

1/5/75

10-81

Bill Watson
Berkshire is
my love... (sic)
Gail is

"SAY IT AGAIN"

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

celebrate God
all day every day
revel in him!
world Party

BY ALL EARTHLY STANDARDS, PAUL SHOULD HAVE BEEN A MISERABLE PERSON. IF GLADNESS DEPENDED UPON HEALTH, THEN PAUL SHOULD HAVE BEEN UNHAPPY FOR HIS HEALTH WAS POOR. IF GLADNESS DEPENDED UPON MONEY, PAUL HAD LITTLE. IF GLADNESS DEPENDED UPON SUCCESS, PAUL HAD LITTLE OUTWARD SUCCESS AFTER HIS CONVERSION. HOWEVER, IF GLADNESS DEPENDED UPON DOING THE WILL OF GOD NO MATTER WHAT ELSE CAME INTO HIS LIFE, THEN PAUL WAS A HAPPY MAN. THE BIBLE TEACHES THERE IS NOT ENOUGH WEALTH IN THE WORLD TO SATISFY THE SOUL. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH TRANQUILIZERS TO DEAL WITH OUR TENSIONS. A FEELING OF FRUSTRATION SEEMS TO TURN OUR DAYS INTO NOTHING MORE THAN ANSWERING PHONES, RAISING CHILDREN, TRYING TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF EMPLOYER, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS. ROUTINE AND SAMENESS SURROUND US LIKE A BLANKET. AT TIMES, LIFE IS FLAT AND MEANINGLESS TO SO MANY PEOPLE. PAUL BELIEVED THAT LIFE IN CHRIST COULD BE BOTH SIMPLE AND SERENE WHEN A BELIEVER FOCUSES HIS ATTENTION UPON THE LORD. A MAN LIKE PAUL COULD REJOICE NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE REALLY BELIEVED THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ADEQUATE FOR ALL OF LIFE'S PROBLEMS. WE WILL LIMIT OUR STUDY TO THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE EPISTLE CONCERNING THE THINGS OVER WHICH PAUL COULD AND DID REJOICE. (THE WORD REJOICE LITERALLY MEANS "BE GLAD". THE INDEX OF OUR CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE REVOLVES AROUND THE THINGS WHICH MAKE US GLAD. ARE WE GLAD ONLY WHEN WE HAVE MATERIAL THINGS OR DO SPIRITUAL GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS MAKE US GLAD?)

I. THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD REJOICE BECAUSE HE IS SAVED AND SECURE IN CHRIST - 1:5-7

SEVERAL PHRASES IN THE PRELIMINARY VERSES IN THIS CHAPTER INDICATE PHILIPPIANS WERE SAVED PEOPLE. THE TERM SERVANT IN VERSE 1 SUGGESTS SLAVERY. THE IDEA IS THAT OF ONE WHO HAS BEEN PURCHASED AND POSSESSED BY A MASTER. THE SLAVE HAD NO WILL OF HIS OWN BUT LIVED ONLY TO DO THE WILL OF HIS MASTER. MANY OF THE PHILIPPIANS HAD

Resp.
exp.

"SAY IT AGAIN"

TV. painter (Bar Ross)
he sees the whole picture

2.

2.
BEEN SLAVES NOW THEY WERE SLAVES OF JESUS CHRIST. THE TERM SAINTS ALSO INDICATES THESE PEOPLE WERE SAVED. IT IS THE MOST COMMON WORD IN ALL OF THE NEW TESTAMENT TO REFER TO PEOPLE WHO ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. THE WORD IS RELATED TO THE TERM HOLY. THE PRIMARY IDEA IS THAT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING HAS BEEN SET APART FOR SERVICE TO GOD. THE TERM "IN CHRIST JESUS" ALSO REFERS TO SAVED PEOPLE. ONLY THE REDEEMED ARE IN CHRIST. ONE OF THE GREAT VERSES ON THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER IS VERSE 6. LET ME QUALIFY THE TERM SECURITY. THE BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH THAT ONCE YOU ARE SAVED YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO. NO PERSON IS GIVEN A LICENSE TO SIN IN THE BIBLE. IT DOES MATTER HOW WE BEHAVE. CREED AND CONDUCT GO TOGETHER. HOWEVER, THE BIBLE DOES TEACH THAT THE BELIEVER WHO IS IN CHRIST IS SAFE JUST AS NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE IN THE ARK. EVERY BELIEVER RESTS HIS HOPE ON SOME KIND OF SECURITY. HE EITHER BELIEVES IN TEMPORAL SECURITY OR ETERNAL SECURITY. (COMMENT ON JOHN 6:37 AND JOHN 10:26-30) (BARNHOUSE'S ANSWER TO THE MAN WHO SAID "AREN'T YOU AFRAID YOU WILL SLIP THROUGH THE FINGERS OF GOD?" HIS ANSWER "I AM ONE OF HIS FINGERS!") GOD IS AT WORK IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE. HE WILL CONTINUE THAT WORK UNTIL THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. WE CANNOT ALWAYS SEE WHAT THE LORD IS DOING IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE BUT IF A PERSON IS BORN AGAIN, GOD IS AT WORK! WE DO NOT ALWAYS SEE THE FINISHED PRODUCT, BUT THE LORD DOES! GOD ALWAYS FINISHES HIS WORK. KEEP IN MIND THAT WE ARE NOT HOLDING ON TO GOD. HE IS HOLDING ON TO US. THE TERM SECURITY CAUSES SOME CHRISTIANS TO BRISTLE. IT IS INTERESTING THAT PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN SOCIAL SECURITY WANT TO ARGUE OVER WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE ETERNALLY SECURE IN CHRIST. THIS WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE MORE CONFIDENCE IN WASHINGTON THAN IN HEAVEN! (COMMENT ON GALATIANS 5:4.) THE BASIC QUESTION REGARDING THIS GREAT BIBLE DOCTRINE IS WHOM SHALL WE BELIEVE? DO WE BASE OUR DOCTRINE OR CONVICTIONS ON CASE STUDIES OF PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN SAVED AND TURNED BACK TO THE WORLD? OR DO WE BASE OUR CONVICTIONS ON CLEAR TEACHINGS OF THE WORD OF GOD ON THIS SUBJECT? (1 JOHN 5:4) "FOR WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH THE WORLD: AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR FAITH." THE OVERCOMER IS BORN OF GOD.

How safe
was
Noah?

Prove by overcoming. Those who don't - I don't!

THE PERSON WHO SUCCUMBS TO THE WORLD WAS NOT BORN OF GOD,

II. THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD REJOICE OVER THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL IF NOT OVER THE MESSENGERS
1:12-18

WHILE PAUL WAS IN JAIL FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL, SOME FOLK WERE PREACHING THE GOSPEL FOR SELFISH AMBITIONS HOPING TO GET AHEAD OR CAPITALIZE ON THE MINISTRY. THEIR MOTIVES WERE LOW. THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS SPIRITUALLY MATURE ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT IT IS BETTER TO HAVE A MAN PREACHING WITH IMPERFECT METHODS RATHER THAN NOT PREACHING AT ALL! WHILE PAUL WAS IN PRISON, SOME SELF-SEEKING PERSONALLY AMBITIOUS PEOPLE WERE USING THE GOSPEL TO ADVANCE THEMSELVES. WHILE PAUL WAS IN PRISON, SOME PREACHERS SOUGHT TO ENHANCE THEIR OWN POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH. PAUL LOOKED BEYOND THE PETTY PERSONALITIES AND REALIZED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A MAN TO DO GOOD EVEN IF HE DOESN'T DO IT OUR WAY! THIS IS A DIFFICULT LESSON TO UNDERSTAND TODAY. I PERSONALLY AM IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THIS GENERATION OF BELIEVERS WHO WERE REARED ON A KIND OF FREE-LANCE CHRISTIANITY WHICH KNOWS NO LOCAL TITHES. THEY WERE SAVED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, NURTURED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, AND THEREFORE, KNOW NO LOYALTY OR HOW TO BEHAVE IN LOCAL CHURCHES. MANY PEOPLE ARE CHURCH DRIFTERS LOOKING FOR A BRIGHTER PERSONALITY AND A BIGGER PROGRAM. THEY ARE FOR ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING AS LONG AS IT IS NOT LOCAL CHURCH CENTERED. THEY BELIEVE IN SOWING AND HARVESTING -- THEY JUST DON'T BELIEVE IN BARNES FOR THE HARVEST! HAVING EXPRESSED THIS OPINION, LET ME HASTEN TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE CHRISTIAN PEOPLE WHOSE CULTURAL WAYS MAY OFFEND ME AND MINE MAY OFFEND THEM. THEY MAY DRESS DIFFERENTLY THAN I, LISTEN TO A DIFFERENT KIND OF MUSIC, AND EMPLOY DIFFERENT METHODS. HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH I MAY NOT CARE TO ENTER INTO THEIR ACTIVITIES, I DO AND WILL REJOICE WHEN CHRIST IS PREACHED EVEN THOUGH I AM IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE METHOD. MY APPROVAL OF SOMEONE'S METHODS IS NOT THE POINT. I REJOICE IF THE MESSAGE IS PREACHED EVEN THOUGH I BELIEVE THE MESSAGE IS MORE EFFECTIVE IF THE METHODS ARE CORRECT! (MY GOOD FRIEND WARREN WIERSBE HAS WRITTEN

SPY

A VERY MEANINGFUL ARTICLE IN THE CURRENT MOODY MONTHLY IN WHICH HE SUGGESTS THAT WE ARE SO RELIGIOUSLY ACTIVE AND SO RESULTS-ORIENTED MANY OF US ARE ON A RELIGIOUS TREADMILL AND CHURCH HAS BECOME A CENTER OF ACTIVITY TO THE EXCLUSION OF A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WORSHIP - AMEN! MANY CHURCHES ARE FEEDING THEIR PEOPLE ON ACTIVITIES -- AND I BELIEVE IN BEING ACTIVE FOR CHRIST -- BUT MANY ARE ACCEPTING A RELIGIOUS SUBSTITUTE. DR. WIERSBE SUGGESTS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO FILL THE STOMACH WITH MATERIAL WHICH IS NOT NUTRITIOUS AND GOOD FOR ONE'S HEALTH. WORSHIP OF GOD SHOULD BE PRIMARY IN OUR SPIRITUAL DIET EACH LORD'S DAY. RELIGIOUS SUBSTITUTES LEAVE THE SPIRITUAL MAN HUNGRY. WE NEED TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH GOD IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES.) ADDITIONAL NOTE: I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO DISAGREE AGREEABLY. SOMEHOW DISAGREEMENT WITH METHODS IS A PERSONAL AFRONT TO MANY CHRISTIANS.

III. THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD REJOICE THAT DEATH IS NOT THE END OF IT ALL -- VERSE 20 - 23

SOME OF YOU HAVE BURIED A LOVED ONE THIS YEAR. IT IS DIFFICULT TO LOSE SOMEONE WE LOVE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT DESPAIR AS PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO HOPE. THE PERSON WHO HAS LIVED IN THIS LIFE FOR CHRIST KNOWS THE JOY OF DYING IN CHRIST. THE TERM GAIN IS A STARTLING WORD. THIS WORD WAS USED IN GREEK WRITINGS TO SUGGEST "INTEREST ON MONEY". ACCORDING TO 2 COR. 5:1 THE BELIEVER WHO DIES GAINS THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD. ANOTHER TERM IS USED "FAR BETTER". SOMETHING HAS BEEN LOST IN THE TRANSLATION OF THIS PHRASE. IT IS A SUPERLATIVE INDICATING SOMETHING THAT IS VERY MUCH BETTER. PAUL WAS NOT ANXIOUS TO DIE BUT HE KNEW THAT HIS HOPE DID NOT LIE IN THE GRAVE BUT RATHER IN CHRIST WHO HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD. THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE WILL LEAVE A VACUUM AND TEARS OVER THEIR LOSS. BUT THE BEST IS YET TO COME FOR THE CHRISTIAN. (1 THESS. 4:13-16)

IV. THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD REJOICE THAT HE IS PERMITTED TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST -- 1:29

ANY PERSON WHO WALKS AROUND ENJOYING HIS PERSECUTION AND HOPING THAT SOMEONE WILL PUNISH HIM

FOR HIS WRONGDOING HAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM. THERE IS, HOWEVER, AN INDICATION IN THE BIBLE THAT BELIEVERS ARE CALLED UPON TO SUFFER FOR CHRIST'S SAKE. THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE IN SUFFERING FOR OUR OWN PSYCHOLOGICAL PECULIARITIES AND FOIBLES. WHEN TRIAL OR TESTING COMES INTO THE LIFE OF THE AVERAGE BELIEVER, THE FIRST QUESTION HE ASKS IS "WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS?" THE IDEA IS THAT SOMEHOW GOD IS DEALING UNFAIRLY AND PUNISHING FOR SOME UNKNOWN SIN THAT WE ARE SEEKING CLARIFICATION OVER WHY THIS SHOULD COME INTO OUR LIVES. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT SUFFERING ON THE PART OF THE CHRISTIAN IS BENEFICIAL WHEN IT MAKES US DEPENDENT UPON GOD. WHEN WE LEARN THAT WE CANNOT MAKE IT ON OUR OWN, WE ARE DEPENDENT UPON HIM, THEN SUFFERING WILL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED ITS PROPER PURPOSE. EVERY PERSON GOD EVER USED IN A MIGHTY WAY HE HAD TO BREAK. GOD IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE EXTENT OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE FLESH. SUFFERING IS PART OF GOD'S PROCESS IN DEVELOPING AN IMAGE OF CHRIST IN THE BELIEVER. PENTECOST SUGGESTS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR AN ARTIST TO TAKE PEN AND INK AND SKETCH A DRAWING OF JESUS CHRIST. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE FOR AN ARTIST TO SKETCH AN IMAGE OF CHRIST IN STONE. GOD WANTS TO OUTLINE THE IMAGE OF HIS SON CHISELED THROUGH SUFFERING INTO THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE UNTIL WE REPRODUCE THE IMAGE OF CHRIST AND HIS LIKENESS IN OUR LIVES. JAMES IN CHAPTER 1 VERSE 2 SPEAKS OF THE JOY OF TESTINGS. EVERYTHING OF THE FLESH REBELS AT THIS IDEA. IN COLOSSIANS 1:24 PAUL SUGGESTS THAT THE BELIEVER'S SUFFERING ADVANCES THE CAUSE OF CHRIST. ACCORDING TO PHILIPPIANS 3:10 THE PRIMARY GOAL OF PAUL WITH REFERENCE TO SANCTIFICATION WAS TO ENTER DAILY INTO A DEEPER SURRENDER AND CONFORMITY TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST. THE COLOSSIANS PASSAGE SUGGESTS THAT WE SHOULD DAILY FILL UP THAT WHICH IS LACKING IN OUR EXPERIENCE. SUFFERING FOR CHRIST IS A PRIVILEGE. THIS DOES NOT ALWAYS REFER TO PHYSICAL SUFFERING. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT IS SOMETIMES THE MOST DIFFICULT. TO BE MALIGNED AND MISUNDERSTOOD BY PEOPLE WHO SHOULD KNOW YOU BETTER IS EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT. ALL OF US WANT TO BE APPROVED IN OUR CONDUCT BUT THIS IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE WHEN THE GOSPEL IS AT STAKE. PAUL IS SAYING THAT THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD REJOICE ALWAYS UNDER EVERY CIR-

CUMSTANCE. PAUL HAD THOUGHT OF EVERY POSSIBLE THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO THE CHRISTIAN, AS A MATTER OF FACT, MOST OF IT HAPPENED TO HIM. HE SAYS THAT THE CHRISTIAN'S JOY IS NOT CONNECTED TO CIRCUMSTANCES ON EARTH BUT RATHER OUR JOY IS IN WALKING IN CONSTANT FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST. THE PERSON WHO LOVES JESUS CHRIST SUPREMEY WILL BE CONTENT IN HIS PRESENCE REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY AND YET MOST DIFFICULT LESSONS IN CHRISTIAN LIVING.

4:4

Trailer (Smile) ^{still!} (2 jobs) | I student + Tom McCar
By Today's Standard - poverty + ch. on week ends -
But we had ea. other | pref. for ministry -
part of the goal to sustain -
we willingly did without - to be with ea.
other.
Better than someone
else in a mansion!

"whosoever" - Rom. 10:13

(Interesting that "whosoever" here is same Gk. word as "all" in Rom. 3:23 was)

"believeth" - More than the empty verbal mouthing of intellectual assent. Look at (*John 2:23-24)

An impt. distinction:

Chicken (hen) sitting on the hog pen fence said to the hog - "Porky, if Farmer Brown should decide to have ham/eggs for breakfast tomorrow - I would be involved - but you would be committed."

I heard an entire sermon on the importance of "in not on". This may have been important to that preacher, but not to God - translated both ways in New Testament.

"in/on"
Everlasting
Eternal

Eternal Life, not Eternal Loss!

III. GOD DOES NOT KNOW ANY MAN IN HEAVEN WHO WAS NOT SAVED ON EARTH - Rev. 5:9.

The redeemed reflect upon their salvation experience. There is no second chance beyond the grave. There is no place of departed dead where they can be persuaded to repent. *Luke 16:25-31

This, God's Purpose for Life. 2 Pet. 3:9.
Life, a vestibule of eternity.

Suggestion:

If God could/would take a sinner to Heaven apart from a new birth, the most unhappy being in the Universe!

*Fellow who jumped on an excursion boat at the last moment.
Discovered a church group on outing - for 3 days--

1. Sermons
2. Songs
3. Testimonies
4. Rejoicing

At end of the trip he could hardly wait to get ashore - 3 miserable days. Sinner, you wouldn't be happy in Heaven!

Spurgeon: If a thief got to Heaven unsaved, he would be picking the angels' pockets!

IV. GOD DOES NOT KNOW ANY OTHER WAY TO BE SAVED EXCEPT THROUGH CHRIST. - Jn. 14:6.

Every once in a while someone will come to me with the "what abouts".

1. "What about the heathen?"
2. "What about this religion or that?" (Hindu, muslims)
3. "What about cults?"

My answer is always the same - Acts 4:12.

5 men in a
100 years
1000 years

" 5 THINGS GOD DOES NOT KNOW"

Conscience

It is inconceivable that there is anything beyond the scope of God's knowledge. Nothing in history has ever taken him by surprise. (Atomic age nothing new to Him.) No scientific accomplishment new to Him. Nothing on earth escapes his penetrating eye--no sin, no thought is beyond Him. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount that God sees the man who prays in secret, marks the sparrows fall, even knows of the hairs of our head to the point he knows every hair and sees.... with some of us doesn't require much of a record!

I. GOD DOES NOT KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS NOT SINNED--Rom. 3:23

They say of Washington--he never told a lie! cf. Dr. Pettingill's analysis of David "I said in my haste, all men are liars." Comment--David could have said it at his leisure and it would still have been true! Maybe Washington was not practiced in this area--but all have sinned.

1. "All have sinned"

Not a man who hasn't and does not now sin. We like to change the names from time to time: a drunk is an alcoholic, a bum is a derelict, a thief is a kleptomaniac. Men will go to any length to avoid this phrase: "I have sinned!" (A change in our day--we call various sins-- psychol-problems and the psychiatrist is pastor, office, is church, Textbook is the Bible get the same thing from the Lord and the cost is much less!

Two things about two great people: "I have sinned!"

(Hardest words in the English vocab. "I am wrong!")

David and the prodigal son. (This made or showed their greatness.

2. "come short"

Moule-- an adulterer may stand on the shore and try to reach the stars--a moral man may stand on the mountain top--both short of the goal.

***If the standard to join an elite guard is 6 feet and 6 inches in height. One may be 6-1 or 6-4 but still short of the standard.

Adam sinned and plunged the entire race into sin. 2 Adam made a way to God-- God's divine standard for human life is His own glory.

II. GOD DOES NOT KNOW ANY SINNER HE DOES NOT LOVE--John 3:16

Liberals misrep. this--picture the God of the O.T. a dirty bully. Calvary reveals Love of God for sinner and yet His hatred for sin!

1. "God so loved"

5 things God loves

Heathen know nothing of this. Pagan religions-- survival, hatred and strife. Where do we learn of the "love of God" in nature? (I worship God in nature--hogwash!) Love the world and appreciate His handiwork--but must come to 6 alvary to know his love.

"world"-- In 1 John 2 we are told not to love the world. Of which Satan is the prince. This is the world of mankind. God loves sinners--but not sin!
Moody the Evangelist of love. Edwards of judgment.
**Story of boy--I love you Mother!
**Song--The Love of God.

"gave"-- Love knows how to give and give again. God gave and asks nothing but that we receive His gift--not to shun it. Rom. 5:8

"begotten"-- unique son. Play on the verse. Ans. the next question. 25--12 and 12 Son in middle.

"whosoever"-- Ironside.

"believeth" is kin to the word "faith".

"in or on"--no argument in the text--heard a preacher majoring on "in and on and everlasting and eternal. No point at all in the original.

III. GOD DOES NOT KNOW ANYONE IN HEAVEN WHO WAS NOT SAVED ON EARTH.

The Bible no mention of a Second Chance after death! Don't you believe. If no preparation this side of the grave none can help you--too late.

Who is in Heaven??? All who have died "in Christ!"

Interesting point:

An unsaved person would be miserable in Heaven. Doing what Christians enjoy. (**Fellow who jumped on the wrong boat! Horrible 3 days!)

This is the emphasis of Heb. 2:2

IV. GOD DOES NOT KNOW ANY OTHER WAY TO BE SAVED EXCEPT THRU CHRIST.

**This idea foreign to the Bible--not many ways to heaven.

1 way! John 14:6 **Sincerity not enough!

Acts 4:12

Men say well "I think this, or its my opinion--- your opinion doesn't count in these matters!

NONE OTHER

V. GOD DOESN'T KNOW A BETTER TIME THAN NOW-- 2 Cor. 6:2

There are no tomorrows regarding salvation. A dying man had better not wait!

Excuses:

1. "I don't feel like it."

2. " Im' too young..later on after a few wild oats." Eccl2:1

3. "Waiting on my companion.

"5 THINGS GOD DOES NOT KNOW"

Several months ago I was talking to a pastor friend re this series of messages on the "5's" of the Bible. He had a message - "5 Men In A Bed" - Some of the patriarchs died and slept with their forefathers!

It is inconceivable that there is anything beyond the scope of God's knowledge. Nothing that has happened in history has ever taken Him by surprise: (1) Columbus. (2) Pilgrims - all the events which went together to bring our country to its present state - God knew all about it.

Nothing in the realm of Science has ever taken Him by surprise. (1) Atomic Bomb. (2) Space. (3) Moon Shots. Nothing escapes the all-seeing eye of God. Jesus said that God marks the sparrow's fall, the hairs of our head are numbered. The Bible abounds with verses which speak of the Omniscience of God.

1. "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." (Prov. 15:3).
2. "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He pondereth all his goings." (Prov. 5:21).
3. "He telleth the number of the stars, He calleth them all by their name." (Psa. 147:4).

Some of the newest discoveries of astronomers - 2 Billion light years distance from earth. Light travels 669 plus million miles per hr.

4. "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." - I John 3:20.

There is nothing beyond the scope of His knowledge. And yet, I am going to suggest several things that God does not know.

I. GOD DOES NOT KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS NOT SINNED. Rom. 3:23.

The first three chapters of Romans present Paul's inditement against man as a sinner. These chapters describe three types of sinners:

1. Renegade - Rom. 1:19-23.
In this section Paul talks about the sinner who turned his back on God.
2. Respectable - Rom. 2:1-3
The Moralist. He is guilty of the sins of chapter one. He has sinned against Light. He may lend more respectability to his sins.

*(Illus. of man who was too proud to get drunk. Pride as deadly to the soul as drink!

*(David & Nathan - David's moral indignation against the man in the story - yet he was the man.)

The moral sinner - still a sinner.

JABEZ: THE MAN WHO WANTED TO BE SOMEBODY FOR GOD

I CHRON. 4:9-10

I WAS FIRST INTRODUCED TO JABEZ IN 1953. WE HAVE BEEN RENEWING THAT ACQUAINTANCE PERIODICALLY FOR THE PAST FORTY YEARS. HERE'S HOW WE MET.... S. FRANKLIN LOGSDON THE CONFERENCE AT SOUTHLAND - HIS STORY OF TRAVELING TO ANOTHER CONFERENCE READING THE BOOK OF CHRONICLES - A BIT BORED UNTIL JABEZ LEAPED FROM THE PAGES OF SCRIPTURE. JABEZ CAME TO MY ATTENTION AGAIN MANY YEARS LATER WHILE READING J. OSWALD SANDER'S BOOK ENTITLED A SPIRITUAL CLINIC AND THE CHAPTER ENTITLED "GOD-SANCTIONED AMBITION" A CHAPTER DEALING WITH JABEZ. ALL WE KNOW ABOUT JABEZ IS RECORDED HERE - NOT MUCH BUT ENOUGH FOR A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH. FIRST AND SECOND CHRONICLES IS ONE BOOK IN THE HEBREW CANON. IT PARALLELS SAMUEL AND KINGS WITH THE EMPHASIS ON GENEALOGY. GENEALOGIES WERE IMPORTANT TO THE JEWS WHO RETURNED TO ISRAEL FROM THE CAPTIVITY. THESE HAD TO DO WITH PRIESTHOOD AND THOSE WHO WERE QUALIFIED TO SERVE. IN OTHER WORDS, THESE GENEALOGIES GIVE THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF THOSE WHO WERE QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS PRIESTS. CHAPTERS 1 THROUGH 9 DEAL WITH THREE PRIMARY KINGS - SAUL - DAVID - SOLOMON. CHAPTERS 10 THROUGH 36 DEAL WITH 18 OTHER KINGS OF JUDAH. LET US EXAMINE THE LIFE OF JABEZ AND SEE WHAT WE MAY LEARN FROM HIS EXAMPLE.

I. THE PERSON OF JABEZ - VERSE 9

THE FIRST STATEMENT ABOUT HIM IS:

- A. "MORE HONORABLE THAN HIS BRETHREN" - VERSE 9.

THE WORD HONORABLE MEANS DISTINGUISHED OR NOBLE. INTERESTINGLY, IT IS THE SAME HEBREW

"What
wish"

WORD TO DESCRIBE SOMEONE WHO WAS RICH. IT LITERALLY MEANS TO BE HEAVY. IN THIS REGARD, JABEZ WAS A "MORAL HEAVYWEIGHT" - HE WAS SUPERIOR TO HIS BROTHERS IN THAT CAPACITY. THE TEXT DOES NOT SAY THAT HIS BROTHERS WERE BAD BUT THAT HE WAS THE OUTSTANDING SON IN THE FAMILY - AN HONORABLE MAN WITH AN HONORABLE MENTION IN THE BIBLE! THE SAME WORD IS USED TO DESCRIBE SOME OF DAVID'S MEN. (1 CHRON. 11:21) THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT JABEZ'S CHARACTER THAT STOOD OUT ABOVE HIS OTHER BROTHERS. JEWISH WRITERS HAVE AFFIRMED THAT JABEZ BECAME A DOCTOR IN THE LAW WHOSE REPUTATION DREW SCRIBES FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO HIM AND EVANTUALLY A TOWN WAS NAMED IN HIS HONOR. (2:55) NOTHING OF A DISTINGUISHABLE NATURE IS SAID ABOUT JABEZ'S BROTHERS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEIR NAMES ARE NOT LISTED IN THE TEXT. THE POINT IN CONTRAST WITH HIS BRETHREN IS THE FACT THAT JABEZ DID NOT LET HIS BROTHERS' LACK OF SPIRITUAL INTEREST RESTRICT HIS OWN PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

APPLICATION: SOMETIMES PEOPLE HIDE THEIR OWN LACK OF SPIRITUAL INTEREST AND PROGRESS BEHIND OTHER PEOPLE. OUR HINDRANCES IN CHRISTIAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT MAY BE TRACED TO ONE SOURCE AND ONE ALONE - THAT IS OUR OWN SPIRITUAL INEPTITUDE OR LACK OF SPIRITUAL INTEREST. WE HAVE NO ONE ELSE TO BLAME BUT OURSELVES. IN THIS REGARD, JABEZ REMINDS US OF JOSEPH. JACOB HAD SEVERAL SONS BUT IT WAS JOSEPH WHO WAS DIFFERENT IN BEHAVIOR YET HE WAS FROM THE SAME FAMILY. GENESIS 37:2 RECORDS HOW JOSEPH BROUGHT TO HIS FATHER THE EVIL REPORT WITH REFERENCE TO HIS BRETHREN. JOSEPH WAS NOT A TATTLETALE BUT RATHER BECAUSE HE WAS A RESPONSIBLE MAN WAS COMPELLED TO REPORT THE MISCONDUCT OF HIS BRETHREN TO THEIR FATHER. AS A MATTER OF FACT, EVIL NATURE AND DISPOSITION OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS WAS DEMONSTRATED MUCH LATER IN LIFE IN THEIR TREATMENT OF JOSEPH.

THEY HATED JOSEPH BECAUSE OF HIS FAVORITE POSITION WITH THE FATHER AND HIS OUTSTANDING MORAL CHARACTER.

B. "HIS MOTHER CALLED HIS NAME JABEZ"

THE WORD JABEZ MEANS SORROWFUL. ONE TRANSLATION SAYS, "I BORE HIM WITH PAIN." WE MAY BE READING SOMETHING INTO THE TEXT NOT IMPLIED BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIS BIRTH THAT BROUGHT PAIN TO HIS MOTHER. THIS IS A BIT STRANGE BECAUSE THE BIRTH OF CHILDREN USUALLY IS IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF JOY NOT SORROW. WHAT HAPPENED WE DO NOT KNOW BUT IT INFLUENCED HIS NAME BUT NOT HIS NATURE. WHATEVER THE PAIN IT WAS NO FAULT OF HIS. THE SADDNESS AND SOMBER SIDE OF THIS STORY WAS WITH HIS MOTHER NOT THE SON. HER EXPERIENCE SIMILAR TO THAT OF RACHEL AS RECORDED IN GEN. 35:18. BENJAMIN WAS NAMED "THE SON OF MY SORROW". HOWEVER, JACOB QUICKLY RENAMED HIM THE SON OF MY RIGHT HAND OR STRENGTH. JACOB APPARENTLY SAW THE DANGER OF BEARING SUCH A NAME THROUGH LIFE AND CHANGED HIS NAME. IT MAY BE THAT RACHEL'S LONG LIFE OF DIFFICULTY INFLUENCED HER PHYSIOLOGICAL MAKEUP CULMINATING IN THE BIRTH OF HER SON. APPARENTLY RACHEL LIVED IN A HOME WHERE JEALOUSY AND ENVY FROM AN OLDER SISTER WHO WAS APPARENTLY HER DADDY'S PET CREATED PROBLEMS IN HER OWN MAKEUP. FROM THE TEXT OF GENESIS IT IS OBVIOUS THAT RACHEL NEVER GOT OVER CLINGING TO THE IDOLS OF HER OWN LIFE. YET SHE WAS A WOMAN WHO WAS LOVED BY JACOB. SHE DIED IN CHILDBIRTH IN A SPIRIT OF GLOOM AND SADNESS THAT WAS REFLECTED IN BENJAMIN'S NAME.

POINT JABEZ DID NOT LET HIS FAMILY, CIRCUMSTANCES OR ENVIRONMENT DIM HIS SPIRITUAL DESIRES AND INTERESTS IN SERVING THE LORD. "THE PRODUCTS OF SORROW HAVE BEEN THE RAREST GIFTS TO MANKIND." (F. B. MEYER) (JONI)

WHATEVER HIS DISABILITY, JABEZ DID NOT LET IT DISQUALIFY HIM IN SERVICE TO OR FOR GOD. MOST PEOPLE HAVE NEVER HEARD OF JABEZ. THEY KNOW ABOUT MOSES, ABRAHAM, DAVID AND OTHER GREAT PERSONS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BUT FEW KNOW ABOUT THIS REMARKABLE MAN. JABEZ WAS A NOBODY FROM NOWHERE. HOWEVER, GOD KNEW HIS INTERESTS AND HONORED HIS LIFE AND THE DESIRE TO SERVE GOD FIRST AND FOREMOST. HOW COULD ONE BETTER DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF A PERSON'S LIFE THAN HE DID THE WILL OF GOD AND HONORED GOD BY THE WAY HE LIVED. JABEZ REMINDS ALL OF US THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO RISE ABOVE HEREDITY, ENVIRONMENT AND CIRCUMSTANCES TO EXCEL IN LIFE. ONE NEED NOT WALLOW IN THE SPIRITUAL DOLDRUMS. IF THE SPOT LIGHT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION DOES NOT SHINE ON US, LET US BE GLAD AND USE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT GOD PROVIDES TO SERVE HIM. (COMMENT REGARDING KEN BARKER AND CHARLES HANSEL.) (See clay 17 a dozen)

II. THE PRAYER OF JABEZ - VERSE 10

(1.) A PRAYER FOR DIVINE BLESSING - "INDEED"

THE WORD INDEED SUGGESTS THAT JABEZ WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING BEYOND THE USUAL, ORDINARY OR EXPECTED. JABEZ WAS INVITING GOD INTO HIS LIFE AND HE RECOGNIZED HE REALLY NEEDED GOD'S BLESSING. MANY FOLK WOULD ENJOY HAVING GOD'S BLESSING BUT IT REALLY DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. ESPECIALLY IF IT COSTS SOMETHING IN THE AREA OF SACRIFICE AND SUFFERING OR IF IT REQUIRES SOME SPECIAL EFFORT ON OUR PART. SOLOMON SAID: "THE BLESSING OF THE LORD IT MAKETH RICH AND HE ADDETH NO SORROW WITH IT." (PROVERBS 10:22) (NOTE- THERE IS A KIND OF RICHES THAT BRINGS ALL KINDS OF SORROW. THERE ARE NO SUBSTITUTES FOR THE LORD'S BLESSING.)

heirs of
fortune... not
always fortunate
(Patty Hurst)

"is our greatest wealth"
(Living Proverbs)

(2) A PRAYER FOR DIVINE ENLARGEMENT -
"ENLARGE MY COAST" THIS IS A REFERENCE TO
TERRITORY OR BOUNDARIES. SIMPLY STATED, THIS
PRAYER THAT WENT BEYOND BUSINESS AS USUAL AND
THINKING SMALL WAS JABEZ'S DESIRE TO HAVE A
LARGE PLACE IN THE WORK OF GOD. WE WOULD CALL
IT A "WIDER MINISTRY." SMALL IS NOT NECESSARILY
SPIRITUAL, IN FACT, IT MAY BE SELFISH! THERE IS
SUCH A THING AS WRONG AMBITION BUT ALSO NO
AMBITION. IN A WORLD OF SPIRITUAL FREE-
LOADERS, WHERE PEOPLE ATTEMPT TO DO AS LITTLE
AS POSSIBLE AND GET AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, JABEZ
WAS A MAN WHO WAS ASKING GOD FOR GREATER
OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. HE WAS
SPIRITUALLY AMBITIOUS. HE THOUGHT IN BIG TERMS,
OF ENLARGED BORDERS AND TERRITORY, GREATER
OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE GOD IN ORDER TO BRING GLORY
TO GOD. MANY OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE ARE TOO
EASILY AND QUICKLY SATISFIED CONCERNING
SPIRITUAL GROWTH. IF WE HAVE ONE ANSWER TO
PRAYER EVERY FIVE YEARS - THAT'S ENOUGH. ONE
BLESSING A YEAR WILL DO! JABEZ'S MOTIVE WAS
THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD. MANY BELIEVERS ARE
ALWAYS IN TROUBLE TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT THEY
ALWAYS NEED HELP AND NEVER GIVE HELP. JABEZ'S
CHRISTIAN CHARACTER MOVED BEYOND THE SURVIVAL
SYNDROME. HE DID NOT WALK ON SPIRITUAL CRUTCHES
ALL THE TIME BUT RATHER WAS A MARATHON RUNNER.
THE IDEA OF BEING HELPED AND PROPPED UP ALL THE
TIME NEVER ENTERED HIS MIND. IF YOUR
PHILOSOPHY IS SURVIVAL AND NOT SERVICE YOU'LL
PROBABLY NOT BE INTERESTED IN THE LIFE OF JABEZ.
SANDERS SAYS: "GOD IS LOOKING FOR MEN WHO, LIKE
JABEZ ARE DISCONTENTED WITH A LIMITED OPPORTU-
NITY WHEN THEY COULD BRING GREATER GLORY TO GOD
IN A WIDER SPHERE."

(3) A PRAYER FOR THE DIVINE TOUCH -
"THAT THINE HAND MIGHT BE WITH ME" THIS IS A
PRAYER FOR THE DYNAMIC TO MEET THE DEMANDS.

JABEZ KNEW THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH SPIRITUAL GOALS WITH UNSPIRITUAL METHODS. LIKE MOSES' ROD AND SAMPSON'S JAWBONE OF AN ASS THEY WERE MIGHTY WEAPONS ONLY WHEN EMPOWERED BY GOD.

(~~ILLUSTRATE PULLING A BOW STRING BY A SMALL BOY.~~ IT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY WITH HIS FATHER'S STRENGTH.) JABEZ REALIZED THAT IF HE GOT BIGGER IN OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY HE WOULD NEED THE ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL THROUGH DIVINE HELP. CONCERNING THE WILL OF GOD IN OUR SERVICE FOR HIM MANY OF US ARE CAUGHT ON THE HORNS OF A SPIRITUAL DILEMMA:

- (1) PRESUMPTION: SOME FOLK BELIEVE THEY KNOW BETTER HOW TO RUN THEIR LIVES THAN GOD. GOD IS FOR THE BIG EMERGENCY, THE DESPERATE SITUATION WHERE THERE IS NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO. HE IS THE ONE REQUESTED TO SALVAGE THE WRECK BUT NOT UNTIL THE ACCIDENT! THESE FOLK ARE THOSE WHO SHOW ONLY IN CHURCH PERIODICALLY AND RESORT TO PRAYER ONLY IN TIMES OF CRISES - ILLNESS, MARITAL TROUBLE, FAMILY DIFFICULTIES, ETC. WHEN THE CRISES IS OVER - THEY ARE GONE UNTIL THE NEXT CRISES.
- (2) PARALYSIS: THESE FEAR THAT GOD'S DIRECTION WILL UPSET THEIR PLANS AND THAT SOMEHOW GOD'S PLAN WILL HURT THEM AND CREATE DIFFICULTIES THAT ARE INSURMOUNTABLE IN LIFE. THEREFORE, THEY DO NOTHING. (MATTHEW 28:19)

(4) A PRAYER FOR DIVINE PROTECTION -
"KEEP ME FROM EVIL" SPIRITUALLY MINDED PEOPLE ARE AWARE THAT WHEN ONE MOVES INTO LARGER AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY THEY MAY EXPECT OPPOSITION FROM SATAN. JABEZ WAS CONCERNED THAT SATAN MIGHT ATTEMPT TO SIDETRACK HIM FROM SPIRITUAL GOALS HE SOUGHT. OUR CHURCHES ARE FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHO IN THEIR YOUTH HAD HIGH VISIONS OF PURPOSE WITH

REFERENCE TO SPIRITUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE THEY MISSED THE WILL OF GOD. THE WORD EVIL IN THE TEXT SUGGESTS RUIN OR DECAY. JABEZ KNEW THE FRAILTY OF HIS OWN DISPOSITION AND THE DANGER OF SERVING THE LORD. GREATER OPPORTUNITY MEANT GREATER VULNERABILITY. THE ASSAULT OF THE ADVERSARY WERE VERY REAL TO JABEZ. (I JOHN 5:19, JOHN 17:15)

IDEA: A TECHNIQUE TO ELIMINATE PASTORS FROM CHURCHES. VOLUNTEER AND DO SOMETHING OTHERS DO NOT WANT TO DO. STOP QUARRELING AND QUITTING ON THE LORD. REALIZE WE ARE NOT OVER WORKED BUT UNDER MOTIVATED. ADOPT THE NEHEMIAH SYNDROME - "GOT ANY WALLS YOU WANT ME TO BUILD LORD?" PASTOR WILL HAVE A HEART ATTACK.

QUESTION: WHERE IS YOUR GODLY AMBITION?

III. A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY - "AND GOD GRANTED HIM THAT WHICH HE REQUESTED"

JABEZ ASKED AND GOD ANSWERED. THIS IS A BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATION OF THE BIBLICAL FACT THAT GOD ANSWERS PRAYER. GOD WILL ANSWER THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHOSE AMBITION IS TOTALLY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND NOT FOR SELFISH INTERESTS.

QUESTION: WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME GOD ANSWERED ONE OF OUR PRAYERS?

IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY THINKING OF A SPECIFIC ANSWER PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT ASKED OR IF WE HAVE ASKED HAVE DONE SO IMPROPERLY. (JAMES 4:3) IF GOD GRANTED OUR MOST FERVENT REQUEST - WOULD IT HELP IN OUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT? I AM CONFIDENT THAT WINNING THE LOTTERY, HAVING A BIGGER CAR, BOAT, LAKEFRONT CABIN, OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL WOULD NOT NECESSARILY MAKE US BETTER CHRISTIANS! AS A

MATTER OF FACT THE MORE THINGS WE ACCUMULATE
TEND TO LEAVE US LESS TIME FOR GOD AND MORE
TIME MANAGING OUR OWN AFFAIRS. JABEZ WANTED
TO BE SOMEBODY FOR GOD - NOT SOMEBODY IMPORTANT
FOR SELFISH REASONS.

QUESTION: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE FOR GOD?

IF ITS FOR HIS GLORY THEN TO ASK IS TO HAVE.
GOD GAVE JABEZ EXACTLY WHAT HE ASK FOR -
EXACTLY.