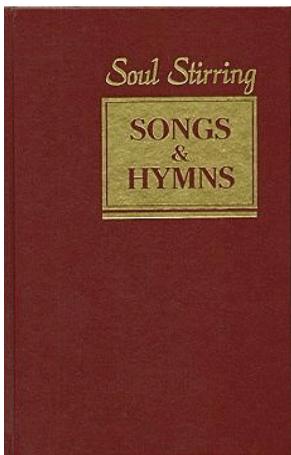


REMINDER

Volume XVI

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A Relic From The Past

Not long ago, I attended the wedding of my nephew in Beaumont, Texas. It was a grand church wedding, but I saw something at the church that took my breath away. As I sat down, I noticed in the enclosure in the back of the pew something that is rare in churches these days.

I had to grab it, touch it, and look it over. It was difficult to believe that I actually was holding a hymnal. Didn't this pastor know that it is considered "old fashion" to have hymnals anywhere in the church? Didn't he know that the new trend and fad is to sing only contemporary worship songs?

Gazing at this old relic, I decided to open it, and look through it. Paging through the old relic, hymns of my childhood raced through my mind. ***How Great Thou Art*** was of them.

What a great old hymn of the church! What a great worship song, yet it is rare to hear it in the churches anymore.

On another page, the hymn ***Rock Of Ages*** caught my eye. I remember reading the story of how this great song was written. It was written by Augustus Toplady and was published in 1775. According to the book, The Romance of Song, the author, who lived in England, was making his way home through a rocky glen. He was overtaken by a severe thunderstorm. Seeing a massive hundred foot rock, he noticed a cleft down the center. He took refuge in the cleft from the fury storm. While being sheltered from the storm, he thought of how our Lord is a rock and shelters us from the storms of life. He penned these words:

***Rock of Ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.***

The last part of that stanza was later changed to read: ***Cleanse from its guilt and make me pure.***

Songs of Prayer

Rock of Ages is a wonderful prayer. When one sings this song to the great King, he's praying for the Blood of the Lamb to cleanse him from sin. When sung from the heart, the words of this song work. Speaking of prayer songs, on another page of the old relic, a song by the late Albert E. Brumley caught my eye. Brumley is famous for the song ***I'll Fly Away***, but he also wrote hundreds of other great songs. One of them is: ***I Cannot Find The Way Alone***. Here are

(more inside)

some of the words of that great song:

*As I journey thru this vale of sorrow,
The way seems so strange and unknown,
Lord, I need a helping hand to borrow,
For I cannot find the way alone.*

*I cannot find the way without thee,
Dear Lord, look down from thy throne.
And make Thy light to shine about me,
For I cannot find the way alone.*

As you travel through this world, you need someone to travel with you, someone to hold your hand. And there is no greater hand than the Hand of the Lord. Isaiah 41:13 says: **“For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.”**

Songs About The Blood

Other songs that caught my eye were songs about the Blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Here are the titles of some of those old, great songs:

The Old Rugged Cross
There Is Power in the Blood
Are You Washed in the Blood?
At The Cross
At Calvary
I Believe He'd Go To Calvary For Me
Jesus Saves
Jesus Paid It All
Near The Cross
Nothing But The Blood
The Blood That Stained The Old Rugged Cross

These are just a few of the precious songs about the blood that was shed for our sins; there were many more.

When sinners go to a church where only contemporary praise songs are sung, **they leave with a good feeling**. They go home with the attitude that they have done their duty for the week; they have praised the King of the universe and all is well. **But when sinners go to a church where songs about the Blood of the Lamb are sung, they fall under conviction**. Why? Because they don't have a right to sing these songs until they have been washed in **The Blood That Stained the Old Rugged Cross**.

Many years ago, a major denomination deleted all songs about the blood of Jesus Christ from its hymnal. Today, that denomination is struggling with homosexuals demanding to be in the pulpit.

Many evangelical churches of today have thrown their hymnals away. When they did this, they threw away songs that came through the flood, the fire, and the blood. An old song titled God Leads His Children puts it this way:

*Some through the water,
Some through the flood,
Some through the fire,
But all through the Blood,*

*Some through great sorrow,
But God gives a song,
In the night season,
And all the day long.*

Many of the great old hymns and gospel songs came in the middle of the night to a dear saint who had just gone through a trial or tribulation. God gave them a song in the night, and He can give you one too.

If you would like to hear some of these great songs, attend a Bill Gaither concert. You will always hear some of the old songs about the blood, as well as new ones. And the Gaither concerts are always packed out.

A Vacuum In The Heart

Why is this happening? Well, there is a vacuum in the souls of man to hear songs about the Blood of the Lamb, songs about the Cross, songs of prayer, songs from the heart, and songs of praise. You will not always hear these songs in some churches.

In some churches, all you will hear are contemporary “worship” songs. These churches are in the same spiritual rut as those who will sing only traditional gospel songs and will not allow some contemporary worship songs. We need to pray for the song leaders so that God will give them wisdom and knowledge about which songs to sing.

According to an article in the *USA Today*, people are gathering **outside** the churches all over the country to sing hymns. The paper quotes Jim Johnson, minister of music for the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Columbia, S.C., as saying this: *“In an age when so many churches are substituting entertainment for worship, many people are finding that shallow and not sustainable.”* A Methodist minister said, *“Hymns are a means of connecting with God. There's a saying, ‘He who sings, prays twice.’”*

- Reprinted from Eagleflight, © by Jerry Depew

LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT....

When you put the pocket change you've been saving up all week in the large plastic jug in the church foyer, you're doing more than you realize. While you're participating in a process whereby the members of our church are working together to help make sure our bills are paid, there are some greater blessings that come from it that must not be overlooked:

- * We learn to be sensitive to the needs of our church and others.
- * We learn to be more disciplined in our spending habits - instead of spending that change on ourselves, we learn to give it to God.
- * It reminds us that all that we have belongs to God.
- * Children learn from their parents the importance of being grateful to God for all we have and to give back to Him of their time, talents, and resources.

These are but a few of the blessings that God bestows on us when we do something as simple as saving our pocket change for our church.

Wonderful, isn't it!





BE SURE AND SAVE YOUR LABELS!

When You Buy “BEST CHOICE” brands at the store, KEEP THE UPC codes from the label and place them in the beautiful new box provided for them in the church foyer!

Associated Wholesale Grocers operates what they call the “Save-A-Label” program, which is an extremely successful program which helps non-profit organizations raise money. Currently, there are more than 10,000 non-profit groups in the AWG trade area that participate in the program.

For every 1,000 Best Choice UPC symbol we turn in to them, they will send us \$30! Not only that, they will match the first 1,000 and give us \$60! And, while this may not sound like much, every little bit helps, so buy Best Choice brands when you can, then be sure and turn in the UPC code after you’ve used the product.

- THANKS!

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

by Evangelist David W. Cloud

☛ **NETANYAHU SAYS JERUSALEM BELONGS TO ISRAEL** - Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cited the Bible recently to prove that Jerusalem belongs to Israel. At a parliamentary session commemorating Israel’s capture of East Jerusalem in 1967, Netanyahu stated that Jerusalem and Zion appear 850 times in the Old Testament. He then said, *“As to how many times Jerusalem is mentioned in the holy scriptures of other faiths, I recommend you check”* (“Netanyahu Turns to Bible,” Reuters, May 12, 2010).

The answer is none. Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Koran, for example. It is fascinating to see secular Jews like the thrice-married Netanyahu quoting the Bible, even though they don’t believe it or obey it. They are back in the land, but they don’t know how or why. They have fierce enemies, but they think this is just bad luck, not willing to recognize that the reason, as in days of old, is Israel’s own stubborn rebellion to Jehovah God and her vicious rejection of the Messiah 2,000 years ago. Israel is back in the land in wonderful fulfillment of prophecy, but she is spiritually dead according to Ezekiel 37:8. We are now waiting for the other prophetic shoe to drop, when the church-age saints will be Raptured, followed quickly by the Antichrist’s rise to power, Israel’s conversion after the “time of Jacob’s trouble,” and Christ’s glorious return. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

☛ **FATHER OF CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC JUSTIFIES USE OF ROCK** - In a recent interview, Ralph Carmichael, who has been called “the Father of Contemporary Christian Music,” was asked how he justified using rock and other forms of pop music. He replied, “In the 1700’s and 1800’s, poets wrote many of our traditional hymns, combining the unchanging message with popular secular melodies. And they

were sternly criticized. The musical “pop” style of the 1800’s is what we now call traditional, though it did not come from within the church” (“He Started the Revolution in Christian Music,” AssistNews.net, May 8, 2010).

[Pastor’s Note: Of course, he is twisting the truth of what really happened. Because most of the populace was illiterate, they certainly couldn’t read music. So, the Christian hymn writers of that era took melodies that were known by the people and put Christian words to them - they did NOT take songs that were written for the saloon and “Christianize” them, as so many who try to justify the modern “contemporary” Christian music scene say! These were good tunes, musically, and they didn’t violate biblical principles for music, so it was perfectly acceptable for these composers to use them in the church. - TWW]

It is wrong to compare the use of an innocent secular tune in Christian music to the use of the world’s filthy party music. Just because a tune is “secular” does not make it wrong. What is wrong about using rock music in the Lord’s service is that it was designed from its inception to flaunt God’s laws. It is irredeemably sensual. The book **Rock Facts**, which is published by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, admits that rock is not just a type of music, IT IS A LIFESTYLE:

“... rock and roll has truly become a universal language ... rock and roll also refers to an attitude, a feeling, a style, a way of life...” (Rock Facts, 1996, p. 7).

In his interviews with Playboy, John Lennon said, *“The whole Beatles idea was to do what you want.”*

The philosophy of rock & roll was encapsulated in hits in the 1960’s by the groups such as the Rolling Stones (*“I’m free to do what I want any old time”*), the Animals (*“It’s my life and I’ll do what I want”*), the Mamas and the Papas (*“You got to go where you want to go/ do what you want to do”*), and the Isley Brothers (*“It’s your thing/ do what you want to do”*).

To take such music, which by its very rhythm preaches licentiousness and rebellion, and to use it in the service of Christ is confusion and apostasy. Carmichael’s music is popular across all denominational lines in the most apostate hour of church history, and if that doesn’t convince you that it is not spiritual music you are beyond convincing.

CCM is music to scratch the itching ears of those who live by their lusts -

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (II Tim. 4:3-4).

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come”

-Matthew 24:42

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Charity Crawford
 Cradle Roll 2: Brian Crawford
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Volunteers Needed!!!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of May 16, 2010

Sunday School ----- 24
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 32
 Lord's Supper Service ----- 35
 Wed. Eve. Service, 05/19/10 ----- 19

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of May 16, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 745.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 46.00
Total Received for Week of 05/16/10: \$ 791.00

**Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church EACH WEEK,
 as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00**

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today - OK?* Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White

"The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." Ps. 46:7

