

# Hebron Messenger

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NO. 9

## God's Salvation

To a world that is continually perishing in sin, God offers salvation in all its simplicity. "LOOK UNTO ME, and be ye SAVED" (Isa. 45:22), says God the Saviour. Can anything be more simple than looking at a person? Even a child knows to look. No one needs special maturity or education to look. Why did God make salvation so simple?

The obvious immediate answer is that God loves you and me. The Bible says that "God is love" (1 John 4:8). The God of love looks upon the suffering humanity with compassion. He has simplified salvation to the extent of making it understandable and available to all. The God of the Bible wants every human being to understand three fundamental truths.

Firstly, the LOSTNESS of mankind. Every human being is born in a lost condition. The Lord Jesus spoke three parables in Luke 15 to emphasise the lostness of man. In the first story, a man had hundred sheep and he lost one of them in the wilderness. In the second, a woman lost a silver coin. In the third, a father lost his son. All the three stories have something to teach us. Like the sheep we are owned by God. Like the coin we are precious to Him. Like the son we are related to God. Disobedience, rebellion marred our lives. By choosing the dangerous path of independence, we shut out God to open the door for all evils. Had not the shepherd gone in search of the sheep, the sheep would have been lost in the wilderness. Had not the woman sought the coin, the precious silver coin would have lost its value. Had not the father received the son, the wayward boy would have been lost in poverty and hunger. Every sinner has lost his way. He is groping in darkness. Spiritual blindness is the direct result of sin. A blind man walking in a dark slippery road, heads towards destruction. Salvation and restoration must come from outside himself. God must rescue us from our lost condition. The good news is that Jesus Christ has come seeking for every lost person. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

Secondly, the LAW of God. All of us are born into a world created and governed by God. His material and moral laws are intended for the safety and well being of a" those who live on this planet earth. God has explicitly stated His laws. By choosing to break the Law, we do not break the Law but our own lives. This is exactly what has happened to the whole mankind. The laws of God reveal the character of God. In the Bible, Exodus 20 gives us the basic Ten Commandments. Based on these, many laws had been added. Someone came out with this count, that there are 2713 commandments in the Old, and 1050 in the New Testament. These commandments condemn every man and every woman of every age. No man has ever lived up to the standards set by God. God gave us His laws not because we could keep them. With a fallen, sinful nature God knew our inability. Yet the laws were made and published to show the utter lostness of man. Had it not been for the Law, we would never know our lostness. The Scripture says that "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom.3: 20). Thus the primary work of the Law is revelation, not recovery. Law diagnoses our case without delivering us. Law shows our condition but not the cure. Yet it fulfils the important function of making us aware of what we are in the sight of God. Law not only shows our condition but also the awaiting condemnation. God's righteous anger is reserved for every rebel. God being just and righteous cannot overlook or condone sin. Law could not offer life to the dead sinner. It could not lift him from his fallen condition. Law could not love or pity the sinner. God's law is intended

to awaken us to our danger. At the end of life's road, beyond the grave every man and woman must stand before God to be judged. The Bible says, "... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb.9: 27). The Bible also says that "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecc.12: 14).

Thirdly, the LOVE of God. Against the backdrop of man's lostness and God's Law, is revealed the wonderful love of God. God loves mankind and sent Jesus Christ to show it. God asks, "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?", and answers it Himself, "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth" (Ezek. 18:23,32). God sent Jesus to be our Substitute and our Sin bearer. This is the story of Good Friday. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor.5: 21). "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (1Pet.3: 18). The story of Christ and the cross is the most moving love story in the world. Christ suffered the most cruel death on the cross for each one of us. It was an act of supreme love. Through the cross God offers forgiveness of sins, freedom from fear and every bondage, and fellowship with Himself. All these offers come to us not because we asked for them. The Bible says that God "commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom.5:8).

Deliverance comes by simply looking at the Saviour and believing in our hearts what He accomplished for us. We are not required to contribute anything for our salvation. Christ has done it all. We are invited to accept the offer. "Come un to me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" says the Lord Jesus (Matt. 11: 28). "...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37), is God's great assurance. God's salvation is simple and free. It cost Jesus His very blood, life and reputation. He laid down His life willingly for us all. He offers a life of peace, victory and fullness; "come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isa.55: 1).

P .S.

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## LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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April 15, 2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

All praise and glory and honour be unto Him, even our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness, the first begotten from the dead, the Prince of the kings of the earth, Who hath made us kings and priests unto God, and His Father. As the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, may He comfort us in all our tribulation and trials, as we seek to stand in His eternal counsels and serve Him according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began (Rev.1: 5,6; 2 Cor. 1: 3,4; 2 Tim.1: 9).

We have been considering some of the principles concerning the work of God, as well as Christian stewardship and leadership, as Paul has set forth, from his writings to the church at Corinth 1Cor.3:1-15 and the following chapters. The particular expressions of carnality of which the apostle speaks in verse three are jealousy and strife. These are marks of refusing to grow up, for the center of a baby's life is self. They are the marks of childhood, but they are also the marks of the lives of men and women who live as

though they had never been touched by the grace of God Paul challenges the Corinthians with this, "Are you not behaving like ordinary men?" (v.3). It is a real test of character for me to ask myself, "Can I truly and genuinely be glad when God is blessing and using someone else in away, that He is not blessing and using me?". That will decide whether my consuming passion is for the honour and glory of God, and not just for my reputation. When the Scripture enjoins us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep, it looks very easy to rejoice with them that rejoice, and the difficult thing is to weep with those who weep. But looking at it deeper, it is a different thing to genuinely enter into the joy of those who are being blessed in away that we are not.

We are bound to confess that the jealousy and the strife of the first century Corinth are not so far removed from the church of our day. But they are just symptoms of that basic disease which Paul here diagnoses, as refusal to grow up into spiritual manhood or womanhood. The man of God, Robert Murray, wrote to a young man ordained for ministry, about 16 decades ago, "It is not great talents God blesses, as much as great LIKENESS to Jesus". In the Kingdom of God what matters more than all in His service is Christ-like character, and so our great business must be to guard our own souls that we may truly reflect the beauty of the Lord, and even represent Him in some measure in our daily lives.

We must firmly believe that the work of God is His and not ours. From verses 5-9 Paul endeavours to show that although God makes much of the man in the sense of being concerned with his character, the man whom He uses is the man who is willing to be nothing, so that the excellency of the power may be all of God. Paul sets about demolishing their glorying in men by asking, "What after all is Apollos, and what is Paul?" Going by the neuter gender he uses literally he asks, "What thing is Apollos and what thing is Paul?" He uses this not because his grammar is confused, but he is ridiculing their tendency to make much of men.

Paul answers his own question by saying that they are "diakonoi" -meaning they are only servants. The word is not used in any technical sense conveying the office of "deacons", but it is really the word for a waiter at the table, and stresses the lowly character of the service rendered. Paul is stressing this point, as he is hyper-sensitive to anything that would detract from the glory of God in the work of God - "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord".

Paul clarifies the place that he and Apollos had in planting the church at Corinth, saying that they were not the cause of men coming to faith, but only instruments whom God used. "I planted the seed and Apollos watered". That may mean that Paul was the first evangelist to work in Corinth, and that Apollos followed and helped in the building up of the church. Paul's point is that planting and watering are not the efficient causes of vegetation. That is God's part, for only His life-giving power can give growth. When we talk in missionary realm about church planters or planting, we need to remember that planting and watering are men's work, but the vital issue is the superior power that brings life. "What is Paul, what is Apollos?" They are NOTHING and only GOD is EVERYTHING in the work of God.

Left to ourselves, of course, there are all sorts of things we are capable of doing. We can interest people, we can influence them, we can indoctrinate them, and may even move them emotionally. This we may do, but only God the Holy Spirit can regenerate them, and change them into the image and beauty of Jesus Christ. Only God can do that. All our skill, all our gifts, all our training and all our reputation will never touch that sphere. That is the SPHERE of God alone. God helping, we shall continue these thoughts in our next issue.

Please note that we will not be having Youth Camp in May at Hebron this year. Instead, particularly to reach the youth by the ministry of the Word of God regional camps have been arranged. So dear young people, earnestly pray and participate in the nearest center convenient for you. The dates for the regional camps are as follows. May 1st to 3rd Bidar; May 7th to 11th Calcutta; May 8th to 11th Kurnool; May 22nd to 25th Mangalagiri; May 13th to 18th Pune, and May 15th to 18th Delhi. Pray that the Lord may anoint and use His messengers and that the churches in each place may be enabled to make suitable

arrangements in their respective places for food and accommodation etc., and some rented facilities be made available also.

The Elders Bros. Alexander and J.C.Rao in the church at Delhi besides the saints in the church at Peniel, Gurgaon are thankful for your prayers for the Special Meetings they were enabled to hold in a rented facility in that area. Believers from surroundings of Delhi numbering about 150 were enabled to participate staying in the premises. Some time was given to the youth, besides the sisters in the afternoons. They covet our prayers for their enlargement, as they are only a small flock.

Bro. Dyva Prasad, God's servant at Tirupathi moved to Vellore, where he underwent a successful operation for his knee. He covets our prayers for his full recovery.

Bro. C. Rajamanickam, one of the old Elders in the church at Jehovah -Shammah, Chennai, is advised to undergo operation for his Cardiac problem with three blocks, in the Madras Medical Mission Hospital. Kindly pray for the same as he hopes to be admitted in the first week of May.

Bro. Samson, God's servant at Manuguru and the saints at Bethel there, covet our prayers for the construction of their large Worship Hall, which has reached almost to lintel level.

Bro. and Sis. D.S. Christopher covet our prayers as they-have been requested by Bro. Verborne for a few days' ministry in New Caledonia Island, main city, off Australia from 25th April to 4th May. They would be returning via Brisbane to meet Golsworthy, and reach India via Dubai on 13th May.

Praying that the Lord may grant us grace and wisdom to be true workmen, according to His will and purpose, wherever He may keep us,

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

2 Tim. 2: 1,16

1 Cor. 3: 10 -15

Phil. 2: 20,21,25,30

### **YE ARE MY WITNESSES—7**

**BAKHT SINGH**

Many lives were transformed and they became the witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ through that one meeting held in the prison at Philippi. Within a short time the Gospel was preached in many parts of Europe and Asia. Those who have not gone through real persecution remain barren spiritually like a dry well. If water is not drawn from it, it gives a stinking smell but if the water is drawn regularly, it remains fresh. We see how in a wonderful way the Holy Spirit began to take the believers from place to place through persecution. If God has kept you in a lonely place believe that you are there as a witness of the Lord Jesus and do not try to get a transfer to any better place of comfort. If you believe God has kept you there as His witness according to His plan be content.

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did" (Acts 8:5,6). The Samaritans were despised and hated by the Jews as we see in John 4:9. The Jews would not even take water from their hands. Now the very same Samaritans had received the very same Gospel with great joy, and with one accord. That is how the Lord began to break the pride of the Jews. As a

nation they were very proud. That is why they remained blind spiritually. Those who are proud of their country, position, family, community and wealth are very dry spiritually. That is the main cause of strife in many places.

It was for a purpose that God sent Philip to Samaria. He wanted to break the pride of the Jews and to show the spiritual oneness of all who believe. We shall see later on that when the Gospel was taken to these people, they began to grow spiritually. "Now they, which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen, travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord"(Acts11: 19-21). When Philip went to Samaria some unknown believers also went there at the same time. Before that they were giving the Gospel to the Jews only. They were still proud of their nationality. But some believers from Cyrene came to Antioch and spoke to the Grecians about the Lord Jesus Christ. From that time the center was shifted from Jerusalem to Antioch. That is how the believers in Jerusalem lost their privilege. From Antioch the Gospel began to go to many parts of the world. God in His own sovereign way brought this about.

Everyone is equally precious in God's sight. The believers in Samaria ought to have received the Holy Spirit when they believed. But in this case the Lord withheld the Holy Spirit from them even though a very large number believed and were baptized. The news had reached Jerusalem and the Apostles at Jerusalem were surprised that even the Samaritans whom they hated received the Gospel. So they sent Peter and John to verify it. They went over there and were filled with joy to see that the Samaritans had received the Gospel. When apostles Peter and John laid hands on them they received the Holy Spirit (v .17). Thus they saw for themselves that the very same gift that the Lord had given to the Jews on the day of Pentecost was also given to the Samaritans. First of all they had to acknowledge their spiritual equality and oneness by the laying on of hands. Throughout the ages, they were taking pride in their Jewish nation. Today also we find in India and other countries believers taking pride in their position, education, community and wealth. But in the sight of God all are equal. We find that there are many names among Christians.

(To be contd.)

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# Hebron Messenger

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NO. 10

## "... THE BRIDE, THE WIFE OF THE LAMB..." (Rev. 21: 9)

The book of Revelation, which has been the subject of innumerable expositions and explanations, ends with the presentation of one radiant Church, wholly satisfying her glorious Head. And it has a message for us all.

The revelation committed to John gave him a drawing aside of heaven's curtain to disclose to him the beloved Saviour, Who is here described so many times as The Lamb. The Lamb unspotted in His character, beautiful in His humility, and wholly selfless in His loving sacrifice, is the center, not only of this book, but of the whole universe. Our hearts are indeed captivated by this presentation of the centrality and supremacy of this One, Who is now designated, "The Lamb". He is here seen as the reigning Redeemer, the Master of world events, the Overcomer of all evils, and the rejoicing Bridegroom. To be His Bride is the Church's glorious destiny.

The Book begins with those seven churches of Asia, which as representatives of all local assemblies, were marked by virtues, disfigured by blemishes and rebuked for failures, and yet were the objects of the Lord's concern and love. They remind vividly and painfully too, of the present conditions, which prevail among the churches today. At long last we are permitted to view the end product of all the Lamb's activities:- "And I John saw the holy city the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a Bride adorned for her husband" (21 :2). So the purpose always in view and wonderfully realised at the end is the love union of Christ with His Church.

It is one of the wonders of union with the heavenly Bridegroom that it is eternally fresh. The symbols of the city reinforce this truth, for the picture is given of its main street being characterized by a great sparkling river proceeding from the Throne (Rev. 22:2). Stand in a river and the water, which passes over your feet, will never return again. The flow is constant, it is fresh and original.

The simple moral of this is that, as believers we need and can have -constant renewal. Think of Ephesus, so active and yet its love gone cold, (2:4) think of Sardis, with a name that it lived, but only a dead name (3:1), and worst of all, think of the lukewarm Laodiceans (3:15). What deep needs those epistles reveal, and all needs of renewal. But the Word of God is living and powerful. Even if the saints in Ephesus were not immediately affected by the Spirit's individual message to them, can we not hope that by the time they reached this great climax of the Revelation, their hearts were aroused to a revival of love for Christ. Years before, Paul had written to them of the length and breadth, the height and depth of Christ's surpassing love, (Eph.3: 18) and had set before them the promise of being presented to Him, without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:17). But now, perhaps, the very momentum of their activities and their zeal for correct doctrine had led them to think more of their church, than of their Lord. They needed to be delivered from stale orthodoxy and be filled with fresh love for Christ. The Lord on the Throne Who promised to make all things new, (21: 5) could do this for them.

What shall we say of the church in Sardis, which was living on a dead reputation? (3:1). Was there really any danger of having their names blotted out of the Book of life? We would hope not as mere words could not do, and brought victorious renewal to those ready to die. Concerning Laodicea, their words and expressions run similar and close to the boasts of the corrupt Babylon, which said, "I sit a queen, and am

no widow, and shall see no sorrow" (18:7). For they boasted, " I am rich... and have need of nothing"(3:17). We would like to think that this whole church might, have been revived from its greed and self- satisfaction, but, at least, we may believe that some of its members opened their hearts to the cleansing and renewal offered by their patient, gracious Lord.

No doubt, things of this kind could be said about most of the churches. They needed the miracle of spiritual renewal. We too need. Constantly to be renewed. if we are to measure up to our destiny as the Bride. In that day the Lord Who sits on the Throne will declare, "Behold, I make all things new" (21: 5). But since He is already on the Throne, He is able right now to renew us in the Spirit of our mind (Eph. 4:23). This will never happen automatically. We have got to work for it.

The Lord enable us all to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, lest we come short of this glorious destiny, -"the Bride, the wife of the Lamb" (Phil.2: 12,13).

K.P.

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### LETTER FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

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May 4, 2003

Dear Fellow -Believers in Christ,

Greetings in the precious and mighty Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Counsellor, Mighty God, everlasting Father and Prince of peace. May His peace rule within us, as we in everything by prayer, make our requests known to Him, with thanksgiving, that the God of peace Himself be with us, and all His servants and ministers of the Gospel.

The month being marked by holidays for educational institutions, V .3.S. ministries, Youth Camps and special meetings are going on in many parts of the land. About seventy places are being attended to from Hebron, for the V.B.S. ministry. Thanks be to God for those who laboured amongst us very fervently in the years gone by in Hebron, laying a good foundation for all who have been participating in this ministry, and they in turn have been teaching and helping others now with personnel and material. Let us continue to pray that children from various backgrounds may be drawn to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus and the new found faith and joy in the children may turn the hearts of parents too, that they may know the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom God hath sent, which is life Eternal (John 12:3).

We have been seeking to learn from the epistle of Paul to Corinthians, chapters 3 and 4, the principles and practices that should govern the worker and the work of God, that would be truly glorifying God, lasting and fully rewarding at His coming -to everyman as his work shall be. However, Paul warns everyone who buildeth to "take heed how he buildeth thereupon" (1 Cor.4:10). In verse 12, he speaks of two kinds of materials-, to be distinguished from each other in two ways. The first are costly materials while the latter, wood, hay and stubble are cheap materials. The other distinction is that the first are permanent, the other being temporary Gold, silver and precious stones are lasting. The fire only purifies them. Wood, hay and stubble are consumed by fire, and hence temporary. The simple point is of course, that building something of Eternal worth is always infinitely costly. For each one of us that cost will be very different. It is possible of course to build in a certain way that will impress men, (if that is your aim

and interest and perhaps to impress the whole evangelical world) a while yet avoiding that cost. But it will be a shoddy building and on the judgement day it will be revealed by fire (verse 13).

Fruitful Christian service and fruitful engagement in the work of God, and the cause of the Gospel is costly. It costs in terms of time and energy, not only physical energy but emotional energy, and nervous energy and above all spiritual energy in prayer warfare and battle. Supremely it is costly, in terms of being ready, for self and pride and self -glory and self-interest to be cast down into the dust so that the Lord alone may be everything.

Paul knew the travail of death working in him so that Christ be formed in others. And if we are going through some anguish that we are unable to explain through human language, let us believe that we are enduring the birth pangs of spiritual life, which God wants to bring forth somewhere.

There is also an infinite and astonishing reward in serving God (v.14). That the Eternal God should stoop down in His infinite grace and take poor redeemed sinners, with all their frailty and faithlessness for such service, is something baffling to the human mind.

What the reward is, it may be difficult for us to understand in this world. We know that it is not salvation. Paul speaks of a reward given to some, and the loss suffered by others, but in neither case is the reward or loss a matter of salvation. The reward is clearly a reward for faithful service. There is nothing more glorious in the wide world than to be called to serve God, with all our energy throughout all our days. And that is the Spirit, which should permeate all our service for God- a sense of glory and wonder that God permits us to work for Him. May He write this Word upon our hearts.

The Lord enabled us, Bro. G. T. Benjamin, myself and about sixty of our fellow -labourers to be present at the dedication service of the two rooms in the first floor of the building in Rock church, Pulivendala on 24th April, naming the rooms Berea and Bethany. Believers and workers from nearby assemblies were also present. Do pray that the Lord may accomplish His Word, in all them who have received it as the Word of God (1Thess.2: 13).

We covet your prayers for the five days V .B.S ministry, which is being held at Jehovah-Shammah. Bro. David Cornelius, weakened by the infirmities of age as well as Bro. C. Rajamanickam awaiting surgery for his Cardiac problem need our prayers. Also pray for Sis. Glory wife of Bro. Maxwell (Deacon at Jehovah -Shammah) as she has been advised total rest, because of heart problem.

We would also value your prayers for the repair and renovation work of the buildings in Jehovah -Shammah compound, as they are more than hundred years, with cracks on the walls and leaky roof. Also pray for the re-roofing of a separate Sunday School Hall, for helpful accommodation and food serving etc., during special youth camps.

Marriages too have been arranged by parents for their respective grown up children, in the coming weeks, and some of them we mention here, for your prayers, that the Lord even Jesus may build their homes according to Biblical principles and precepts, and not be governed by secular standards or values. Such partnership as "being heirs together of the grace of life" according to 1 Pet. 3:7, may be used of the Lord to reflect the love of Christ for His Church, and contribute to the strength and witness of the local church, under the Headship of the Lord.

Bro. S. Martin covets our prayers for the marriages of his grandchildren, Bro. David's eldest son Bro. Jabez Emmanuel with Sis. Esther (daughter of Bro. Veerraju of Chinnamushidiwada) and his first daughter Sis. Jerusha Glory with Bro. Aravind Kumar (son of Bro. K. V. Prabhakar Rao of Vijayanagaram), God willing they will be united in Holy Matrimony at "Salem" Prayer House, Visakhapatnam on 14th May.

Bro. Isaac, God's servant at Cuddapah also covets our prayers for the marriage of his daughter Sis. Suvarna, with Bro. Xavier (son of Vasanth Kumar, God's servant at Adoni) God willing to take place at Beersheba, Cuddapah on 27th May. Also Bro. Stephen Chinnappa God's servant at Moriah Prayer House, Chittoor covets our prayers for the marriage of his first daughter Sis. Mercy with Bro. Victor Vedanayakam (son of Bro. Jeeva Raj) God willing to be solemnised at Jehovah-Shammah, Anantapur on Monday, 9th June.

Praying that the presence and power of the Lord be with His people, in the special gatherings, and marriages as announced, to establish and enliven all who would participate in their heavenly calling,

I remain, Yours in His grace,

K.PHILLIP

Acts 9: 31

Acts 6: 4

Isa. 41: 17

### **YE ARE MY WITNESSES—8** BAKHT SINGH

Some believers in the early Church began to call themselves after Paul, Cephas, and Apollos (1 Cor. 1 : 10-13) .That is how divisions came among the early believers at Corinth. The result was that all kinds of sin entered into them. It is unscriptural to be called by the name of any person. No one died for us, only the Lord Jesus Christ. How can we be called by any other name? There are hundreds of divisions among the Christians today. That is why there is so much strife and hatred. The same thing, we find in India at the time of marriages and other occasions; believers are much more concerned about their caste and community. Some believers call themselves Harijan Christians, to get scholarships and other benefits from colleges. Because the Government gives special concessions to such castes. Many Christians have the same temptation to call themselves Scheduled Caste to get a job or a seat in the college. Whatever one may gain materially in that way, they surely lose spiritually. They still take pride in their community like the Corinthians. Such believers are infants spiritually. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ" (1 Cor.3:1).

It is only by remaining as one family, that we can enjoy divine favour and God's blessings. Every believer, is equally precious before God. That is why the testimony of baptism is very important. Only at that time can this truth be brought to us in reality. We as God's servants should take more time and diligently teach people about baptism and make sure that they are spiritually joined with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. When they are baptised into one body they are no more Jew or Gentile, high or low. This should be our daily experience and not for some time. But that is only possible when we give the Headship to the Lord Jesus Christ.

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south, unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship"(Acts 8:26,27). Here we see how Philip quickly and immediately obeyed God. God never told him why he had to go away from Samarla. He only said, "Arise and go towards the south". At that time he was very busy, because through him the Lord saved many souls in Samaria. He could have said, "How can I leave such a great work and go to an unknown place, a desert?" He never asked for one or two days leave for preparation but he went immediately. He did not wait for his wife's permission. Like Abraham, when God spoke to him, he obeyed straightway.

Many God's servants lose their privileges in God's service, because they do not obey God immediately. Even though God speaks to them in a meeting or in some other way to go to a difficult place or if God asks them to go at nighttime, they listen to their wives or friends rather than God. This is very sad. How many God's servants are in that condition! They will not obey God at once. God has every right to send us anywhere any time. He can send us to a nearby place or a far off place without giving us any reason. Our duty is to obey Him. Philip went on obeying God and the Lord showed him why he was called. Philip was not only fruitful but very fruitful in the ministry. "But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea"(Acts 8:40). He preached in all the cities. God does not make a mistake. By obeying God implicitly, we become fully fruitful.

Philip never demanded his traveling expenses. Many God's servants have many demands. They will obey provided they are given money for themselves and also for their children. But Philip never said, "What about my expenses?" First he walked. We donot know how long he walked. Then the Lord told him to join the chariot and so he ran (v.30). So he got a free lift in the chariot (v .31). He never asked for it. He never said, "Sir, I am tired, please give me a lift". Neither did he say, "I have walked many miles and have run a long distance. Please stop for a while". It was the eunuch who might have said. "Please help me. I want to understand this Scripture portion. Will you kindly come into the chariot?" There is no need for you to give any hint to anyone that you want something. It is for a purpose we find these details in the Word of God. It is not just a history book. It is for our spiritual instructions. If we obey God, and do what He tells us, we are fully blessed.

" And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing" (v.39). If we obey God He blesses us abundantly. First of all he walked, then he ran, then he got into the chariot for some time. He got the fastest vehicle. He went comfortably straightway. What a privilege to be in God's service. Sometimes we have to walk, sometimes we have to run, sometimes we have to go by bus, and sometimes by train. But God Himself will lead us in His own way. If you are called by God, there is no need to be worried or be anxious about your needs. Do not allow your wives to weaken your faith. In many cases the wives of God's servants weaken the faith of their husbands and go on worrying them. They say, "Think of your children. How about their education? How about their marriages? Do not be foolish". That is how many wives mislead their husbands. Thus by listening to their wives they lose their faith. Also some so-called servants beg for money. They do not ask for it. They put on a sad face, when they go for visiting. They look very very miserable. Please take warning. Do not be offended. If God is calling you for service, serve Him faithfully. You cannot serve God and man. But whenever you obey Him, obey Him fully. Do not question Him. He is responsible for all your needs. You only have to see how He works.

(To be contd.)

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