a blessing. By that you are being prepared

for your heavenly calling or heavenly vocation, and you have a full appreciation of the things of eternity.

There is a flower called Jasmine, which gives strong fragrance in the darkest night. On a moonlit night, it does not give that fragrance, but in the darkest night its fragrance is strongest. In the same way, you find that the life of the Lord Jesus is stronger, more inspiring and sweeter, in your trials and sufferings. At that time you are being taught many hidden mysteries. I can thank God for every trial, for every suffering and hardship in my past life. I would never have learnt these truths from books or in colleges. The Lord Himself has become unto me more precious and nearer in these sufferings. I could prove His power in anew, way. It is wonderful to know that that power is given to us when we ask for it. We ask for knowledge, but not for this power.

Are you conscious of the living Lord Jesus, living in you? Does He speak to you when you pray? Does He answer your questions? When you walk with Him, do you feel happy, strong and better? Do you love to go to Him? Does He teach you something every day? Does He help you to conquer sin and temptations every day? Has anyone found the same joy and peace through you? If not, He has not come into you. You have to receive a definite, personal experience of the living Lord Jesus. Then you do not have to go about with a sad face.

On Easter morning, when our Lord appeared to Mary, she was weeping. Our Lord said to her, "Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?" She did not know who was speaking to her. She thought He was a gardener. When our Lord called her by her name, straightway every tear, disappeared. Her joy was so great. We find weeping believers everywhere. They weep for every small thing. They weep so loudly, that their voice can be heard in America. They weep before their wealthy uncles, they weep before relations, they weep in Delhi, they weep in Hyderabad. Wherever they go, they start weeping. They look so miserable. They walk with long faces to show others that they are sorrowful. They are constantly weeping for something or the other. They do not know their Saviour. They do not know His power. They do not know His love and grace. He rose again to be with us. He has said, "Lo, I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20). You will find all your questions answered by the living Lord Jesus.

First of all, He must forgive you of your sins. Then and only then, He can come into you. Did you ever hear these words, "My son, my daughter, my child, thy sins be forgiven thee"? Then day by day He will say, "I am with thee, fear not". The very same words our Lord spoke to Apostle John in the isle of Patmos, "Fear not John. Don't look at the situation. Fear not, I am alive forever more. I am alive to carry you triumphantly." That will be your daily experience. Now receive Him as your living Saviour.

LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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April 5, 2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the mighty and matchless Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath triumphed on the Cross, "declared to be the Son of God with power... by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4). Through His resurrection, He hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1: 10). Under the shadow of the Cross may we be brought afresh by the Spirit of God, to prove its power and wisdom this Easter season, and be true bearers of the cross, proclaiming its power and peace

to a needy world of sin and sorrows (Col. 1: 20,21; Acts 10:36,43).

Let us recall the last two words of the Saviour from the cross. He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30), a declaration of victory. He had finished the work the Father gave Him to do (John 17:4). The work of redemption was completed, the types and prophecies were fulfilled (Heb. 9:24) and the Saviour could now rest. He then addressed the Father in the final statement from the cross, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). This was actually a bedtime prayer used by Jewish children (Psa.31: 5), and it tells us how our Lord died; confidently, willingly and victoriously (John 10:17,18). Those who know Jesus, as their Saviour would have the same confidence and assurance at death (2 Cor. 5: 1-8; Phil. 1: 23).

When our Lord released His spirit, the veil of the temple was torn into two from "the top to the bottom" (Mark 15:38). The miracle announced to the priests and people that the way into God's presence was open for all who would come to Him by faith through Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:1-10:25). No more do sinners need earthly temples, altars or sacrifices, for all have now been fulfilled in the finished work of the Son of God.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the public display and declaration of the victory He won over sin, Satan and death through His death (Heb..2:14). Hence the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is as much apart of the Gospel message, as His sacrificial death on the cross (1 Cor. 15:1-8). In fact in the Book of Acts the church gave witness primarily to the Resurrection (Acts 1: 22; 4:2, 33).

The final chapter of the Gospel of Matthew is a record of this victory, and it is a thrilling fact that believers today share this victory. It is something remarkable that the women who went to the sepulcher and the disciples who went later, somehow did not believe that He rose again from the dead, although He had told them about this truth repeatedly (Matt. 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; 26:32).

We must never under-estimate the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The world believes that Jesus Christ died, but it does not believe that He rose from the dead. Peter's message at Pentecost emphasised the resurrection. In fact it is emphasised throughout the Book of Acts. Let us try to focus on the great significance of resurrection under the following points.

It proves that Jesus is God's Son. Jesus stated that He had authority to lay down His life and take it again (John 10:17' 18). It verifies the truth of the Scriptures. Both in the Old Testament and the teaching of Jesus, His resurrection is clearly mentioned (Psa.6-10; 110:1). If Jesus had not come out of the tomb these Scriptures would not be true.

It assures our own future resurrection. Because Jesus died and rose again, we shall one day be raised to be like Him (1 Thess. 4:13-18). If we do away with resurrection we have no hope. It is also the basis of Christ's heavenly priesthood (Heb. 7:23,28). Because He lives by the power of an endless life, He is able to save us to the uttermost. He lives to intercede for us.

It gives power for our Christian living. We cannot live for God by our own strength. It is only as His resurrection power works in and through us, that we can do His will and glorify His Name (Rom. 6:4). It assures us of our future inheritance. Because we have a living hope we can experience hopeful living. Because Jesus Christ is alive, we have a glorious future (1 Peter 1: 3-5). Wherever God's people gather on the Lord's day, they bear witness that Jesus is alive and that the Church has received spiritual blessings. The existence of the New Testament Church and the Lord's day add further proof that Jesus is alive. Every part of the New Testament points to a risen Christ. May our lives also tell of the same as we seek to know Him and the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10).

Let us pray for the special meetings, conferences and campaigns that would be taking place in various assemblies and fellowships of His people in the land this Easter season, besides those in other parts of the

world that souls may be born into His Kingdom and the saved ones be established to continue in the heavenly calling of His glorious Church, the Church God purchased with His own blood, to enjoy their full inheritance with them that are sanctified (Acts 20:28,32).

Pray for Bro. J.C. Rao and others who would be sharing the Easter ministry at the special public gatherings at Tinnanur, Chennai, God willing from 17th to 20th, besides Jehovah-Shammah, Chennai. Bro. Dyva Prasad, God's servant at New Jerusalem, Tirupathi, covets our prayers, as he is suffering from excruciating pain and is confined to bed, as advised by the doctors after fracturing his knee recently in a scooter accident.

Pray for Bro. John Stewart in the ministry at Surat and later at Byculla, Bombay, for the Easter season. Pray for the dedication of the Sunday School Hall at Pulivendala followed by a servants' prayer gathering, on 24th and 25th April, God willing.

Bro. Manohar Pandiyan covets our prayers for the dedication service of the upper storey room in Peniel, Palayamkottai on 9th April.

Please pray for the Holy Convocation at Shalem Prayer House, Bellampalli, from April 23rd to 27th. Praying that the lively hope and joy of resurrection may sustain and strengthen all of us in our service for Him and for His Church, looking for His glorious appearing,

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

2 Cor. 1:9-11

Rom. 6:4,5

Rev.1 : 17, 18

YE ARE MY WITNESSES—6
BAKHT SINGH

Acts 8

At that time there was a great persecution against the church, which was at Jerusalem (v.1). The enemy thought that through persecution he could hinder the work of God, but we see how God's work spread far and wide because of persecution. "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word" (v.4). Before our Lord Jesus Christ ascended, He told the disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. But they were not told where to begin or how to begin. It was for a purpose that the Lord Jesus ascended without giving them any plan. As the apostles kept themselves under the Headship of the Lord Jesus, they were given the plan. Even though persecution came from the enemy, the Lord Jesus allowed it. Through that persecution the believers were scattered abroad to many places. We find God in His sovereign way, using the attacks of the enemy upon His people for the furtherance of the Gospel. In the same way, we see in Acts 16, that because Paul was put in prison the Gospel was taken to many parts (vs.23-26).

(To be contd.)

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