

### *About This Book..*

Since the first issue in January, 1963, the monthly Bible study/devotional booklet "Amazing Grace" has been consistent. Edited by Pastor Win Johnson until he went Home in 1993, it was his conviction that the way Saints could become established and increase their 'devotion' to the Lord was to spend time studying the Word every day.

The monthly booklet has been unique in that the writers have been committed to the preaching and teaching of "Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery" [Romans 16:25]. We are grateful for their faithfulness to God and His Word as they have shared their insight with all of us.

In looking back through forty-eight years of articles, we have been encouraged, inspired and blessed again and again.

Now as we present a one-year book with 366 'favorites', it is our prayer that the Lord will use it to bring blessing to *your* life in a special way.

*Ron Achtyes*

“Study  
to show thyself  
approved unto God,  
a workman that  
needeth  
not to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing  
the word of  
truth.”

II Timothy 2:15

## HEALING IN THE BOOK OF ACTS & HEALING AFTER THE CLOSE OF ACTS

*Scripture Reading: Acts 5:16, II Timothy 4:20*

The Book of Acts covers a period of transition as the Kingdom Gospel declines and the Gospel of the Grace of God increases. The longsuffering of God delayed His final setting aside of His disobedient people Israel, giving them every opportunity to repent. Although the power to perform miraculous acts was gradually fading, the gift of healing remained throughout the entire period. "By the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people...insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets...that at least the shadow of Peter might overshadow them...and they were healed every one" (Acts 5:12-16). Not only the twelve kingdom apostles, but Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, maintained healing power. "There sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet...who had never walked....Paul said, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked" (Acts 14:8-10).

Even in the final chapter, Paul is still performing miraculous deeds. (See Acts 28:3-9.) But as the book closes, Paul delivers the final word of Israel's setting aside. "The salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and they will hear it" (Acts 28:28). From this time forward, Paul's healing power is over. He tells the ailing Timothy, "Use a little wine for thy stomach's sake" (I Timothy 5:23); and "Trophimus have I left at Miletum—SICK" (II Timothy 4:20).

REH

Notes:

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DOCTRINE

*Scripture Reading: II Timothy 2:15, 3:16-4:2*

If we would learn the truth, we must of necessity turn to the one source of truth—the Holy Scriptures. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). We will not so learn by randomly quoting verses plucked from a "promise box." Neither will we gain knowledge of the truth by sitting under the ministry of clerics who ramble from point to point in their pulpits, moralizing and theorizing and spiritualizing. Pure truth can be learned only from pure *doctrine*; and the source of pure doctrine for this age and dispensation is the pen of the Apostle Paul.

Paul wrote in his epistle to the Romans, "God be thanked...ye have obeyed from the heart that form of DOCTRINE which was delivered you....Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the DOCTRINE which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 6:17, 16:17). To his young son in the faith, he wrote, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the DOCTRINE; continue in them....Thou hast fully known MY DOCTRINE....continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them" (I Timothy 4:16a, II Timothy 3:10a, 14).

We are provided not only with the sound doctrine of spiritual truth but also with instruction as to its proper exposition. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing* the word of truth....*All Scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for DOCTRINE...for instruction in righteousness."

REH

Notes:

## THE DOCTRINE OF PRAYER

*Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:6-7*

"I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:11b-13). With these words our apostle reveals much in regard to how we are to pray in this age of grace.

If, as so many believe, prayer is a means of obtaining whatever the petitioner desires, then why does Paul make the above statement? Why did he not simply ask and receive whatever comforts and abundance he may have wished? And why, after explaining his willingness to be deprived, does he assure us that "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (verse 19)?

Paul is affirming his faith in the Lord, Who enables and provides according to His will and purpose. He is teaching reliance upon God for strength to endure and withstand and perform; and he tells us that God shall supply all our *need*—not all our self-determined and whimsical favors.

In his second epistle to Timothy, Paul wrote, "Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick" (II Timothy 4:20b). Why didn't he just pray healing upon Trophimus instead of leaving him incapacitated at Miletum? We must follow Paul in prayer, so that "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

REH

Notes:

## THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM

*Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23*

William R. Newell has written, "Paul is God's messenger and apostle to the Gentiles. Therefore, he who knows not Paul's Gospel is ignorant of what God has to say in these times of the Gentiles. Paul's letters constitute an INDEPENDENT and COMPLETE body of doctrine. They reveal not only God's method of salvation in this age, but also *the true character, calling and destiny of the Church*. Paul has spoken with authority from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ those great facts which concern Christ and the purposes of God in Him, which pertain to THIS PRESENT AGE."

Thus Paul is *our* apostle—we who are today saved by the grace of God in this present dispensation of His grace. As our apostle, he prays for us, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the mighty working of His power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places."

Sadly, most professing Christian believers have been reared in tradition, "churchianity," moral philosophies, and humanism. Accordingly, they have never really been exposed to the pure truth of God's Word, Scripture. Those who are sincere believers, though they are saved, have not the full joy in their hearts that God has provided.

REH

Notes:

## THE GLORIOUS APPEARING

*Scripture Reading: Titus 2:13*

As members of the Church the Body of Christ, we have the greatest eternal expectation of all the ages. While Israel has an earthly promise, ours is a heavenly promise. "For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence we look for [expect, anticipate] the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself" (Philippians 3:20-21).

Whereas Israel will dwell in their promised earthly kingdom in their physical bodies, we will be seated in our promised heavenly abode in spiritual bodies. "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep [experience physical death], but we shall all be changed" (I Corinthians 15:51).

Unlike His physical return to earth to establish His prophesied kingdom, His catching us up into glory will be in mid-air. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Hence, we are "looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people."

"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:3-4).

REH

Notes:

## CHRIST THE HEAD

*Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:12, 19*

We live today in the dispensation of the grace of God—not the dispensation of the law, not the dispensation of the kingdom promise but the dispensation of the grace of God. Those who are saved by God's grace are a very special people; we are components of a distinctive union of believers; we are members of the Body of Christ, which is His Church. "He gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself *a peculiar people*, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). Positionally, we are blessed above all former generations. Christ dwells within us. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who *hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places IN CHRIST*" (Ephesians 1:3). Not only are we in Christ but Christ is in us: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27b).

More than this, the entire trinity dwells within us! "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the [HOLY] SPIRIT OF GOD dwelleth in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16)... "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the HOLY GHOST which is in you...?" (I Corinthians 6:19)...As if this were not enough, "Our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20a). We have full assurance that the Lord will take us there physically (in spiritual bodies). "When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:4). "Know ye not that your bodies are members of Christ?" (I Corinthians 6:15a)...Who then is Christ to us? "[God] hath put all things under His feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, WHICH IS HIS BODY" (Ephesians 1:22).

REH

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