

Midnight Cry Messenger

FREELY SHARED WITH THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY FOR TRUTH — NOT TO BE SOLD

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Life Out Of Death

by C. Parker Thomas

(Editor's note: This article was published in the January-February-March 1990 issue of the "Midnight Cry Messenger" with the following introduction: "Although this article was first published over 30 years ago, it contains much truth that is very relevant to what the Lord is doing today.")

In these days we hear much about "being conformed to the image of his son," but most of us do not know the path which must be taken if we are to be made like the Lord Jesus. Hebrews 5:8 declares, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." This path of suffering cannot be escaped if we are to be made in his likeness. Romans 6:5 says, "for if we have been planted

together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." Now we know that positionally we died with Christ, but we must experience the daily death mentioned by Paul in I Cor. 15:31. "I die daily."

Let us look at the life of Jesus and see some of the things which he suffered. After his baptism by John the Baptist and the coming of the Spirit on Him, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. The very first temptation was to satisfy his physical desires. Later he performed a miracle to feed the 5000 but he would not give in to the desires of his own suffering flesh.

In the garden when "his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" his human nature cried out to be spared the cup of suffering, yet he prayed that the perfect will of his Father be done. He did not resist when he was betrayed by one of the 12. At his trial when he was

buffeted, spit upon, and smitten in the face, he murmured not. Then when he was led away to Golgotha to bear our sins, he went willingly, obediently because it was only as his life was poured out that life could be given to others.

While he was hanging there on the cross, those who crucified him mocked him saying, "He saved others, himself he cannot save." The truth is that he could not because he would not. If he had come down from the cross we would still be in our sins. But blessed be his name, He "bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness."

Now, you say, if Christ died for our sins, how is it that we die? "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS."

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Your Adversary

by C. Parker Thomas

NOTE: Awhile back, while looking through some of our oldest issues of the MCM, we uncovered this timely gem, published in about 1960! Originally published in two parts, it is reprinted here in its entirety. There is a simple directness and clarity in this teaching that will help anyone who desires to walk with the Lord and overcome in this hour. I believe that many of you will be amazed at how something written that long ago could be so perfectly relevant to the present need of God's people!

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR ENEMY?

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His

eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." I Peter 5:8-10.

In reality there are only two powers in the whole universe ... God and Satan. Light and darkness. Life and death. One brings order, peace, and life, the other brings chaos, torment and death. One gives clarity, sanity and peace of mind; the other anguish, and insanity. God is the author of health and happiness. Satan is the author of sickness, sorrow and death. All good is from God. All evil is from Satan. James 1:17; 3:14-17. God is the deliverer. Satan is the oppressor.

THE TWO KINGDOMS

Under the reign of God we have his people and the myriad of angels that are ministering spirits

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Editor's Letter

Dear Saints,

Greetings to all in the wonderful name of Jesus! Here we are again with the fourth quarter issue of 2015 coming in early 2016! We trust that the coming year will be blessed and fruitful for God's people everywhere.

Unless you are living in a cave somewhere you are aware that the world we live in is becoming more and more uncertain. Jesus spoke of time when men's hearts would be failing them for fear because of events in the world (Luke 21). How wonderful it is to remember that in Christ we stand firm and secure upon the Rock of Ages no matter what earthly circumstances may come!

We need the Lord as never before as we move and closer and closer to the end of the age. A scripture from Obadiah, verse 17, has come to me a number of times recently: "But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy, and Jacob will possess his inheritance."

I believe that God's heart for His people is that we should in a much greater measure possess our inheritance. Think of the inheritance we have in Christ. Paul refers in Eph. 3:8 to the "unsearchable riches of Christ." And yet how much of the amazing inheritance purchased for us at the cross is actually a living reality in our daily lives? How much do we profess with our minds and mouths to believe and possess and that in experience we know little about? A sobering question.

Is it any wonder that the one thing Paul did was to press on toward the goal (Phil. 3:13-14)? He saw his need not just to believe and profess correct doctrine but to actually experience the riches to which he had been called when Christ laid hold of him. In this Paul is our example.

Long ago God gave the Israelites the promised land and yet it was necessary for them fight for it. The giants didn't want to go! But when they believed God's promise more than the giants and the walled cities God gave them victory after victory.

We, too, have giants to contend with. Most of them are within. Yet God's promise is that when he

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As Born-Again ones, we know of our death to sin, but we know little about being conformed to death. It is as we are made conformable to his death that we manifest the life of the Lord Jesus. If we continue to take the easy way out, refusing to take up our cross daily and follow Him, then we cannot expect the life of Christ to flow out to others. If we seek to save ourselves, then we cannot expect to save others.

You say, "but I thought the Christian life was a life of joy and not of suffering." Hebrews 12:2 says, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame." We seem to think that because we have been saved from sin that we are to be free from suffering. Do not mis-

appears we will be like him! 1 John 3:2. It is wonderful to read of all the great victories in the Bible but God longs for us to experience Him in the here and now. Let us seek Him to that end with a confidence that in his promises we have all that we need (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

In this issue we revive some articles by Bro. Thomas from early in his ministry. There are truths that are timeless yet particularly relevant at certain times. This is one of those times.

Lord willing, Bro. Carl Johnson and I will leave in mid February for a short get-acquainted visit to Kenya. We have been in touch with people from Kenya for many years yet have never traveled there. I wish we could go everywhere and see everyone but at least this visit will be a start. Please remember us that the Lord will watch over every detail and will be glorified and that saints will be encouraged and strengthened in the faith.

Till next time may God's rich blessings be yours.

Your brother in Christ,
Phil Enlow

NOTICE

Once again it is time to update the mailing list. Since the paper is sent out free of charge we feel it is only right that it be sent only to those who truly desire to receive it. The only way we have of knowing that is for people to write and let us know. If you have not written in years and still desire to receive the paper PLEASE LET US KNOW!

ALSO: There has been confusion in the minds of some as to how often we publish the MCM. At the present time we publish quarterly or four times per year.

take the suffering I am talking about to be sickness, disease, bereavement, etc. That kind of suffering is not nearly so grievous to the flesh as the suffering spoken of in I Peter 4:11, "for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." There is a vast difference in this kind of suffering. Peter continues in verse 13, "rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." My dear reader, we will know joy unspeakable and full of glory if we count not our lives dear unto ourselves but live a poured-out life.

There is no short-cut to being made in his image. There is no one experience by which we become like him. It is a daily dying, "always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you." II Cor. 4:10-12. As death worked in Christ, then life worked in those for whom he died. We died with Christ, therefore, as we reckon or count ourselves to be dead with him, his life is worked in us and through us to others.

Do you know Christ as your Saviour from sin and yet seem not to know the out-flowing of the Christ-life to others? Then perhaps you have been trying to save your life, not knowing the provision that has been made for you to die, and yet live (yet not you but Christ in you).

The Scriptures tell us to reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to the Lord Jesus. To reckon means to count it so. We are dead to sin and alive to the Lord Jesus, therefore when we are faced with a situation where we must choose the line of least resistance and live to the flesh, or die to our own desires and live unto Christ, we remember that we are dead and our life is hid with Christ in God, and we mortify (make dead) the deeds of the body and live!

We do not have to struggle and strive in order that we be conformed to his death, but claim it because it has been made available to us. As we identify ourselves with that death and continually appropriate the power of that death, the resurrection life will come forth and we will "save others" instead of vainly trying to save ourselves.

The mocking crowd around the Cross cried, "If thou art the Son of God, come down from the Cross." But little did they know how far they were from the truth. For if he had come down, he never would have been declared the Son of God with power. He had to die in order to be raised from the dead. Paul tells us that Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God with Power, according to the spirit of holiness, BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE

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DEAD." Romans 1:4. And remember, Christ suffered for us, "leaving us an example that ye should follow IN HIS STEPS."

If we expect to become mature Sons of God, we must walk the same path as our Lord walked, the path of death, burial and resurrection. "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lust of men, but to the will of God." I Peter 4:1-2.

In II Corinthians 1:3-10, Paul says that God gave them comfort in their tribulations "that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that WE DESPAIRED EVEN OF LIFE; BUT WE HAD THE SENTENCE OF DEATH IN OURSELVES, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us."

You see, dear ones, this divine principle of life out of death works. The death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus is more than just historical fact. Do you see why all the service that is being done "for" God today is fruitless: I Corinthians 4:15 gives a true picture of the religious world today. "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel." A father is one who reproduces children. The world is filled with teachers and preachers who preach an historical Christ and an historical cross, but how few of them know anything about participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. That is why children are not brought to the birth and then nurtured to full-grown sonship. How grieving it must be to our Father that his children are not reaching maturity that they might be able to reproduce children themselves.

"And all through life I see a Cross, Where sons of

God yield up their breath; There is no gain except by loss, There is no life except by death."

You ask, "Is it possible for a person who is born-again to choose between the path of suffering and death and the path of seeking to save one's own life?" Paul seems to indicate that is possible, but the end of that one is not a pretty picture.

In I Corinthians 3 he was writing to babes in Christ, carnal or fleshly Christians. He says in verses 9-17, "For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that we are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

In chapter 6, verses 12, 19, and 20 he states, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, BUT I WILL NOT BE BROUGHT UNDER THE POWER OF ANY... What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Then in chapter 9 verse 27, Paul states his own determination, "But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should become a castaway," i.e., disapproved or disqualified.

Jesus' suffering was voluntary for he said, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself." John 10:17-18. Why not take the way of our Lord, the way of death, that we who suffer with him might also reign with him? Romans 8 tells us that "if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For ... the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the SONS OF GOD."

This seeming paradox of dying and living at the same time cannot be comprehended by the natural

man. But it is simple to those who have died to sin and realize their position in Christ. When the husband or wife speaks harshly, we keep sweet. When we are smitten on one cheek, we turn the other. Instead of being ministered unto, we minister. Instead of seeking to save our life, we lose it. All of this of course, because of the Christ in us who lives as we die. Then the love of I Corinthians 13 is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost and the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance, flows out of our innermost beings as rivers of living waters. It is then that the gifts of the Spirit, which are our tools, will operate by divine love and will thereby be edifying and profitable to the church, which is the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

If we would be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus, then let us "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Let us "present our bodies as living sacrifices" or "living deaths." "But the God of all grace who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, AFTER THAT YE HAVE SUFFERED A WHILE, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. TO HIM BE GLORY AND DOMINION FOR EVER AND EVER, AMEN." I Peter 5:10-11.

This beautiful song by A. B. Simpson bears out the truth of this message.

*I am crucified with Jesus,
And the cross hath set me free;
I have risen again with Jesus,
And he lives and reigns in me.*

*Mystery hid from ancient ages;
But at length to faith made plain;
Christ in me the Hope of Glory,
Tell it o'er and o'er again.*

*This the secret, nature hideth,
Summer dies and lives again,
Spring from winter's grave ariseth,
Harvest grows from buried grain.*

*This the story of the Master,
Through the Cross, He reached the Throne,
And like Him our path to glory,
Ever leads through death alone.*

*Oh! it is so sweet to die with Jesus,
To the world, and self, and sin;
Oh! it is so sweet to live with Jesus,
As he lives and reigns within.*

~ Pray For Us! ~

Website: www.midnightcry.org

Your Adversary

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sent forth to minister to the heirs of salvation. Heb. 1:14. Some of the angels are greater in power and wisdom than others. The talents and callings of God's people vary also.

Under the reign of Satan, who is a fallen angel of a very high order, there are also a myriad of evil spirits known as demons. The world of lost unregenerate men are likewise his instruments. Satan's kingdom is organized and divided into various provinces with fallen angels called princes over these provinces.

The evil prince of Persia that withstood the archangel, Gabriel, from coming to Daniel is an example of such an evil prince (Daniel 10:12-13). Of course Satan is the chief over all, called the prince of this world by Jesus and the prince of the power of the air by Paul. John 14:30; Eph. 2:2.

GOD'S PEOPLE

God's people are hated and oppressed by this evil adversary and his wicked host of evil spirits. This battle has been going on since the garden of Eden. The unregenerate world of men and their world systems (governments) to a great extent are under the control of Satan. That is the reason the world hates Christ and his people. John 17:14, 15:18-19, II Tim. 3:12, I John 3:11-15.

The very first essential for God's people in this great battle is to realize who the real enemy is. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, and against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Though man is used of Satan as an instrument to cause much grief and sorrow, our real enemy is the unseen wicked forces of Satan. Failure to recognize this enemy has caused God's people to suffer needlessly.

In Hosea 4:6 the Lord says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." How true this is of the people that do not know who their real enemy is.

BIBLE EXAMPLES

There are many Bible examples where Jesus and the disciples met this enemy in the person of various evil spirits. They not only recognized these evil spirits but they also exercised authority over them in casting them out of their victims.

No doubt many of the physical and mental illnesses of today are the work of demons or evil spirits. Malignancies such as cancer, tumors, etc., are caused by some sort of destructive spirit life. Even germs that can only be seen under a microscope have life in them. Of course this life is satanic and destructive

because it lives at the expense of man's life.

In Mark 9 we have a young boy possessed with a spirit that caused him to foam at the mouth, gnash with his teeth and pine away (a type of melancholy). This spirit often cast this boy into the fire and into the water. The symptoms of this condition sound exactly like what we know today as epilepsy. However, Jesus called it a deaf and dumb spirit.

The woman in Luke 13 was all bowed over and Jesus called the spirit responsible for her condition a spirit of infirmity. Perhaps her condition today would be known as rheumatism or arthritis. Mary Magdalene had seven devils in her.

In other instances these spirits were called foul spirits, unclean spirits, spirits of divination, and simply evil spirits. In some cases the victims were what we would classify today as mental cases such as the Legion in Mark 5. In others the victims were affected physically and morally.

If we believe the Bible there is certainly abundant evidence that evil spirits are responsible for much of the ills (mental, physical and moral) that plague the human family. Perhaps some day we will be astonished to learn that this enemy either directly or indirectly is responsible for all of our troubles. However, let me inject this note of truth:

OPPRESSION AND POSSESSION

There are two ways the enemy afflicts men. In some cases evil spirits actually take up their abode and live and dwell in a human being. At times such individuals appear normal but at other times they manifest the varied characteristics of the evil spirit that dwells in them. For instance if it is a covetous spirit the possessed person is very tight in money matters and is always on the alert and suspicious where money is involved. Sometimes they will stint and save at the expense of eating out of garbage cans to save money.

One possessed of an alcohol demon becomes a hopeless alcoholic that is literally driven to drink even though he sincerely desires to give it up during times of sober reflection.

One possessed of a sex devil cannot cease from trying to satisfy his abnormal lust. This terrible lust spirit will also drive his victims to commit terrible sex crimes which we so often read about in the papers.

Any continual abnormal manifestation of the depraved nature of man such as jealousy, hatred, evil-speaking, lust, pride, physical uncleanness, various forms of insanity or mental delusions, may be caused by demon possession.

Sometimes the oppression of the enemy is almost as great as demon possession. In fact, I personally believe it can be more tormenting at times than demon possession. Christians are especially subject to the oppression of the enemy. Only those that have

grown up in Christ and understand the wily ways of this enemy can resist him effectively.

I have personally dealt with several cases of severe demon oppression in the past few years and in most cases the victims were not even aware of the true source of their trouble. The greatest obstacle to overcome with most of them was to get them to understand and recognize their adversary. Most of them were suffering such mental anguish until they literally wished they could die. Some of them contemplated suicide. In every case they could not control their thoughts (Satan attacks through the mind). Sometimes they were filled with such fear of impending unknown disaster until they wanted to leave and go somewhere they were not known. They would have periods of great melancholy when they would not talk, laugh, or take an interest in things. They would want to be alone.

In almost every case they had a dread of meeting people. Some of them thought they were losing their mind. Others were filled with fear of things that were pure imagination. Some were told by the oppressing spirit that they had committed the unpardonable sin and could not be saved. Still others were convinced in their minds that some strange disease was going to ravage their body and make them prematurely old.

One such person got to the place where they would not go anywhere because they thought people were watching them. Sometimes the oppression was so great until they would weep and wish they could die. Such persons also often lose all interest in their home, their children, jobs, friends, etc. About the only relief they get is when they are asleep. One such person told me, "I wish I could go to sleep and never wake up."

The tragic thing about this awful condition is: these people could be delivered if they knew who their enemy was and how to resist him.

HOW TO DEFEAT SATAN

"Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Eph. 6:10-13.

In this second part of the article I shall try to give you some of the simple fundamental rules that God in His infinite wisdom has given us to go by if we would defeat this adversary of our souls. Knowledge of these truths is the first step in this direction. The

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Lord spoke through Hosea in his day because of their willful ignorance of Him and His Word and said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6. And that is primarily the reason people are being destroyed by this enemy today, not because there is no deliverance, not because the Lord won't deliver them, but simply their own willful ignorance of God and His Word ... and of course their own sinful disobedience and unwillingness to yield their lives to the Lord.

Prisons, insane asylums, and institutions are filled with poor demented human beings that are suffering the horrors of hell on earth because they would not walk in the light as He is in the light. One poor wretch that destroyed her own life said the day she committed suicide, "I am so miserable I can't stand to live." Another, who was later delivered said, "I wish I could die and get out of it."

In addition to the multitudes in the various institutions there are millions of homes that are suffering because one or more of the household are victims of this adversary.

And the alarming fact is, this condition is worsening and shall continue to grow worse until this age ends in the awful tribulation judgments that are coming on the earth.

Nothing less than the "whole armour of God" will enable God's people to stand this last great onslaught of the enemy as he temporarily sets up his kingdom and rules the world.

Oh, that I might find words of such weight and urgency that men might take heed. Truly you must "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8.

This is the message of the hour: get ready or perish.

Casualties are falling on this battlefield all around us. Even while this article was being written we received the shocking news that one who made a profession of faith under our own ministry and at one time had a burning testimony, did personal work, and taught a Sunday School class; had taken her own life with a gun.

We are no match for this adversary in our own strength; we must learn the secret of the Lord. Remember the Scripture says, "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Eph. 6:10. Now the secret of the Lord is the necessary knowledge of your position in Christ, Satan and his ways, and God's provision for your protection and deliverance.

YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST

This great adversary defeats many because they are ignorant of their position and inheritance in

Christ. Through one of his chief weapons, "the lie," he keeps these in darkness and unbelief concerning these things lest they break his yoke of bondage and go free. John 8:44; II Cor. 4:3-4; Acts 26:18. This enemy doesn't want you to know that in Christ you are legally free. The whole purpose of Calvary was to set men free. After having come to Calvary, the door of freedom, why believe Satan's lie and turn back to bondage and death?

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not; for the desolate hath many more children that she which hath a husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free." Gal. 4:26-31.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherefore Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage," Gal. 5:2.

Now someone will say, "But this all has reference to the law." That is true, but the club of condemnation and satanic power that blinds men to reality also consists of laws that shut men up in the prison house of despair and hopelessness. Satan has no legal right to keep them there because Christ hath set them free. The prison doors are open. He has blotted "out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Col. 2:14-15.

We need to give "thanks unto the Father which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son." Col. 1:12-13.

Praise God! this deliverance is not just for past sins alone. Paul triumphantly said, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place." II Cor. 2:14. Hallelujah! Thank God! for this eternal, all conquering grace.

No wonder the great apostle penned these immortal words to the Christians in Rome, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things." Rom. 8:31-32. Read also the rest of this chapter. The

conclusion of the matter is we are free in Christ. Satan holds us in bondage only because we through ignorance and unbelief do not put him to flight and claim the blessings and benefits of our birthright.

The next step to deliverance is to

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

his ways, his various devices and cunning treachery. Here is where many fall, they underestimate this wily, treacherous, and persistent foe. Though man is Satan's chief instrument in his warfare against Christ and His people, our battle is not against flesh and blood. Eph. 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Yes, the unseen forces of darkness (Satan and his hosts of evil spirits and fallen angels) are the real enemy back of the world's ills and our own personal troubles. That urge to kill, destroy, take your own life, drown your troubles with alcohol come to your mind from the realm of the spirit and may be, in reality, an evil spirit urging you to evil. Though unseen to the natural eye they are there and they are your enemy. As a roaring lion looking for prey this enemy is seeking those whom he can devour (destroy spiritually, physically and mentally).

His ways are tricky and subtle, working through your senses and inherent weaknesses. One of the very first things in the Bible concerning him was that he was "more subtle than any beast of the field." Gen. 3:1. He excels at putting doubt in men's minds concerning God and His Word. And in order to deceive some he uses truth but he misapplies it. In other cases he mixes truth with error. His clever use of the lie is his best weapon. He doesn't very often just bluntly tell you that God's Word isn't true. He rationalizes and uses the knowledge and wisdom of the world to instill unbelief. And in order to do this he uses not the ignorant and uneducated, but the intellectual, the professional, and often so-called ministers of the gospel.

Never think that the devil will appear to you as a monstrous hideous creature with horns, forked tail and cloven hooves. More than likely he will appear "as an angel of light." II Cor. 11:14. For this reason the Word of God must be the final and only authority in all matters for determining truth and error. But the thing I am concerned about here is not the satanically inspired deceptions of the pseudo-Christian and scientific world but the way Satan through evil spirits attacks the mind of man.

The mind is the battleground. This is where the enemy must be recognized and defeated. Through the mind he enters your being and eventually takes

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Your Adversary

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control of your life. This is where the fiery darts of poison are hurled. This is where evil is conceived, murder, rape, theft, tyranny against God and man. Control your thought life and Satan is helpless. All negative and wrong thinking eventually leads to evil. Nip it in the bud and you save yourself much grief and sorrow. Constant and eternal vigilance must be maintained to keep Satan from gaining a foothold. All thoughts of evil, thoughts that bring unrest and fear into your heart are from the enemy. Thoughts of evil about your fellowman, suspicion, resentment-provoking thoughts, thoughts that cause discouragement, gloom, dissatisfaction with your lot in life, jealousy, hatred, lust, covetousness, and thoughts of doubt concerning the Word of God all proceed from Satan.

Paul no doubt had reference to this control of our thought life when he said, "For though we walk in the flesh we do not war after the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal" (fleshly) "but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Cor. 10:3-5. Any and everything that doesn't agree with and honor the teachings of God's Word with respect to attitudes and conduct toward God and man is to be rejected and counted as from Satan. You must not pamper, entertain or tolerate things that are contrary to God, faith, holiness and love. Even our enemies are to be loved and prayed for. Any spirit that would lead you otherwise is from Satan.

RESISTING SATAN

James said, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7. Isn't that glorious! This enemy doesn't just slink away from us, but literally flees from us when we resist him in faith. There are three things mentioned in the Bible that are used to resist or overcome Satan. The Word, the blood, and our testimony. Luke 4:1-13, Rev. 12:11. What is meant by our testimony is our confession of faith, or confessing what God's Word declares.

Because of the blood shed on Calvary's cross you are free, not because you deserve it, not because you can earn it, but simply because He loved you and gave Himself for you. The cross is your guarantee of freedom. Satan has no legal right or authority over you. Point him to the blood and the cross. He hates it because it was there he was stripped of his power over you. It was there Jesus spoiled principalities and powers. Col. 2:14-15.

The devil doesn't want to be reminded of the

blood because it spells his defeat. Tell him you have been cleansed and redeemed by the blood and Christ is your Lord and master, not him. Do this in faith next time Satan tries to intimidate you and see what happens.

USING THE WORD

Please notice that in the temptation of Christ by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus met every advance of the enemy with the Word of God. Luke 4:1-13. In resisting the three temptations Jesus quoted the scriptures to Satan by saying, "It is written." We likewise need to be fortified with the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit. If we know the Word we don't have to give him any quarter when he attacks but meet him head-on and shout the victory while we cut him to pieces with our flashing two-edged sword. Heb. 4:12.

Meet every thought, temptation and trial with the Word of God and see what happens. Now the last thing we mention in this battle against Satan is

YOUR TESTIMONY

Upon first consideration this may not seem to be very important but such is not the case. It is actually that most important piece of armor referred to as the shield of faith in verse 16 of Ephesians 6. Please note Paul says, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

Now the word of testimony spoken of in Revelation 12:11 is nothing more or less than confessing the truth of God in the face of faith-trying circumstances. It is the brazen audacity to believe and confess what God's Word says rather than give in to adverse or contrary circumstances. It is going against the natural current of prevailing conditions to confess that God is true. Not only is it confessing that God is true but it is acting upon your confession. It is marching forward into the swollen waters of Jordan before the waters are parted. It is a faith that staggers not at the promise but believes so strongly it gives glory to God in advance. Rom. 4:20.

Not only is it a faith that precipitates confession and action but it also withstands the onslaughts of the adversary when all visible hope and help is gone. It is believing and standing on the naked Word of God alone knowing He will vindicate it in due time; it is believing and confessing the promise of God while the enemy rages and hurls his lies, accusations, and sense laden thoughts of discouragement at you. It is like Jonah of old refusing to believe in lying vanities but rather the God of Israel who delivers even from the belly of the whale on the bottom of the ocean.

But surely someone will think, "such phenomenal faith is not for me." If that is what you are thinking

you are right now listening to the voice of the enemy. Rebuke him this instant; tell him he is a liar and the father of it. Also tell him that you can do all things through Christ which strengthens you. Phil 4:13. It is true that you may not be able to exercise such faith right now but it is also true that "God will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will, with the temptation also make a way of escape that ye may be able to bear it." I Cor. 10:13. Just remember this, the Lord will always supply faith and grace necessary to meet the demands of every trial.

As you exercise your faith it will develop and grow. Regardless of how little and meager you may think your faith is, begin to use it every opportunity you have. Confess with your mouth what God's Word declares. Keep confessing it even if you think it's only of the mind. Sooner or later it will enter your heart and become a valuable weapon in your arsenal to fight Satan with.

How we need to realize that if the living Christ dwells in us, potentially, we have power to raise the dead, cleanse the leper, cast out devils, and heal the sick. Not only that but the Lord has given us power over all the power of the enemy. Luke 10:19. As far as God is concerned we that are in Christ have overcome Satan and the world. I John 4:4, 5:4.

It is up to us to simply recognize these facts and confess and claim our rights in Christ. In closing let me say a few things about

COMMUNION AND WORSHIP

which are necessary if you are to maintain a Spirit-filled life. Only Spirit-filled men and women are capable of recognizing this wily adversary and resisting him effectively. Regular seasons of prayer, praise and thanksgiving are necessary in maintaining a good spiritual condition as good food, rest, fresh air, sunshine, and bodily exercise are in keeping physically strong. This battle being in the realm of the spirit, we must be spiritually strong to wage war against the enemy.

Prayer is your most potent weapon. Someone has rightly said, "Satan trembles when the weakest saint goes to his knees." Through praise and thanksgiving we draw nigh to God and He in return draws nigh to us. James 4:8. Singing unto the Lord from your heart is a very effective form of praise and thanksgiving. It will work wonders in the lives of those being oppressed by evil spirits. God desires praise and worship and will bless you with his presence when you do so. By the same token Satan hates for you to worship the Lord and will flee from you when you do it.

There is a direct connection between being filled with the Spirit and worshipping the Lord. Eph. 5:18-20. You cannot worship and praise the Lord from your heart without being filled with

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Your Adversary

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the Spirit. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24. Being Spirit, the Lord is approached through these spiritual exercises. "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalms 100:4. It is while we are thus in His presence that we are strengthened in the inner man and spiritually fortified to meet and defeat our adversary the devil. May God bless and help everyone that reads this message to realize that, we are more than conquerors through Him that loves us. Rom. 8:37.

The Name of the Lord

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who joins a man in holy wedlock takes his name, so do members of Christ's body (the church) when they are joined to him by the Spirit.

But even as a married woman must honor and not abuse the liberty of the use of her husband's name, so must members of Christ's body. Only under the direction of and in harmony with the head (the Lord or the husband) does the church or the wife have liberty to use the name. We don't just take this honor of ourselves. We have to be chosen of the Lord.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." John 15:16

May I also hasten to add that individual ministries can only use his name as they minister in their calling for the good of his body, the church. They themselves are members of his body, which alone has the right to his name.

All religious movements that honor themselves in glorying in their organization, their traditions, their heritage, their successes, their doctrines, their name and give honor to man are a part of "Mystery Babylon The Great." This woman, though made up of many divisions, is one in spirit and that is the spirit of anti-Christ. It will be noted from Rev. 17:3 that she has many "names of blasphemy." The reason the many names are blasphemy is because they all claim to be his church and have his name.

Out of all this must come the true church (his body) which is but a remnant. They are one and they alone have a right to use his name. This is the church Paul is speaking of in Eph. 4:4-6: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

BOOK CORNER

Delivered From Demons, by C. Parker Thomas

The story of a young girl's deliverance from demon possession and also a collection of a number of other articles relating to Satan's kingdom and activity, specially as it relates to the end of this present age. Suggested Price - \$6.50.

Does God Speak To You? by C. Parker Thomas

This booklet is composed of a wonderful series of articles published in the Midnight Cry Messenger during 1979. In this time of great spiritual darkness and deception what are the various ways in which He speaks and how can we learn to recognize His voice and respond? Suggested Price - \$3.50.

Examine Yourselves, By Phil Enlow

Paul said to "examine yourselves." There must be a way to do that. Can you say with Paul, "I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." 2 Tim 1:12. Suggested Price - \$7.50

The Gospel, By Phil Enlow

What is the gospel? Everyone thinks they know--but do they? In this day of watered-down "easy-believism" it is critical to know what real salvation is. What was the gospel that Paul preached? Suggested Price - \$3.00

How Do You Know You Are Right? By Phil Enlow

A spiritual challenge. A study of spiritual knowledge and how it is acquired. This is an area of critical importance in this hour of spiritual darkness and deception. We cannot afford to blindly rest in tradition. Suggested Price - \$4.00

Immortality, By Phil Enlow

What does the Bible teach about immortality, the future of unbelievers, the future of God's people? From the eight-part series in the MCM. Suggested Price - \$5.00.

The Keys of the Kingdom, by C. Parker Thomas

A clear study of the keys as they apply to us in today's world. Suggested Price - \$3.00.

Light in This Present Darkness, by Phil Enlow

From the series in MCM. Message for God's Remnant in the earth regarding the present hour of darkness. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

Lying Signs and Wonders, by C. Parker Thomas

A collection of articles concerning the end of the age exposing much deception as well as giving forth important truth needed by those who would be prepared for Christ's soon return. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

The Midnight Cry, by C. Parker Thomas

Contains two articles that set forth the truths concerning the midnight cry: what is it? who hears it? who makes it? what is its significance for us. A must for people who would understand this ministry. Suggested Price - \$1.00

Sex and Marriage in the Light of God's Word, by C. Parker Thomas

From a series of articles covering a whole range of scriptural and practical truth designed to help God's people in this important area. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

Sudden Death Overtime, by Phil Enlow

From the series published beginning in 2001. A look at our world and its prospects through biblical "glasses." What can we learn from history? What lies in our future? Why is the world like it is? Things every Christian should know. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

The Sure Foundation, by C. Parker Thomas

A collection of four articles published in the early 1980's on the important subject of the foundation believers have in Christ. Suggested Price - \$4.00.

Tongues: My Testimony, by C. Parker Thomas

Contains the article by the same name as well as an article entitled "Tongues Should be Tested" by Gerald McGraw in which he recounts lessons learned from testing to discover the spirit enabling someone to speak in tongues. Startling! Suggested price - \$3.00

What About Genesis? by Phil Enlow

How should we understand the Genesis accounts of the creation and the flood? Can a simple historical understanding of these accounts be defended in this age of scientific skepticism? Does it matter? Suggested Price - \$4.00.

What Does Deception Look Like? by Phil Enlow

Recognizing spiritual deception at the end of the age. What are its characteristics? Satan is waging all-out war and his chief weapon is the lie. As never before believers need to be grounded in bedrock truth. Suggested Price - \$9.95.

Your Adversary, By C. Parker Thomas

Awhile back, while looking through some of our oldest issues of the MCM, we uncovered this timely gem, published in about 1960! There is a simple directness and clarity in this teaching that will help anyone who desires to walk with the Lord and overcome in this hour. Suggested Price - \$2.50.

Note: The prices listed above are suggested with the thought in mind of simply covering the costs of printing and mailing these materials. It is not our intention to become "book-sellers," selling books for profit. Our desire is to get out truth that can help set God's people free in this critical hour. Please write to us at:

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P.O. Box 685
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The Name of the Lord

by C. Parker Thomas

(Editor's note: This article was originally published in the January-February 1965 issue of the "Midnight Cry Messenger.")

What does it mean? It is not a gimmick or rabbit's foot that anyone can use to obtain the blessings of God, nor a magic formula to be repeated when we desire something from God.

Many who make much of Jesus' name actually have a sectarian spirit and reject those who come in the name of the Lord. And they would also be the first to reject the Lord himself if he came again in the flesh.

THE AUTHORITY OF

Coming in the name of the Lord or doing things in the name of Jesus, or the Lord Jesus Christ simply means "by the authority of Jesus Christ." It means this one coming or performing in the name of Jesus Christ is not doing it of himself. It means simply the messenger is sent of God. His deed, act or word is motivated by the Spirit of God.

Jesus said he came in his Father's name and the works he did were in his Father's name. John 5:43, 10:25. Yet, he never once used it as a formula when he performed some miracle or deed. He would simply say, "be thou made whole," "arise, take up thy bed and walk" or "stretch forth thy hand." Never once did he say "in my Father's name."

There is no hocus-pocus or magic use of any name or arrangement of names or titles that will do any good if the power and authority is not there. Likewise, if the power and authority is there, the work will be done with or without the use of any particular arrangement of names or formulas.

However, in all things, the one with the power and authority to perform the work or speak the word will constantly give the Lord the glory and make it known that it is by and through him the works are being done. This, of course, will be in his name or by the authority of the Lord by whom the messenger is sent.

BAPTISM

The wrangle over the baptismal formula is not nearly so important as the motivating spirit behind it. I fear most of the people who have been baptized using either formula have not really become a part of Christ's body at all. In fact, some have partaken of the narrow sectarian spirit of the group they were baptized into.

However, Christ is the head of the church. All power and authority was given to him of the Father. Phil. 2:9-11 says, "Wherefore God also hath highly

exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

These things, plus the fact that he is the head of the church, are the reason the apostles and the early church did things by the authority of or in his name. When we perform a duty or represent another, we are actually doing it in their name.

No doubt this is why Paul said in Colossians 3:17, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." While Jesus was here in the flesh, he represented his Father; consequently, he did all things in the Father's name. Now, since the Father has delivered all things into the hands of the Son, highly exalting and making him head over all things to the church, we, his representatives, now use his name.

Never doubt, the Father is pleased and the Holy Ghost bears witness when we honor the name of his only begotten son. All things, officially beginning with the church dispensation, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church. The apostles understood this and started the church off right by saying, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38.

WHO HAS THE RIGHT

Who has the right to use the name of the Lord Jesus Christ? His body, the church, only has a legal right to use his name. Only those in whom he lives by the Spirit are a part of that body. As the woman

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COMING EVENTS

Annual Convention
June 22-25, 2016
Lexington, South Carolina

November Meeting
November 23-26, 2016
Jacksonville, Florida

TV Network Broadcast

— (30 Minutes Weekly) —
The NRB Network (DirecTV 378)
Sun. 6:30 AM Eastern
Mon. 3:30 AM Eastern

Broadcasts

RADIO STATIONS

Monday - Friday

Stat.	Freq.	Location	Time
KXEG	1280 AM	Phoenix, AZ	9:00 AM
KCNW	1380 AM	Kansas City, KS	12:15 PM 9:30 PM
WKDI	840 AM	Denton, MD	9:15 AM
KXKS	1190 AM	Albuquerque, NM	5:30 PM
WDZY	1290 AM	Richmond, VA	2:15 PM
WWVA	1170 AM	Wheeling, WV	9:30 PM

Short Wave Radio

WHRI ANGEL 1 – (Central & South America)

Mon.-Fri.: 0900 UTC-11.565 MHZ

Mon.-Fri.: 1600 UTC-21.600 MHZ

Mon.-Fri.: 2300 UTC-7.315 MHZ

WHRI ANGEL 2 – (Europe, Russia, Middle East & Africa)

Tues.-Sat.: 0015 UTC-5.920 MHZ

KWHR ANGEL 3 (Hawaii) – (Asia, S.E. Asia & South Pacific)

Mon.-Fri.: 0915 UTC-9.930 MHZ

For a current schedule of "Angel" stations go to lesea.com/whr/program-schedules/, scroll down to "Detailed Schedule Search," enter Midnight Cry for the program title and then click "Start Search."

Television Broadcast

— (30 Minutes Weekly) —

Local Broadcasts

Albuquerque, NM - KAZQ - TV 32
Sun. 7:30 AM

Boone, NC - MTN-TV - TV 24
Cable 18 - Sat. 8:00 PM

Boston, MA/Manchester, NH
WBIN-TV - TV 18 - Sun. 6:30 AM

Chicago, IL - WJYS TV-62
Sun. 7:00 AM

Greenville, SC - WGGS TV-16
Sun. 7:00 PM

Harrisburg, PA - WGCB TV-49
Sun. 9:30 AM

Jacksonville, FL - WTLV - Ch. 12 HD
Sun. 6:00 AM

Los Angeles, CA - KDOC-TV 56
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Minneapolis, MN - WUCW-TV CW23
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Nampa, ID (Greater Boise area) - KCLP-18
Tues. 8:30 PM

Phoenix, AZ - KASW-TV CW6
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Salt Lake City, UT - KTMW TV-20
Wed. 7:30 PM & Sat. 10:00 PM

San Francisco, Oakland, California
KBCW TV-44 - Sunday, 6:00 A.M.

Seattle, Washington
KVOS TV-12 - Sunday, 10:30 A.M.