



# VOICE OF THE HARBINGER

## ANNOUNCING THE BREAK OF DAY

### Issue No. 7

*“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16*

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## GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME

As I awoke one morning Psalms 23:5-6 (NIV) was on my heart. *“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; **my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love (mercy) shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**”*

I was seeing this scripture in a different light. In this Psalm, I could see David on a journey as he is led through green pastures and beside still waters. Unlike running waters, still waters are usually very deep waters. Aren't you glad that the Shepherd leads us carefully beside those waters? He is guided in paths of righteousness and through the valley of the shadow of death. As he is walking through all these experiences in life a table is prepared in the presence of his enemies. His head is anointed with oil and **after** his cup runs over then goodness and mercy follow him. I was seeing that the reason for the journey and all the difficult places we are being led through is so that goodness and mercy will follow us. If something follows me I have already been there and gone. So the goodness and mercy is not trying to catch up to me for my benefit, but it is the goodness and mercy that I am becoming spilling over to others along the way that it is speaking about. All along this road we should be touching others with goodness and mercy. Our head as already been anointed with oil. To me this means that I have been given through Christ all I need, to be as He is in this world. God has given so much mercy and goodness to me that I should be full and running over, and my cup should be spilling over on those around me. There is a desperate need to leave behind us in every place and to all people goodness and mercy. When I have been there and gone, I want there to be no doubt that goodness and mercy has followed me.

I am not speaking about just good works here but about a nature that emanates pureness of heart and character and shows genuine love and grace to all men. However, this goodness will indeed manifest itself in practical ways. It seems to be much easier for one who is given to good works to be brought to a balance than one who has never learned to give of himself at all. John 3:21 (KJV) says, “*He that **doeth truth** cometh to the light.*” According to this scripture, truth is something we do, not just what we believe. In reality it is what we are becoming.

The Amplified Bible says, “***Only** goodness and mercy shall follow me.*” In times past, goodness and mercy has not **always** followed me. I have come a very long way in allowing mercy to flow out of me to all men without using the letter of the word to pass judgment on them.

As I was riding along one Sunday, driving past several churches, I felt an overwhelming compassion for those locked within the walls of religion. My mind went back over the years that I had been in the same bondage. There had been such a deep groaning within my being that I was yet not able to understand. I know now that it was Isaiah 58:6 “*Is not this the fast that I have chosen? ..to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke?*” In the religious institutions of men, our yokes were not broken, and the opposite was true. We became enslaved to dogmas and traditions. Our burdens were not made light, but became so heavy that we were unable to bear them. Yet, I now understand that I was led through those places by my Shepherd, not to stay there, but in the end that I may know the groaning of the prisoner and that goodness and mercy should follow me. My cup is full of gratitude for God’s grace to me. He came and set this captive free through no goodness of my own. It is truly Christ in me, living His life through me and the goodness and mercy that is the essence of His being, flowing out of me to set others free. He is taking from our midst the ‘pointing of the finger’ and causing us to pour out ourselves to the hungry and then, AND T-H-E-N our light will rise in the darkness and our night will become like the noonday sun. Amen!!

Betty

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## OUT FROM THE MIDST HE SINGS PRAISE

I shall never forget July 1973 when Fred and I walked into the National Guard Armory in Miami, Florida. We were there for a convention of ‘end-time sons,’ and as we walked through the doors of that place I was lifted immediately into a new dimension of life as I heard for the first time ever, voices singing a new song, a heavenly song unto the Lord. There were 1500 voices singing in a language I didn’t understand, but my spirit understood as I was caught up into realms that were new and glorious to me. The former heaven I had dwelled in rolled up like a scroll, and I was ushered into a new heaven. All I had heard before this were the old hymns and songs of the old order that knew nothing about singing in the spirit.

At the time, most people from the old order church system thought this to be very strange indeed. Now churches from nearly every denomination have abandoned the old hymns for the new ‘wave of worship.’ It has now become so mechanical and sterile (incapable of producing life) that it makes me weary. It seems that man always takes what God has done in the past and makes it into a formula, and then it becomes dead form. The Spirit is as a ship on the sea and an eagle in the air. When they have passed, there is no trail or pattern to track them; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. The process of weaning us from those things we have depended on for so long is not an easy one for most of us.

In an article by Kenneth Greator he writes: “Worship is something that my spirit longs for in an ever deepening way. True worship is the Christ within rising up in praise and adoration to our Father God. It is not based on human efforts, no matter how noble or well meant, but Revelation birthed of and by the Holy Spirit.” End quote.

It was the spring of 1999 and we lived in a small town of 600 people where Fred grew up. For months on end I went through the motions of praying, reading, and praising God, but I did not sense His presence, although I knew that we were to walk by faith not by feeling. I asked the Lord to show me if I had displeased Him in any way because I longed to feel the awareness of His presence. All I knew to do was to walk by faith a day at a time. Every effort to ‘break through’ seemed not to work this time. Then one evening before the sun went down I took my usual walk, and when I was right down in the middle of town I began to weep uncontrollably. I felt as if someone else had control of my body. I was powerless to stop weeping. I was being baptized in His presence. For a moment I was embarrassed and wondered what in the world the town’s people would think and I said, “Lord, this is a fine time and place to break forth.” He said, *“I just wanted you to learn that this is not about your ability to fast and pray ‘down’ My presence. You do not have within yourself the ability to worship me. It is I who worships the Father from within you. Have I not said, ‘out of the midst of My church will I sing praises to the Father? I am the one who sings out from your inner most being. Let Me sing at My choosing. Do not take this glory unto yourself.”*

This experience caused me to understand that He chooses the times and places for me to sense His Presence. It may be on a very busy day when I haven’t had a moment to think on Him as I would have liked, and it seems that the car I’m riding in or the room I’m sitting in is filled to capacity with the fragrance of His Presence. It is truly the Day of His Appearing. He appears from within us revealing Himself to us and it is all His work. We can rejoice for He will make Himself known to us and through us at the time of His choosing.

Betty

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## DID JESUS DIE FOR ALL?

I received a letter recently from a sincere well-meaning brother who is very concerned for me because of my stand that Jesus’ death was not the death of some, but the death of all men. We have been friends for many years, and he remembers when I used to make statements that labeled some as “Ultimate Wreckers.” However, the Path of the Just is as a light that shines brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. His light unto my feet has gotten brighter over the years as I continue on the pathway, and I have been made a member of the so-called ‘wreckers.’

My brother’s concern is that by believing in the ultimate reconciliation of all, that I face a greater temptation to return to the world and that many use the doctrine to go back into sin. All I can say to that is if any use that as a justification to return to that which they have been delivered from, then they haven’t really understood what Christ’s death is all about from the first. How can we who are dead to sin, live any longer therein? If we have identified with His death, the old first Adam has passed away and we are a new creation. Because I am a new creature the new life within me causes me to mortify those things that are not of Him. Those who are afraid of sin and are continually battling with it seem to not understand this truth.

In the past when I was a hellfire and damnation preacher, sin seemed so ominous and threatening. It was always on the horizon, and I was continually sin conscious. That is because I was laden down with the concept that my salvation depended on my ability to walk upright and godly according to my works. I tried to mix law and grace together (as do all those with that mindset) and it always left me struggling with condemnation. The Old Testament type was that one couldn't mix wool (labor) and linen (rest) into the same garment. The threat of "hell" was always hanging over my head. I felt as if I were barely saved, not gloriously saved. I preached about peace, but I didn't possess it. My prevailing mindset was, "God's gonna get you for that." I really didn't understand the grace of God, and that His righteousness is my righteousness. It is no longer I that lives, but Christ who lives in me. Therefore, I am not righteous by the doing of works of any kind. I am justified and made righteous by faith, and it is not even my faith, but the faith of the Son of God.

As I began to understand the sovereignty and rest of God, His peace began to rule in my heart, and condemnation had to leave. I no longer struggled with the overwhelming feeling of falling short. God revealed to me that we who believe do enter into his rest (Heb. 4:3). He who has entered into His rest has ceased from his own labor. We can now be confident that we are not only saved, but gloriously saved. We have passed from death unto life.

The gist of my brother's writing is that Jesus died for many (Heb. 9:28) and not totally all; that only those who receives His free gift of salvation did Christ die for. There is a problem with that kind of thinking, and here is why. Romans 5:19, "*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*" If we were to follow the hermeneutical rule of my brother's interpretation we would have to conclude that not totally all died in Adam, if it is true that not totally all shall be made righteous in Christ. This word many that is used here in Rom. 5:19 is the same Greek word (*polus*) that is used in Heb. 9:28. However, we do understand that the 'many' who died in Adam were in fact, totally all, and the 'many' who shall be made righteous are in fact, totally all. Now, let's look at verse 18 just above it, "*Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*" Now a scripture that is like unto it, I Cor. 15:22, "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*" The word all in the Greek (*pas*) means total, or the whole. The summation is this: All shall be made alive in Christ, therefore, Jesus Christ died for all. 2 Cor. 5:14-15, "*For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*" It is not yet made manifest that all men are reconciled to God, but it is every man in his own order; that in the ages to come all will be made alive that God may be all in all.

F. Lee

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## IN THE BEGINNING, ONE TREE

God created Adam as a corruptible (able to be corrupted) living soul that was dwelling in an innocent state of being. God placed Adam in a garden and made him subject to the thing that had the power to bring him into death. God knew that Adam would fail when He placed him there. As a matter-of-fact it was God's intention for him to fail. God has ultimately planned for man to live by the Word of God. Man

cannot live by bread (natural) alone, but by every word that proceeds from God; the natural cannot preserve him. When he sows to the flesh he always reaps corruption. Only the Spirit can sustain man and preserve him. God made man subject to corruption (corruptible), yet innocent and uncorrupted. God set him up to fail by making a commandment (the law is the strength of sin) "*thou shalt not eat.*" Out of God's omniscience He knew that man could not fully appreciate living by the Spirit unless he was made subject to his own vanity and experienced trying to live out of his own 'self.' Therefore, he was made subject to vanity not by his own choice; God set before him 'life and death.'

When God created man, He created him a living soul. The soul has never had the ability to keep the law. No man has ever been able to keep it. Eve, the female portion of Adam (the soul) couldn't prevent herself; she was bound to be deceived for she was subject to her carnal reasoning. Therefore, she deducted that the tree was good for food and was deceived by her carnal mind. After having partaken of the fruit wouldn't she now have knowledge of good and evil, and surely that would be a step up from the innocent condition of her mind? There is a way that seems right unto a man but it leads unto death. Adam, having understanding chose to partake with his wife (even though he wasn't deceived) so as to not be separated from her. By willingly breaking the commandment sin entered in and man became a partaker of carnality.

By seeing that the tree was good for food and their eyes were enlightened to know good and evil, is same as reading the letter of the Word and carnally deducting what the natural mind perceives it to mean. Yet, when discerned by the Spirit the Word takes on a meaning that the natural man cannot comprehend. Therefore, when the same word is heard by some it is the letter and it brings death and when heard by others it is heard by the Spirit and it brings life. It is the same Word; it just depends on how one hears. Jesus said "*Take heed how you hear.*" If it is interpreted by the natural man and is not discerned by the spiritual man, it is only death, even though it has the potential to bring life. The thing that we must realize is "IT IS THE SAME WORD!"

I must insert here that there were not two trees, but one tree. The tree was none other than the Word of God. In the beginning was the Word, (John 1:1) and this Word was in the midst of the Garden. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life were the two aspects of the same tree. We know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; the Word that was made flesh. When He is received as the letter of the Word, He becomes a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence and death is produced; when He is received by the Spirit He is indeed precious and life is produced. These are the two aspects of the same Word.

When I say that man didn't have the capacity to keep the law, I also say that he didn't have the ability to walk in the Spirit of the Word. That is why he couldn't eat of the tree. He didn't have the ability to partake of the Word without it bringing death. God wanted to elevate him even higher than the Garden of Eden experience. The only way that could happen was he had to be adopted as a son (he had to be made spiritual). Jesus was slain from the foundation of the world that man might be reconciled to God and we could experience the adoption of sons. They that are led of the Spirit of God are those who walk in the Spirit. Adam could not experience this in his natural state as we do; for we are a new creation that is the descendant of the second Adam. The first has died and passed away because he fell short of (he was not capable of) being the spiritual man that God is bringing forth. Now, those of the second Adam are able to eat of the tree and it is bringing life. Hallelujah!

*F. Lee*

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## THE GOD OF THE NOW

By Dianne Hassler

In my search to know the Lord  
And find my Father's plan,  
I found the things I thought I knew  
came from the carnal man.

Vain imagination!  
Of all I thought was Him,  
Had kept me bound to earthly things  
and to a consciousness of sin.

I looked for Him in ministries;  
I sought for Him in prayer.  
I often sensed His Presence  
But still something wasn't there.

Strongholds in my life were such  
That I couldn't measure up,  
to the life of Christ I knew  
and desired to live so much.

Question after question  
Pierced like arrows through my mind.  
What is it I am missing?  
Why am I so blind?

I'd sing those songs of heaven  
And wish that I were there.  
What's the point of struggling so  
to meet Him in the air?

I looked diligently to the future  
for Him to rapture me into His peace;  
but I was afraid before He got here  
I might take the mark of the beast.

Then I would think of death and hell  
And wonder why He ever died;  
If my salvation depends upon  
How hard I've worked and tried.

I know that's not the gospel,  
because He keeps His Word.  
The fact that He said, "It's finished"  
makes my striving so absurd.

A lot more happened at Calvary  
than I used to see in His plan.  
He works everything by His own council  
And it's **His sovereign will** over mans.

His blood reconciled and forgave us  
His Life restores from the effects of sin;  
It's not only His plan, He has purposed  
To reconcile every man back to Him.

Now if I can believe that He did that  
and that it was always His choice, not ours.  
I believe my salvation will progress  
And I'll walk in not knowledge-but power.

I finally saw the problem  
I was seeking what was already mine.  
The Christ that I so hunger after  
was dwelling in me all the time.

The identity crisis is over  
and the thieves who took it are bound  
Hanging on each side of Jesus  
my past and my future were found.

But right in the middle between them  
hung the Almighty God of the now.  
He said, "Today you shall have this."  
It's my birthright and he's showing me how.

It's more than just knowing about Him  
or going to where He is.  
It's having Him walk in my garden  
telling me I've always been His.

Woven throughout this message

Was the question, "Just tell me how?"  
Just how can I know eternal life  
If I don't know the God of the now?

## **EXILE**

Smiling, unsuspecting, I confessed.

"I believe in the enduring, unending mercy of God," I said.

They turned on me, with vengeance, these trusted friends.

They met in groups to plot against me.

Their voices raised into a fevered pitch

Of anger, malice, hatefulness,

Shrieking for my exile;

When it was done, they locked the door against me and returned

To singing their songs, reading their verses,

Folding their hands in pious prayers for the lost,

Content in their conviction.

They had rid Christ's body of the dangerous, perverse and corrupt filth

Of faith in the enduring, unending mercy of God.

*By Patsy Jackson*

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