



Mighty in the Word

*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).*

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

Vol. XI.08

Giving Thanks Always

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son
And now let the weak say I am strong,
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son, Give thanks, Give thanks

Author Unknown

Leading people to a life of self-centeredness, a life of selfishness, disrespectfulness, a life in which people believe they are owed things, owed a life of extravagance – a life in which Satan has been ruling for a very long time may well bring this nation to its downfall.

We talk in riddles when we say the nation may be sooner than later brought to its downfall – for the nation is comprised of individuals. Let us be sure if the nation falls, the individuals in this nation will fall. Satan will have won the battle for which he has desired to see come to fruition.

Having written the above, let us move forward in this *Message* or shall we be reminded of those who have gone before us whose nation was taken into bondage and walk with those individuals whose lives were lived for the Lord Jesus Christ during the *seeming* reign of Satan. Let us review some history that we might be strengthened for the time to come of which the Bible has made clear **shall come**.

A great nation was taken captive because of their disobedience, because of their not walking with the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus. Did everyone in that nation walk in disobedience to the Lord God? No. There were those who were faithful unto the Lord, who lived for Him and Him alone, who endeavored to serve the Lord.

How can we not know the joy of the Lord and His love for us, as we experience His blessings in our lives daily, and His presence that goes before us – guiding us with His eye (Ps 32.8)? If we would but surrender our hearts and lives unto the Lord and look unto the King of kings and Lord of lords desiring to serve Him, we would begin seeing, experiencing more fully the blessings of the Lord, that He bestows on us; and our hearts would overflow with thankfulness for Him, for salvation, for the many gifts with which He blesses us. We would live a life of thankfulness unto the Lord.

Sanctuary (Eph 2.19-20)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary ,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You.

Author Unknown

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.
Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ
254-213-8748 (Leave a message.)

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Let us look to an earlier time as well when the children of Israel were leaving Egypt, whom God delivered out of the hands of Egypt. This is a time that we might think we would have been praising the Lord, offering ourselves unto the Lord for service unto Him. So often when the Lord intervenes in our lives, we believe that means we will have an easy life, a life of ease, a life in which we are set free to live as we want, a time in which the Lord no longer requires us to live a life of holiness unto Him.

The children of Israel murmured against the Lord when their freedom from Egypt meant they had to cross over the Dead Sea; they had to participate in the work the Lord had for them as they went to their freedom, a time in which they could freely worship the only living God. They went against those that were chosen to lead them – not wanting to do anything about leaving Egypt but be lifted out of Egypt upon a cloud and set down in a life of ease, a life of no responsibility, a life of continuing to serve the false gods.

If you want to experience, to understand the children of Israel in days of yore, just look around you and see how like them that we are; look at how like the leaders all through history have endeavored to please the people – as do those standing on the pulpitum today.

Where do we read of the thankful heart of the children of Israel as they are leaving Egypt under the leadership of the Lord God through His servant, Moses? Where do we ready of the people's joyful heart as they went through the desert? Where do we read of the hearts of thanksgiving for the Lord God Who went before them? We read of a people who were demanding to have their own way, who demanded they be free of responsibility, a people who wanted the events and experiences in their lives to make them feel good, to have things done for them the way they wanted it, who wanted a life of leisure, walking with the enemy – instead of giving thanks to the Lord God who delivered them out of Egypt, who was leading them to the Promised Land.

Recall how the children of Israel worshipped a golden calf when Moses was called to "come up higher," to receive the Ten Commandments from the Lord?

And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for *[as for]* this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him (Exo 32:1).

There is always someone ready to take over when God's chosen vessel is called to come aside, someone who sees in their mind they could be a better leader. They do not hesitate to endeavor to instill doubt in the followers to cause them to turn aside from the way of the Lord God of Israel. They are eager to please and to lead the people to "turn aside" from the way the Lord is leading them. They are eager to give credit to the gods of this world for leading them.

Oh, how sad that we are so easily distracted from the Lord, from His provision in our lives. We are distracted by the world, by the followers of the enemy, from the

Lord Jesus Christ Who died on the Cross of Calvary because of His great love. We are distracted from the Lord by the ways of the enemy and his followers.

How often do we stop to give thanks for "The Love of God," in Christ Jesus? How often do we seek the Lord and give thanks for His provision in our lives, our daily provision of food, shelter, clothing

Exodus 32:8 informs us that the people "turned aside quickly out of the way which *[the Lord God]* commanded them. How often do we turn aside from following the Lord God in our lives? How often are we distracted and take our eyes off walking with the Lord.

How often do we give thanks for those in our lives who love the Lord, live for Him, and endeavor to guide us to walk with the Lord. How often do we give thanks for those who encourage us to walk on with the Lord? How often do we give thanks for redemption, for the joy of the Lord, for God's beautiful creation, for all the blessings given to us by the Lord? How often do we rejoice and give thanks for the blessings others receive, for their happiness?

I fear our lives are full of gloom and doom because we walk all too often with the world. The Word of God calls us to live trusting the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 (Pro 3:5, 6).

How many of us walk with head bended low, seeing how far from the Lord that this nation has strayed, knowing what happened to the children of Israel when they walked away from the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus and worshiped idols, false gods – fearing the future that lies before us?

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than that he is in the world (1Jo 4:4).

The Word of the Lord makes it clear that those whose lives are surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ, who seek to walk in obedience to the Lord can experience the strength of the Lord in these days that lie before us.

We must be careful not to look down in these days, at our trials, our burdens, our disappointments. We must lift our hearts and eyes unto the Lord in the midst of the trials; we must begin giving thanks unto the Lord for His mercy that endureth forever, for His love shown to us as He went to the cross for our sins, for the call upon our lives to serve Him in these days, as the enemy is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1P 5:8).

When our hearts are lifted unto the Lord doing as we are taught in the Psalms, "Bless the Lord, O my soul we shall experience the strength of the Lord. We shall know the joy of the Lord that is our strength (Neh 8:10).

How can we not know the glory of the Lord in the midst of the sinfulness that is all around us – when we look at God's creation, when we hear the birds sing, and His glory is revealed to us through His creation?