

# *"The Revelation of Righteous Judgment" Series*

## PART 7

### "JUDGMENT AT THE HOUSE"

(CONTINUED)

**I Peter 4:17...***"For the time is come that JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD..."*

**II Thess. 2:3...***"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God..."* (KJV).

**Verse 8...***"And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming" (KJV); "When that happens, the lawless man will be plainly seen---though the truth of the Lord Jesus spells his doom, and the radiance of the Lord Jesus will be his utter destruction" (Phillips); "And then he will be revealed, that wicked man whom the Lord Jesus will destroy with the breath of His mouth, and annihilate by the radiance of His coming" (NEB).*

With great anticipation we look forward to this great and glorious event...when "the man of sin" is not only revealed, but totally and completely removed from the temple premises! How we long to be free from every vestige of his vile presence, which for so long has held us down, and has obstructed us from fully apprehending that for which we have been apprehended of Christ. It is apparent that as long as he has any room in us, we will experience a measure of turmoil. We will encounter the inner struggle of two natures at enmity with one another. However, we rejoice in the fact that though the warfare be long, the victory is sure! Christ shall surely be triumphant in His cause; and we shall reign with Him!

This glorious promise is exemplified in the Old Testament account of Saul and David. For the sake of brevity, we will get right to the point of our subject in II Samuel, chapter 3. As we enter into this part of the story, Saul (who is a type of the old man, "the man of sin") has already been dethroned; as you recall, when he realized he was about to be overcome in battle by the Philistines, he committed suicide by his own sword (I Sam. 31:1-6). As a result, David (a type of the new man, the "hidden man of the heart") was anointed king over the house of Judah (II Sam. 2:4), and a little later in the narrative, would go on to be anointed king over all of Israel (II Sam. 5:3).

We read in verse 1 of chapter 3: "Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker". Though Saul could rightly be reckoned as dead, his house continued for a season. Perhaps to some, it may have appeared that his family lineage would perpetuate. And no doubt, there were segments in the community who remained loyal to his kingdom. They were determined to resist this new administration to the end, in hopes that Saul might someday rise again. However, as time went on, the house of David progressively increased, steadily growing mightier in power and authority, while the house of Saul waned more and more. Little by little, Saul was losing his influence in Israel. His kingdom eventually became a thing of the past.

In relation to this, we read from the Amplified version of II Cor. 16-18: "Therefore we do not become discouraged---utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear. Though our outer man is progressively decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being progressively renewed day after day. For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory---beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease! Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting". How we praise God for this rendering!

Beloved, we can accept this as an accurate description of the spiritual activity taking place within each one of us, who are pressing toward the mark. The old man, the man of externals, is to be reckoned dead. Though it may not seem that way at times, we know that it is nevertheless true. Remember, we walk by faith, not by sight! We are dying daily to his influence, and he is decaying and wasting away in our lives! At the same time, the inward man is being renewed "day by day". The increase of his virtue and strength comes partly as a result of his reigning in Judah (Heb. "praise"). This new man has learned that his authority over all things in life continues to grow as he abides in the realm of praise. No matter what the situation, nor how dark it may appear, he gives praise to God in all things. He refuses to be discouraged, or overwhelmed by the onslaughts of either Adamic or satanic opposition! Furthermore, he does not base his belief of the demise of "Saul's house" on what is seen---for he knows that appearances are only temporary. They are subject to change. Rather, he bases it on that which is not seen---and knows that God will not fail to perform "that good work He has begun"! He is convinced that his destiny is to rule and reign with Christ, to be seated with Him in His Throne. Therefore, he abides continually in a state of positive assurance, that this momentary "light affliction", this brief conflict with "Saul's house", is actually working in his favor...and will ultimately produce "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"! Hallelujah!

### **NEW CREATION TRUTHS**

There are certain facts concerning the new creation that are absolutely essential to our spiritual understanding, if we are to fully experience all that is available to us in Christ.

Many saints are defeated in life, not because of a lack of spiritual provision, but because of their failure to clearly comprehend and act upon that which is already theirs through the indwelling Spirit. Be it known that from the moment we first accepted Christ, and He took up residence within us, we were then and there equipped with everything we would ever need to live victoriously over the flesh. That's right...everything. II Peter 1:3-4 says, "His divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby He hath given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust". And again, in Eph. 1:3..."Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN CHRIST JESUS"! (That this is not merely a future experience should be evident, in that both Peter and Paul spake of it in the past (aorist) tense: "...HATH GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS"; "...HATH BLESSED US WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS")! By this we understand that everything that belongs to Him, everything that was acquired by Him, and everything that is attributed to Him, came with Him...and is now resident within us! "In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM, which is the Head of all principality and power..." (Col. 2:9-10)! It naturally stands to reason that all that is in Him is now in us, if in fact He has truly taken His abode in us. And all these things are available to us now, as we live and walk in the Spirit! Praise God!

All of this would be virtually inaccessible to us, however, and would have absolutely no meaning to us, were it not for the fact that we, through the process of identification, have been accepted "in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:6). We would emphasize that the phrase "IN CHRIST" is the key that unlocks many a marvelous passage in Scripture. Be it known that our reception into the family of God came as a result of our entering into vital union with Him through faith. And this acceptance came as a result of His substitutionary work, and sacrificial death on the cross; there was nothing we could do to obtain it! "For in Christ our release is secured and our sins are forgiven through the shedding of His blood. Therein lies the riches of God's free grace lavished upon us, imparting full wisdom and insight" (Eph. 1:7-8, NEB). This is the foundational truth upon which all other new creation truths are built, and through which all spiritual blessings are received. And what a wonderful, life-giving, liberating truth it is!

You see, everything that He endured, He did so for us. When He was crucified, it was not for some secret sin of which He was guilty. It was because "the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). As our Great High Priest, He singularly represented us; the whole of mankind was upon His heart. Therefore, by faith, we may truly say that when He hung upon the cross, we hung on the cross in Him. Because He stood in the gap for us, when He died, we died in Him. When He descended into the lower parts of the earth, we descended also; for He went in our place. He bore the entire weight of our well-deserved judgments in Himself, in our stead, because of love. No greater display of love exists!

How do we know that the sacrifice of His life was accepted? Because after three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, God raised Him from the dead! "[He] was delivered

for our offenses; and was raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:25)! The fact that He came forth from the grave, from the dark netherworld of departed spirits, and is now seated in the heavenlies, "far above all principalities and powers", is proof positive that the penalty for sin was borne, that justice was served, and God was well pleased! "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Heb. 10:10)! There will never need to be another sacrifice made to atone for the multiplied sins of men; His was eternally sufficient...and our sanctification is complete in Him! "But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us Wisdom, and Righteousness, and Sanctification, and Redemption" (I Cor. 1:30)! Praise the Lord! He is all in all!

The first part of II Cor. 5:21 says, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin...". He, who was "tempted in all points, yet without sin", was made a sin-offering for us. Why? For the express purpose "...that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"! What exactly does it mean to be made the righteousness of God in Christ? It means that because of the atoning work of Christ, we are able to stand in the very presence of God, totally focused upon Him, without any sense of guilt, reproach, or condemnation for sin past to distract our attention! The word "righteousness" literally means, "right-standing with God"; therefore, we have the assurance that in Him, by Him, and through Him, we have access to the Father. Jesus our Lord has so thoroughly removed our sins, so completely separated them from us, we can now "come boldly unto the Throne of grace, that we might obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16)! Whatever our need might be, we can approach the Righteous Judge in absolute faith and confidence that He will supply. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God" (I John 3:21)! There is no need for us to shrink back in fear, to be intimidated or belittled by a sin-consciousness, for "there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus..." (Rom. 8:1)! What a glorious standing we have in Him! "For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren..." (Heb. 2:11)! Glory to His name! He has made us one with Him! And the righteousness He has provided for us is the same righteousness He possesses! It is not a lesser quality of righteousness; it is the very righteousness of God in Christ!

We were so impressed by the wording of Rom. 8:1-4 from the Amplified version, we felt it necessary to share it here in it's entirety. Keep in mind that this is Paul's summary of the seven previous chapters, and that it is in this chapter that we are brought to see the glorious hope of sonship (as we shall see, there is a definite connection)! Let these words soak deep down into your consciousness, to bring refreshment to your spirits; let them renew your minds! "Therefore there is now no condemnation---no adjudging of guilty of wrong---for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life which is in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being], has freed me from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the Law could not do, [it's power] being weakened by the flesh [that is, the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit]. Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, [God] condemned sin in the flesh---subdued, overcame, deprived it of it's power [over all who accept the sacrifice]. So that the righteous and just

requirement of the Law might be fully met in us, who live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit---our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit". He goes on to say, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For the Spirit which you have now received is not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption--- the Spirit producing sonship--- in the bliss of which we cry, Abba! That is, Father" (verses 14-15)! This is God's description of the life and attitude of a son!

Beloved, there is no greater revelation of the righteous judgment of God than this! To know and believe that He is our righteousness; to have this as our settled and unwavering state of mind; to be thoroughly and completely and utterly convinced of this, is to be freed from the law of sin and of death. It brings us out from under the dark cloud of condemnation, and into the warm sunshine of God's love! Furthermore, when we really and truly accept this as the law of our lives, it releases us from the shackles of fleshly dictates and interpretations of the Law, which had previously held us down and repressed us in fearful bondage (because of our lack of ability to perform it in our own strength), and into the power of the Spirit! It brings us into the light, as He is in the light; into the full acknowledgment and potential and glory of our sonship to God! That should make you feel like shouting!

### **KEEPING THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE**

Beloved, we are convinced that unless we see ourselves as God sees us, and unless we judge ourselves as God judges us (as being the righteousness of God in Christ), we will never quite fulfill our call to sonship. Unless we truly believe that God is for us, not against us; that He has completely forgiven us of our past sins; that He has chosen, elected, and ordained for us to succeed over every obstacle we might ever face, we will never be prepared to judge the nations in righteousness, or restore creation to its pristine glory. The reason for this is because how we see ourselves directly affects how we see others. It alters our perception and judgment. If we see ourselves as condemned, or that maybe God is privately "out to get us", we will generally have the tendency to bring down the gavel of judgment on others. We will most likely be harsh, critical, and condemning of those around us. If we harbor feelings of unworthiness or inferiority, we will be prone to put others down, in an attempt to make us feel better about ourselves. But if we see ourselves as the objects of God's grace, we will be more inclined to view others in like manner. It will cause us to abound in mercy and forgiveness, to be moved with compassion toward all men. We will see that Christ came to save men's lives, not destroy them. And as representatives of His, we will desire the same.

However, there are those who have gone to extremes, in declaring the righteousness of God. They have attempted to justify the spirit of lawlessness; and in doing so, have changed the truth of God into a lie. While we must be fully and firmly persuaded in our minds that He has imputed unto us His righteousness, and that "now are we the sons of God", even though it might not yet appear that way (I John 3:2), we must also be careful not to fall into a subtle snare of the devil. Let it be clearly understood that imputed

righteousness is not a cloak for unrighteous conduct! It is not an excuse for the flesh! Some have taken the scriptures in I John 3:9 and 5:18, and, in an effort to explain them, have stumbled. What do these verses say? "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His Seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God"; and, "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not". Since it is apparent that believers are still capable of transgression, even after their conversion (I John 1:8; 2:1), there must be a logical explanation for this.

We would call to your attention one line of reasoning that, though certain facets of it are fundamentally correct, the final conclusion is definitely not. Perhaps you are familiar with it. Those who embrace it explain it this way. Technically speaking, in the event of the new birth, it is actually the spirit of man that undergoes transformation. Jesus attested to this when He said, "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). Therefore, it is man's spirit that is born of God; the soul and body generally remain the same. Unless accompanied by a special act of grace, his external and soulish features largely remain unaffected. Pardon our crudeness of speech, but if a man was buck-toothed and bald-headed before his conversion, chances are he will still be buck-toothed and bald-headed afterward! Isn't it the truth? Likewise, it is probable that he will retain many of the same mental and emotional inclinations that he had before. He may very well think the same way he did previously about certain things; and he may react in a similar manner emotionally...that is, until he is convinced otherwise. Therefore, the initial born again experience has to do with the spirit in man; the mind and body are to be dealt with later. We know these things to be true, and worthy of our acceptance.

Now comes the error.

In Rom. 7:16-18, we read where Paul says, "If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me...". Now, the conclusion some have drawn from this, and from the scriptures quoted above, is that since no good thing dwells in the flesh, it should therefore be excused from all moral obligations. Why should we expect anything good to come from it, they say, since in the first place it is intrinsically evil by nature? Furthermore, it is reasoned that while the soul and body can and will sin (since they have not yet been converted), the spirit cannot. It was "created in righteousness, and in true holiness", and, as such, is innocent from all transgression, because it has been "born of God"! Therefore, regardless of the manifestations of the flesh, no matter how vile and ungodly they may become, they believe that in the eyes of God the spirit is void of responsibility! It is not included in the act, and is thereby exempt from any blame! (This doctrine has traditionally been referred to as antinomianism, that is, "anti-law").

Now, while all of this may sound very spiritual on the surface, what would be the end result of it? Quite obviously, it would lead to a licentious lifestyle, free from all moral restraint. It would encourage abandonment from accountability; and enable one to openly indulge in the lusts of the flesh, without any sense of conviction. To believe this way

would mean that repentance is not needed after conversion, that "grace covers it all"! And it would suggest that God was no longer interested in things such as equity, fairness, justice, or truth.

Recently, we read in the newspaper where a serial killer made an apology to the families of his victims: "I regret with all my heart what my hand has done". Now, suppose this man claimed to be a "born- again" believer. Should the judge therefore dismiss the charges against him, or find him not guilty, simply because he claimed that his hand acted independently from his heart? Hardly! And yet, this is exactly what some would suggest, who condone such beliefs! We would simply ask: How would Jesus have responded to this? Would He have believed that this man's hand acted contrary to his heart? We will let Him answer for Himself: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders..." (Matt. 15:19)! Enough said! That should be the definitive word concerning the source of this man's actions!

How then should we view the statement, "whosoever is born of God cannot commit sin"? While the Authorized (KJV) rendering is somewhat misleading as we view it at face value, the key to a proper understanding of these verses is found in the word, "commit". The Greek definition gives it, "to practice habitually". Most modern translations make this important clarification. J.B. Phillips translates it to say, "The man who is really God's son does not practice sin, for God's nature is in him, for good, and such a heredity is incapable of sin". Wuest's Expanded Translation words it thus: "Everyone who has been born out of God with the present result that he is a born one of God does not habitually commit sin because His seed remains in him. And he is not able habitually to sin, because out of God he has been born with the present result that he is a born one of God". And the Amplified is very enlightening: "No one born (begotten) of God deliberately and knowingly habitually practices sin, for God's nature abides in him---His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him---and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God". It is not that he cannot sin; rather, he will not allow sin to have dominion over him. He will not permit it to become a recurrent way of life. There is another nature within him, the very Spirit of holiness, that will invariably rise up in opposition to the works of the flesh, and condemn sin in the flesh. While it is still possible for the believer to sin, this new nature absolutely cannot; therefore, it will not allow deviate behavior to persist in the believer! How we thank God for the restraining, convicting voice of the Spirit!

### **"O ME!"**

While it is true that this Adamic "man" within us is the source of our (as well as all of mankind's) woes; and while it is true that we must maintain a proper attitude in this "civil war" of natures, resisting the one, and embracing the another, we must also accept responsibility for the deeds done in our bodies. Too often God's people have made excuses for their wayward behavior---with defenses like, "We're only human, you know"; "The devil made me do it"; "God will change me when he gets ready"; or, "I know it's wrong, but God knows my heart". How convenient these, and other excuses like them, have made it for the flesh! Rather than rectifying our problems, however, these lame

excuses have only served to fortify them! They have actually given place to further aberrations in conduct!

The fact remains that when it is all said and done, it will not be Adam, or the devil, or any other person who is judged for the deeds done in our bodies---IT WILL BE US! We will all have to give our own accounts, and reap the consequences for every action not covered by the blood! This should be an indisputable fact!

The story is told of a certain slave during the days of slavery by the name of Henry. One day, as he was splitting logs out by the woodshed, his master happened to be passing by. "ADAM! O ADAM!", Henry exclaimed, as over and over the blade of his axe pounded into the hard logs. "Henry", his master inquired, "why is it that you say 'O Adam' every time you swing the axe"? "Well", he said, "if it weren't for Adam sinnin' back there in the Garden, I wouldn't have to be workin' by the sweat of my face"! A little while later, the slave owner called Henry to the main house. When he arrived, his master led him back to his private office. "Henry", he said, "I've been thinking about what you said today. And as I considered your words, I began to realize just how unfair life had been to you. You have worked for me since the time that you were first able, and you have worked hard and faithfully. Therefore, I am prepared to exalt you to a position of great authority. From this day forward, you will be in charge of all my servants. Your word will be as my word. Furthermore, you will have your own room in my house, and be treated as if you were my own son. Nothing will be withheld from you". No doubt, Henry probably wondered if this could really be happening to him! It seemed too good to be true!

"One last thing I must mention", the master said. "All that I have is at your disposal. You are free to explore the many fascinating items of my home. However, there is something I must warn you of". Pointing to a small box on his desk, he said quite solemnly, "You must never open this box. For if you do, you will have to leave this house, and return to your former status as a servant".

For the first time in his life, Henry felt that he was free. What an exhilarating experience! For the first few weeks, he spent much of his time just wandering about the plantation, admiring the beauty and splendor of it all. It was as if he had new eyes...everything took on a brand new appearance to him now! After that, he began to explore the many interesting rooms throughout the home: a vast library, fascinating collections, breathtaking architecture. There was so much to take in! It was just as the master had said; he was free to enjoy it all...and he was treated in the household with all the dignity and respect of a son! What more could he ask for?

One day the master went away on business. And before long, Henry's curiosity was aroused. "I wonder what could be in that box? Why would he deprive me of this knowledge? Surely it would not hurt for me just to peek inside". So very gently, ever so carefully, he lifted the lid, just enough to look inside. And just as he did, a small white mouse jumped out! Frantically, Henry chased the tiny rodent from one room, and then to the next. But there was no use; he could not recapture it!

When the master returned home, there was no denying what had happened. And so, just as he had warned, Henry was stripped of his privileges. He was sent back out to the woodpile, to resume his chores. After that, whenever the master would pass by the woodshed, he would hear Henry chopping wood. Accompanying every swing of the axe, he would hear the sad refrain, "O HENRY! O HENRY"! I

f we are honest with ourselves, we can all remember times when we could identify with Henry. Wouldn't you agree? Now, we admit that it may have been Adam who initially got us in the fix we're in; but Jesus fixed it where we would not have to remain there! He has provided a way of escape! Therefore, if we find ourselves "bogged down" in the dirt and mire of the flesh, we cannot rightly pass the blame for our condition on anyone or anything else. As we have pointed out, Adam attempted to do this in the Garden, but to no avail. God would not let him by with it; and neither will He us! If we accept the truth of God's Word, not only will we agree with Henry, but will be forced to exclaim with Paul, "O wretched man that I AM"!

The moment we consent to practices expressly forbidden by God, whether in active participation, or in the privacy of our imaginations, they become ours. This may not be popular theology, but it is true nevertheless. And the moment we become stained with sin, we stand in need of cleansing. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:2)! Thank God, there is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel's veins! It was shed for this purpose, that we might be cleansed from ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS! "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9)! Do you believe it? While forgiveness is not automatic, it is, however, a characteristic of God's divine nature we can count on. Therefore, when we genuinely repent before the Lord (change our way of thinking), His own infallible Word has declared that HE IS FAITHFUL, and that HE IS JUST (His reputation is on the line here!)...not only to forgive us, but also to cleanse us...not just from some forms of unrighteousness; He makes it a point to say, "ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS"! In other words, when He forgives it, He forgets it! He then restores us back into a right-standing in His presence, as if the sin had never occurred! We have it in writing! Glory to God!

As we said before, it is crucial that we learn to judge ourselves correctly, by the revelation of the Spirit. We must not allow condemnation to obstruct our progression in God, once we have confessed and repented of our sins (this constitutes unbelief on our part in His willingness to forgive). As long as we continue this way, we are listening to the wrong spirit, and are entertaining thoughts about God that are not true. Therefore, we must put the past behind us, if we are to have peace with God. Neither must we allow our consciences to become seared through a false concept of righteousness. Certainly, any doctrine that works like an antisthetic to your conscience, silencing the voice of your inner man; and any message that justifies the works of the flesh, is not of God. This is the voice of the stranger that Jesus warned of (John 10:5)! We must find the balance in our relationship with God, if we are to "go on unto perfection"! Know this: if we choose to live in affinity and oneness with the Adamic nature, in accordance to the dictates and desires of the flesh, we will surely die. "To be carnally minded is death...". But if we live

in harmony and in union with Christ, acknowledging Him in all our ways, and conforming to the impressions of the Spirit, we shall live! It's just that simple!

### **THE MARK OF MATURITY**

Allow us to say that the true nature of sonship is one of RESPONSIBILITY. One cannot possibly grow up into the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, without assuming greater responsibility for the deeds of the WHOLE MAN; spirit, soul, and body! Accountability naturally increases with maturity. Even a child knows that. But if we cannot believe that it is possible to "possess our vessels in sanctification and in honor" with the help of God now, how do we ever expect to rule and reign with Christ over the whole of creation in the ages to come? It simply cannot be! Therefore, let those who think they have "learned better" boast of their so-called "liberty" all they want; we who desire truth in the inward parts know that subjugation of these earthen vessels is part of our mandate from God (Gen. 1:28)! It comes with the territory!

While we know that there is nothing we can do of ourselves to become righteous, it is vital that we yield ourselves unto God, "as those that are alive from the dead, and our members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Rom. 6:13). And how exactly do we do this? Prov. 3:5-6 provides the key: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths"! As we learn to acknowledge His voice in all our ways; as we develop a keen sensitivity to the impressions of His Spirit, and possess a readiness to turn from our own ways, the moment we sense the slightest displeasure from Him; and as we allow Him to live His life through us, He is then able to direct us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. And this, dear friend, is the mark of sonship! We cannot possibly fail, when He takes the reins!

Beloved, we have more to say on these things, but we will have to wait till our next writing. However, we are persuaded that in the closing hours of this age, there will arise a people who are arrayed "in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints" (Rev. 19:8)! They will have learned what it is to accept who they are in Christ Jesus, utilize their God-given endowments, i.e. "every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ", and to subdue every earthy tendency within them. Through the empowering of the Spirit, they will "cleans themselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God". When this happens (and it is happening even now), God shall have cleansed His temple, "established His throne in righteousness", and "prepared His throne for judgment"! Therefore, REJOICE O YE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH! THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

to be continued...

### ***GOOD SEED PUBLICATIONS***

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