

BIBLE LIGHT AND TRUTH

Reflections on Scripture

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIANS

“SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS
RIGHTEOUSNESS” MATT 6:23

GRACE AND PEACE

Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." There is great sweetness about that salutation. It is not an empty form of words; it is a genuine wish on the part of Paul, that grace or favour might rest on those to whom he was writing, and that peace might remain with them; peace from two sources which are yet one: God the Father, the Creator, the supreme head of the universe, and the Lord Jesus, who is the appointed channel of His dealings with our fallen race: peace outflowing from them in the tranquilizing influence of divine favour; a real peace which none can invade, as saith the Scriptures:

"When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble, and when He hideth His face, who shall behold Him, whether it be done against a

nation or against a man only?"

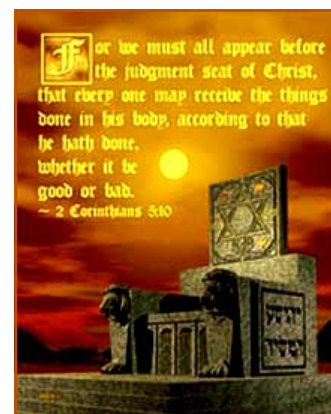
There was, of course, another element in Paul's good wishes; an unexpressed principle underlying his benediction, which we do well to recognise, expressed in the saying of James, "FIRST PURE, then peaceable" His wishes for their peace were based on the fact that they were a community of men and women, walking in obedience to the apostolic commandments, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, being men and women of pure hearts and pure lives. With purity of thought, purity of action, purity of intention, purity of aspiration

A prevailing purity engendered by the knowledge of God, and faith in His glorious promises, and love of the Lord Jesus as the centre of those promises.

Now as believers of the Gospel we occupy a similar position to the Corinthians, and we may venture this morning, as on all mornings on which we assemble around the Table, to take to ourselves the peace which Paul desired to rest upon them; and which he would no doubt desire us to have, if he were writing to us. But whilst looking at the sweetness, let us also look at the purity. Jesus says, "Ye are clean through the words spoken to you;" but we may know the words and not be clean by them.

If those words fail to produce purity, they fail in their effect, and that is what we have to consider on a Sunday morning. We come together on such an occasion as sons of God, and we have to be reminded of our position.

Bro Robert Roberts



Commandments of Christ

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment" Matt 22:37-38

Love comes from the Greek word 'agapao'. It denotes a love based upon esteem. In the case of God it means to exhibit esteem, to prize and delight in Him. God must first and foremost in our life, the centre of our affections, energies and desires.

John states that "God is love. . . . He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins". This love is the Greek word 'agape' and is used to signify divine love, that spiritual bond of love between God and man.

He loved us first, He provides everything we need, surely it is our 'reasonable service', nay joy, to return that love, expressing our appreciation and thankfulness.

God has called us to be His children. As His child our love must be alive, not merely words, but an expression of our whole being.

Andy Peel

CHARACTER

In seeking to attain a perfection of character which is exhibited in the life and example of our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, it is obvious that much can be learned from a study of the faithful saints of old.

The record of their lives and acts of faith as recorded in scripture, reveals some outstanding facets of character, and, taken collectively, these individual gems shine forth as jewels or lights of the symbolic Urim in the breastplate

worn by the High Priest of Israel. Their fullness or completeness is represented by the Thummim or glory which is seen in Christ, who is the anti-type, the great High Priest now in the presence of God in heaven.

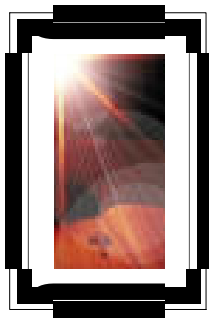
It would seem that each saint can and must endeavour to cultivate in particular some acceptable facet of character that is peculiar to their individual mental or spiritual makeup.

We cannot of course all be

perfect in every respect of character and trying to be so, will only result in dismal failure and disappointment. We can all however, try to emulate examples of faithful characters depicted in scripture. We can all build up a particular aspect of our character from the examples exhibited in the lives of the saints of old and strive to emulate the greatest character of all, the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Adapted: author unknown)

CHRIST RETURNS



Jesus said:

“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love.”

ANON we see Christ again in the world, rousing his dead friends from their slumbers, apprising his living friends of his presence, and summoning them all before him for that grand assortment which has been both their hope and fear from the beginning.

The judgment passed, and the unfit sent back from his presence, we see him take part in the affairs of nations.

We see him crush immense armies; we see him send messages to the governments; we see his claims set at naught, and mighty arma-

ments raised to roll back the tide of his power. We behold a time of trouble such as never was. We hear the dreadful shock of war — universal war; we see armies shattered, fleets destroyed, fortresses and cities in ruins, commerce at a standstill.

We see the tempest roar with unremitting fury till the whole world is a wreck at the feet of Judah’s Lion.

Then slowly, calm ensues; the storm abates; the sun shines; order returns; a new government rises out of the universal chaos. The kingdom of God spreads over all;

the immortal friends of Christ take power everywhere in the name of “Divine right”; peace overspreads the scene; soldiers disbanded; fortresses dismantled; arsenals emptied; the arts of war suppressed; and mankind set free to worship God under heaven-sent guides and governors...



Bro R. Roberts

The Days Review

Let no slumber close my eyes,
 Ere I have recollected thrice
 The train of actions through the day;
 Where have my feet marked out their way?
 What have I learnt, where'er I've been,
 From all I've heard, from all I've seen?
 What know I more that's worth the knowing?
 What have I done that's worth the doing?
 What have I sought that I should shun?
 What duties have I left undone?
 These self-enquiries are the road
 That lead to virtue and to God.

Anon

THE EAGLE BRO D. PICKERING

This powerful bird of prey was a symbol frequently used by the prophets of God to represent enemy nations suddenly launching attacks on Israel. (Deut: 28: 49-51; Jer:48:40, 49:22; Hos:8:1) The rulers of Babylon and Egypt were characterized as eagles. (Ezk:17:3,7) It is notable that in many ancient nations including Assyria, Persia, and Rome, the figure of the eagle was regularly used on royal standards, scepters and steles, just as the USA, Germany and other countries use it today.

One of the main features of the Eagle is its far-sightedness. Yahweh has endowed this bird with special vision. The Eagle, having fixed its prey with its sharp focusing ability, using

cone shaped cells at the back of its eyeballs, can approach in a slanting dive. The target image moves across the back of the eyeballs on a curved path. Unlike other living creatures that have a single clump of cones, the diving eagle has a curved set of cones, which enable it to keep the target in constant focus at any angle of approach.

In the Bible, eagles are used both in revelations and to represent attendants on Yahweh’s throne, announcing messages of Holy judgment to those on earth, possibly to indicate the divine **farsightedness** and swiftness of God’s righteous judgment. (Ezk:1:10, 10:14; Rev:4:7, 8:13, 12:14) Also and



perhaps most importantly for us, eagles are used to describe the way in which God looks after those who put their trust in Him, as set out in the Psalms. (Psalm. 103:1,5; 91:4)

In my opinion, the main lesson we can learn from this superb bird, is to keep our **spiritual eyesight sharp and focused on the target of God’s glorious Kingdom**, by hunting out from Holy scripture, the food we need to ensure that we remain farsighted, not like those in the world shortsighted and blind to the certain nearness of Christ’s return.

Names and Titles of God 2

Name	Meaning	Example
Yahweh - Roi	Yahweh my shepherd	Psa 23:1
Yahweh - Elyon	Yahweh the most High	Psa 7:17; 47:2; 97:9
Yahweh - Shalom	Yahweh (send) peace or Yahweh (our) peace	Judges 6:24

“God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name YAHWEH (LORD) I was not known to them.” Exodus 6:2-3