



Christian Ambassadors, Inc.

My Brother's Keeper

Volume 24, Number 2, Second Quarter, 2019

GROWING on the WORD

A Scripture Study

The Word of God is the source of light, truth and power, for those who seek its meaning and apply it to their life. Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh, and we seek to follow him.

John 8:12 (NIV) – “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

John 12:46 (NIV) – “...No one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”

They Are Here, But Greater is He

By: Larry A. Thompson
Buena Vista CF, Buena Vista, CO

They are here and have been around forever. For it is written,

Psalm 78:36-37 (KJV) – “...They did flatter Him with their mouth, and they lied unto Him with their tongues. For their heart was not right with Him, neither were they steadfast in His covenant.”

They have taught and repeated their selfish ways from generation to generation, with little

regard for what the costs would be to those who have yet to be born.

Psalm 78:38 (KJV) – “But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned He His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath.”

Today I was shaken to my core, because as I read the 78th Psalm, even though this song highlighted the historical events of Israel’s exodus from the land of Egypt, verses 36-38 became more alive to me than ever before; because the message contained therein was, and is, a *Generational Lesson*, which must be heeded; for, **they** are still here.

Who are **they**? In the days of Moses, it was those who murmured against the backdrop of God’s goodness...those who were given water to drink in the wilderness where no water could be seen. (See: Psalm 78:15-16) **They** were those who did eat of the “angel’s food” and were fed meat “to the full”. (See: Psalm 78:25-29) **They** were those who,

Psalm 78:42 (KJV) – “...Remembered not His hand, nor the day when He delivered them from the enemy.”

In the days when Yeshua (Jesus) physically roamed the earth, **they** were the “Scribes”. Scribes were the “reporters” of ancient times. Their role in society was to record for posterity the events of the day. Like the monsters of today’s media, Scribes were not policy makers,

yet they were influential to a point. For instance, on the day when Christ healed a sick man of the palsy by saying unto him,

“Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.”; immediately upon hearing those words, *“...certain of the Scribes said within themselves, this man blasphemeth.”*

(See: Matthew 9:2-3; Luke 5:18-21)

Surely such an accusation did not remain unspoken or go unnoticed. In fact, I'm certain that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were pleased, that voice had been given to their secret dark thoughts.

They were the “Pharisees”.

Psalm 78:36 (KJV) – “...They did flatter Him with their mouth, and they lied unto Him with their tongues.”

Although the Pharisees were believers in the immortality of the soul, in the resurrection of the body and spirit, and in the existence of angels and spirits; they were a sect amongst the Jewish community that became so religiously jaded, that they missed the mark of their profession, by foolishly believing that they were spiritually superior to the common man, and we lowly sinners.

For a proper illustration of my point, refer to the Lord's parable of, *“The Pharisee and the Publican”*, in Luke 18:9-14, wherein the two are compared regarding their prayers. The Pharisee presumptuously prayed within himself,

“...God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are...”, while the Publican (a tax collector for the Romans), humbled himself and, *“...would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful unto me, a sinner.”*
(See: Luke 18:11,13)

It's clear from this teaching that the Pharisee was one of the **they's**, while the Publican was

one of the **we's**. Though the Pharisees were prominent and influential in the religious movements of the day, they misguided the people by stressing rituals, rites, and religious observances *more than* the teaching of the true virtues of faith such as love, compassion, forgiveness, and grace.

Psalm 78:37 (KJV) – “For their heart was not right with Him, neither were they stedfast in His covenant.”

Finally, **they** were the “Sadducees”; a sect of materialistic Jews that denied the resurrection and denied the existence of angels and spirits. The Sadducees were also steadfast in their rejection of the traditions of the religious elders. If these three groups were not members of the **they** generation, then Christ would not have warned His disciples of that day, nor His children now through the Holy Ghost to;

“Beware of the Scribes...” and *“Take heed and beware the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.”* (Mark 12:38; Matthew 16:6)

In this present day and age, **they** are those who live with complacent and fearful hearts, who, like the freed children of Israel,

“...Believed not in God, and trusted not in His salvation.” (*Psalm 78:22*), in spite of all that He had done for them.

They are those who refuse to seek His counsel when searching for direction; those who refuse to summon up the courage to seek the hand of God to lift them out of their constant troubles.

The **they's** of today are those who live in constant fear, that the light of truth will expose their wicked and selfish ways...those who think that tomorrow is promised, and those who can only hope that the futures of their children are assured. **They** are those who are blind to the fact that without God the Father, and Christ, the Risen Lord, they are nothing.

After careful meditation upon the 78th Psalm, I believe that it is even more important that we, who are **The Church**, do more than simply embrace its message from the past. It's time to boldly live out the lessons which are taught therein, remembering this above all,

Psalm 78:38 (KJV) – “*But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned He His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath.*”

Yes, I was shaken to my core, because I know from what I see and hear in today's world, that His instructions are not being carried out, for it is written that,

Psalm 78:5-7 (KJV) – “*He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: [so] that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them unto their children; [so] that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.*”
(bold emphasis is mine)

Fathers and mothers; preachers, teachers, sisters and brothers of this generation, who will not honor and obey the commandments of the Lord, **they** are today's Scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees – because by their example **they** will insure that the future generations will neither regard the goodness of God, nor seek His salvation by grace, which comes through faith in His Son, Christ the Lord.

To whomever reads this, my hope and my prayer is that you will stand in agreement with me, and be strengthened by the fact that,

I John 4:4 (KJV) – “*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because*

greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

They are here; but greater is He! Amen.

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Jesus Frees Us from Sin

By: Dan Oliver
Pocahontas State Correctional
Pocahontas, VA

Jesus Christ not only died on the cross and rose again, so that we may be forgiven of our sins, but also that we may have power over our sins; so that we may have power over the devil, who tempts us to sin in the sight of God.

For, from the beginning of time it was God's will that we obey Him and not sin, because sin separates us from Him. So, God sent Jesus Christ into the world because of His great love for us all, so that we may be reconciled back to Him. For, it grieved God's heart, that so many of us would die and go to hell, where we would suffer in misery and pain for our sins.

So, it would be wise for us all to repent of our sins and receive God's love and forgiveness. And, turn from our sins with the help of Jesus Christ, the Lord, who loved us so much that He died on the cross and rose again; so that we may be forgiven of our sins. (See: I John 3:2-9)

I John 1:9 (KJV) – “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”



Sharing the Good News

“We are therefore Christ's Ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

II Corinthians 5:20-21

**From: Dusty B.
Dade Correctional Institution
Florida City, Florida**

Dear Sharon and Alan,

Greetings to you both in Christ our Savior. This is a brief note to notify you of my address change. I want to thank you both for your “selfless” devotion to all of us incarcerated, in that it’s a wonderful thing to have you both reaching out to the lost souls of societies condemned. Your reward is great in heaven!

You both and your ministry is, and always will be in my daily prayers!

In Christ Jesus, Dusty

**From: Ann R.
Frederick, Maryland**

Dear Alan and Sharon,

Thanks for the “Spiritual Growth Lesson” and “My Brother’s Keeper” – as always, a pleasure to receive. See the hearts around my letter? I put them there, so that it would show you what my thoughts are when I read the comments from my brothers and sisters who are inmates all around the U.S. I love reading their poems, thoughts, and concerns. Please let them know how much joy they bring to my heart.

As I have said many times, each one of them represents my little brother who was in their position at one time. He’s been with the Lord for 15 years now, and that is a reunion I’m so looking forward to.

As I read [Sharon’s] lesson about “*Thou Art Worthy, O Lord*”, it struck me as never before...one day and soon, we will all be together, gathered around the throne and singing praises to the One who has made us all one in Him. No prison bars, no guards, no fear...just “joy unspeakable and full of glory”.

Thank goodness we have an eternity to look forward to...it’s going to take that long for us to meet each other. Imagine running into someone and saying, “I read your poem in ‘*My Brother’s Keeper*’, and it blessed me so much!” Oh, how much we have to rejoice in.

Just wanted to send my thoughts your way. Thanks so much for your faithfulness to those who are incarcerated. I’m sure their words encourage you as they do me.

Be blessed! Annie

**From: Clayton J.
Big Muddy River Correctional
Ina, Illinois**

Dear Christian Ambassadors,

First and foremost, Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Savior.

I’d like to thank you for the gold mine of information “My Brother’s Keeper” and the “Spiritual Growth Lessons” have. The depth of the messages has blessed many in Jesus’ name. I pray His continued blessing on all your ministry does for the increase of God’s Kingdom. Hallelujah!

I thank and praise God that He touched your ministry and know He will continue to do so; in that it's far reaching.

As I close, know you are all in my prayers, as is all you do in Jesus' name. Glory to God.

Your Brother in Christ, Clayton

**From: Roger C.
Trinidad MR
Model, Colorado**

Greetings Sharon,

May the Lord bless and establish all your good works.

I just wanted to say thank you for the simple, good messages you deliver. Whenever I am done with them, I put them on the library shelf, and they get "snatched up" very quickly. The questions at the end help the reader to digest the meaning of the message.

So, once again, I say thank you and keep up the good work. God bless you.

In His Grace, Roger

**From: Daniel P.
Kilby Correctional Facility
Mt. Meigs, Alabama**

Dear Christian Ambassadors,

I pray all is well with you and yours. As always, I enjoy receiving God's messages to me through your ever-faithful ministry.

I pray for you and your ministry every morning. Please let me know if there are any specific requests you need.

Thank you, Daniel

Peace

By Charles Roy Gates

The young person searching for truth asked the wise old man, "Where can I find Peace?"

The old man thought for a moment.

"Peace cannot be found, it is a gift that is given.

It comes from our brokenness.

When we give up our pride, then we are lifted up by a Power greater than ourselves."

"It can be experienced in the midst of confusion.

Like the eye of the hurricane, there is a calm in the middle of the storm.

It is being in tune with the forces of nature.

It stirs within your heart, like the wind whispering through the boughs of the pine trees."

"You can feel it in the early morning hours, just before the breaking of the dawn.

Peace is the calmness of the soul when all around you there is turmoil.

It can be experienced in the middle of battle when the fighting is the most fierce."

"It can be experienced on a cross when our suffering is the greatest.

It's like an eagle being pushed from the nest, then realizing it can fly.

You experience Peace when you put your hand in the hand of God, and trust completely."

"Do not look for Peace, look for God, then Peace will come to you.

Peace is a gift from God. Peace is God within us, when we become one with each other and our Creator."

Charles Roy Gates 10-29-1991



***Love God, Right at
Norfolk City Jail***

By: Daniel Johnston
Attica Correctional, Attica, NY

When circumstances are at their worst, God wants your heart. You must learn to love Him right where you are...even if it's at the Norfolk City Jail, in Norfolk, Virginia; 5th and 6th floors, cells 5J20 and 6J20.

We each have a purpose for being here, living our life at this time of the world's existence. A purpose for God. He created us for just such a time as this. He does not cause you to have difficulties in your life, but He will use the difficulties that you are living, to teach you. Of course, you have to be willing to absorb the lessons and grow in His knowledge and wisdom.

We all are so different. We all have a very different purpose in this life. God created the disciples for their purpose. He put them on earth for just such a time as when Jesus needed them to fulfill His purpose.

God created Paul for his purpose. Paul was wonderfully gifted for his work as an evangelist. He had the ability to communicate with both common people and intellectuals. He was familiar with three cultures, Jewish, Greek, and Roman; and proclaimed the Gospel message in ways all three could understand.

Paul was skilled at building Christian communities, and he was absolutely fearless in preaching about Jesus Christ. Let's pray for these gifts in ourselves, so that we can continue the Church's mission of evangelization, particularly to young people.

O' God, how I admire Paul! I too want to share your good news with others, so let your Holy Spirit bless me with the gift of evangelization.

Help me to reach out to other young people, no matter what clique or group they belong to. Help me to bring out the best in our culture and to challenge that which is wrong or misleading.

Give me courage to speak fearlessly about my faith in Jesus when it is right to do so. And let me be your instrument in building communities of faith, hope, and love. Praise God! Amen.



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Inspirational articles, testimonies, and poems, especially from current or former prison inmates, are invited and will be prayerfully considered for publication. **Please request a copy of the publication guidelines.**

Vision Statement – Christian Ambassadors exists to bring the ministry of Jesus Christ into the lives of people; demonstrating how the gospel teachings can help a person live a more abundant life, filled with joy, hope, and purpose.

If you, a member of your family, or a friend, are imprisoned, wanting to find new hope, purpose and direction in life, please contact us at Christian Ambassadors.

Our website can be visited at: <http://www.christian-ambassadors.org>