



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting *every man* perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume XIII
Issue 305

Beneath the Surface

by – Ken Joyce (Victoria, Australia)

His reputation really said it all. He was a murderer, an adulterer and a man so associated with violence that bloodshed and death were clearly part of his life. Like so many in the “underworld,” death and destruction seemed to follow him everywhere.

Some, particularly those whose paths he had crossed, became obsessed with hunting him down. Because of this, much of his life was spent as a fugitive – in hiding, moving from one cover to another, constantly looking over his shoulder.

While death eluded *him*, its tentacles reached out, insidiously cutting off many of his family, some of them innocents, but also others – those caught up in a bloody grasp like an ongoing plague that seemed part of his very being. As with many trapped in a life filled with violence, he had to endure the agony of losing some of his nearest and dearest including his first and favourite son.

Not only was he besieged externally but within his very family he experienced the shame and hurt of incest, the humiliation of multiple rape and the mind-numbing, horrible murder of one son by another.

This is no invention to shock you, the story is true.¹

We read or hear of so much “news” of this nature that our minds go numb to it. It literally surrounds us and no matter where we live, such evil is just a horrible part of the world in which we live. Inescapably, it weighs us down. Some blame the government, others put it down to “human nature,” while yet others blame God.

Without exception, those who long for peace just wish it would not happen. We look on these occurrences with revulsion and shame, hoping always for better days.

So, very rightly, we might wonder how God Himself looked at this man of blood?

Interestingly, according to the book of Acts, God’s first words about him were,

I have found [this man], a man according to My heart, who will be doing all My will! (Acts 13:22).

Obviously, with a background as described above, God was looking much, much deeper than the obvious if He expected His will to be carried out through this person. Where we are often guilty of “judging the book by its cover,” God always looks to the heart.

For the benefit of those who have not guessed already, our subject was no less than David, son of Jesse, anointed King of Israel. When Samuel was sent to anoint a future king, he was most impressed with David’s older brother; but God said to Samuel,

You must not look at his appearance ... for not as a human sees, does the One Elohim see. A

(see SURFACE, page 2791)

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1. Read the whole story from I Samuel 16:7 to I Kings 2:4.

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
 - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
 - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

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SURFACE (continued from front page)

human sees the visible appearance, yet Yahweh sees into the heart (I Samuel 16:7).

After all of Jesse's sons, bar one, were paraded before Samuel, the youngest – David – was eventually called from the field.

And Yahweh said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is he." And the spirit of Yahweh prospered on David from that day onward (I Samuel 16:12-13).

We need to read David's story as Scripture records it in order to equate this very clear statement with the happenings outlined at the start of this article. If "*the spirit of Yahweh prospered on David from that day onward*," however did such events come about? Let's not forget that God's ways are not our ways. Through David, God had some mighty work to achieve.

We pick up the story at II Samuel 7:8 where God instructs Nathan, the prophet, to tell David,

*I myself took you from the homestead, from following the flock, to become governor over My people, over Israel. I shall be with you wherever you go, and I shall cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones who are on the earth. I will provide a place for **My people**, Israel [and] I will give you rest from all your enemies.*

Then, in :16,

*Your **house and your kingship** will be authenticated before Me for the eon; your throne, it shall become established for the eon.*

God's plans then, through David, were primarily for His chosen nation, Israel and, secondly, for David himself. According to the scriptural record, we see David embroiled in almost countless skirmishes and wars (will we ever forget the first one involving the giant, Goliath?) as God progressively "put the cleaner" throughout the land, in due course "cutting off all his enemies" and "providing a place for the people." So then, much of David's bloody lifetime was at God's direct behest.

Remember, though, God had an outcome for David himself and – in just the same way as we experience life – David's had to embrace the knowledge of good and bad. David's regrettable adultery with Bathsheba resulting in the murder of her husband in a futile effort to cover his tracks doubtless humbled him greatly. Then, to further humble him, God struck down the son produced from that union so that he died at a very young age.

In a later incident, David called a census of the people knowing it to be against the will of God. As a result, "*70,000 men of the people died*" when struck down by His messenger. Imagine David's sense of blame and shame as he cried out to Yahweh,

Behold, I myself have sinned, and I myself have been depraved, I, the shepherd, who has caused this evil ...

Without question, David had to learn some pretty severe lessons. Yet in all of this, recall what we read earlier, "*the spirit of Yahweh prospered on David from that day onward*." It might help us better understand the meaning of that statement if we look at that key word, "*prosper*." The primary meaning, according to my *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, is "to succeed."

Aha! Now it makes sense. In all of these upheavals (and in the good times too!), God's spirit was "succeeding" with David. Of course God knew the troubles that would come, He knew David's weaknesses – and his strengths as well – because, remember, "*a human sees the visible appearance, yet Yahweh sees into the heart*."

That God succeeded with David is beyond doubt. As the prophet told him, "*your throne, it shall become established for the eon*" and no other than our Lord will inherit that throne on His glorious return to this earth in the none too distant future.

In like manner, God sees us *beneath* the surface. He knows us better than we know ourselves and, similarly to David, He has anointed us and given us His spirit as a down payment on the promises He has in store for us.

(see *SURFACE*, page 2793)

God's Love Changes Lives

by – Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988)

Whither shall I go from Your Spirit? Or, whither shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend up into heaven, You are there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall Your hand lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me;" even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hides not from You; but the night shines as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to You (Psalm 139:7-12).

Did you know that God is willing to go both to heaven and to the so-called hell because He loves you? He is not willing to lose you, nor will He let you find a hiding place which *He* cannot find. You cannot escape from His Spirit, you cannot flee from His presence. You cannot ascend to a height, you cannot dig to a depth where God is not. Even if you take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, God is there. If you hide in your false darkness, He Who is light will drive away the darkness in which you seek to hide. If you seek to shelter yourself under your false light in the night, He for Whom no darkness is too dark, will make the night light up as the day. Are not light and darkness both alike before God's eyes?

The darkness and the light are both alike to You (Psalm 139:12).

Today God pursues to plead, not to punish. In Him you find wrath averted, offenses forgiven, sins forgotten, shelter provided, and Love personified: "*God is Love.*" This may sound trite, but it is true. This fact carries power of prodigious proportions, as we shall see.

God is Love (I John 4:8).

God stands willing and able to fashion you into the likeness of the Man Christ Jesus Who loves you. No strings attached. No prior commitments exacted. No cancellations mortgaging the future. No penalties for failures incurred while trying.

Growth in grace is a slow process, and often a painful one. Creative conflict is part and parcel of this conformation to Christ Jesus our Lord.

We know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow,



He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers (Romans 8:28, 29).

Thus the future is secure. You need never feel estranged. You need never feel alienated. You need never walk alone in this world. God, Who is the un-lying God, the un-false One, guarantees it. He is never false, even though you should prove faithless. He never lets you down, even though you renounce Him.

If we are unbelieving, He is remaining faithful – He cannot disown Himself (II Timothy 2:13).

In expectation of life eonian, which God, Who does not lie, promises before times eonian (Titus 1:2).

God will finish what He began in you, for He has the wisdom to plan and He has the power to perform.

The only way Christ could publicly portray God's love for you was to be delivered for your offenses and raised for your justification. Now, these may be merely words to you, yet they are much more than just semantics and symbols. They are truth with a dynamic. This is God's *emancipation proclamation* to all who are slaves of self, sin and society.

Who was given up because of our offenses, and was roused because of our justifying (Romans 4:25).

God speaks to the world in the language of facts. What has He done that makes His declaration *good news* to you? God's love *is* good news, God's grace *is* good news. In the first Adam you were a slave to sin; in the last Adam you are free to righteousness (Romans 5:12-21).

In the first Adam you are constituted a sinner; in the last Adam you are constituted righteous. In the first Adam

you are dead; in the last Adam you are alive. In the first Adam you are a sinner; in the last Adam you are a saint. In the first Adam you are estranged; in the last Adam you are reconciled. In the first Adam you are an enemy; in the last Adam you are a friend. In the first Adam you are weak; in the last Adam you are strong. In the first Adam you are far off; in the last Adam you are made near.

In Whom we are having the deliverance through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses in accord with the riches of His grace (Ephesians 1:7).

This, then, I am saying and attesting in the Lord: By no means are you still to be walking according as those of the nations also are walking, in the vanity of their mind, their comprehension being darkened, being estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the callousness of their hearts, who, being past feeling, in greed give themselves up with wantonness to all uncleanness as a vocation (Ephesians 4:17-19).

If there is a soulish body, there is a spiritual also. Thus it is written also, the first man, Adam, "became a living soul:" the last Adam a vivifying Spirit (I Corinthians 15:45).

Does all of this sound like double-talk to you? Does it sound like a paradox? If it does, this is understandable, but the fact remains that God has done something *for you* that means your freedom from sin, that your load of sin is banished. This cure is so *radical* that there is no New Testament Greek word which now can be properly translated "guilt." Guilt is gone by the grace of God. God's good news is heralded – announced as the *Fact* that it is.

SURFACE (continued from page 2791)

*Now He Who is confirming us together in Christ, and anoints us, is God, Who also seals us and is giving the earnest [pledge or initial deposit] of the spirit **in our hearts** (II Corinthians 1:21-22).*

We can quickly grasp a certain commonality between the spirit prospering or succeeding with David and what Paul tells us of the spirit for those of us "*who are believing on Him Who rouses Jesus our Lord from among the dead*" (Romans 4:24). Not only are we given the spirit *in our hearts* as a pledge of wonderful things to come, but

*The love of God [also] has been poured out **in***

Don't confuse the *bad news* about you with the *good news* about God.

Look at God's message: Christ died for all, consequently all died; and He died for all and was raised for the *very same all*.

If you have believed God, do you *feel* different? If your answer is "No," the *Fact* still remains that He has accepted you. It is not *your* "No" and "Yes" that counts; but rather it is *God's* "Yes," for all of His promises have received their Divine "Yes!" in Christ. His great and precious promises are for the purpose of making you a partaker of His Divine nature.

For whatever promises are of God, are in Him "Yes." Wherefore through Him also is the "Amen" to God, for glory, through us (II Corinthians 1:20).

Through which have been presented to us the precious and greatest promises, that through these you may become participants of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4).

Faithful is He Who is calling you, Who will be doing it also (I Thessalonians 5:24).

He accepts you as *you* are – weak, irreverent, a rebel, a sinner, and even an enemy (Romans 5:6-10). Accept Him for what *He* is – your Creator, your Peace, your Justifier, your Righteousness, your All.

Accept the fact that you are accepted by God. God loves you. What more can He say to you than what He has already said? ■

***our hearts** through the holy spirit which is being given to us (Romans 5:5).*

In the Book of Acts, God is referred to as "*the Knower of hearts*" (Acts 15:8) and how appropriate is that title to this discussion. Not only does God see the heart (David's, mine and yours), but He *knows* it intimately. So when He gives His spirit, God goes right to the center and core of our spiritual existence, to the heart – the very area where the greatest changes to our lives will be made as God's spirit *prosper* or *succeeds* within us.

Yet you are not in flesh, but in spirit, if so be that God's spirit is making its home in you.

(see SURFACE, page 2795)

Just One More Bite, Dad

Nutrition and Hydration Care at the End of Life

by — James A. Avery, MD, FACP

When I was in junior high school, my grandfather was dying in his small apartment. I would sit in the next room watching television and listening. “Just one more bite, Dad,” I heard my mom plead over and over. “Please, Dad, just one more little bite.” It is now 35 years later and I am a hospice physician. I can still recall the distress in my mom’s and my grandma’s voices as they desperately tried to coax Grandpa to eat.

Eating is a natural part of life. Food plays a role in giving us energy and keeping us healthy. However, when a body is preparing to die, it is natural that eating should stop. This situation is a difficult concept for many caregivers and loved ones to accept.

IS MY LOVED ONE STARVING TO DEATH?

No. Starvation is what happens when a healthy person does not get enough food. When a person who is seriously ill or dying does not eat, this is not starvation – it is usually a marker or sign that your loved one has entered the dying process. When someone is very ill, the body slows down and there is a gradual decrease in eating habits. Feelings of thirst and hunger gradually shut down. In many people, the stomach and intestines may not even be able to use the nutrition.

I remember how my grandfather first stopped eating meats and began, for the first time in his life, to prefer fruits and vegetables. Then he began to ask for only soft foods. Finally, only liquids and ice cream were preferred. Then he simply said, “I just don’t feel like eating.” This is a common progression in many patients.

WHEN MY LOVED ONE’S APPETITE SLOWS DOWN, WHAT CAN I DO TO INCREASE INTAKE?

Here are some suggestions:

- Do not force your loved one to eat or constantly remind them of their decreased appetite. A soft, gentle approach may help the most, but remember,

it is their choice.

- Time meals with pain medications so comfort level is maximized.
- Make mealtime a pleasant time – candles, flowers and soft music or TV may help.
- Make the most of breakfast; the appetite tends to decrease as the day goes on so.
- Offer their favorite foods in small amounts.
- Try offering small amounts of nutritional supplements such as Ensure or Boost.
- Have drinks available, and consider giving liquids in other forms such as gelatins, puddings, Italian ices and ice cream.
- Allow your loved one to rest after meals.

Remember that feeding your loved one may cause them discomfort or increased anxiety. There comes a time when it is OK not to eat or drink – support your loved one’s decision.

IS NOT EATING AND DRINKING PAINFUL?

Healthy people feel hunger pangs and thirst when they do not eat and drink, but people who are very sick do not feel these sensations. Dehydration may actually bring relief from some problems. For example, vomiting may stop and pain from tumors may lessen. Coughing, congestion and mucus in the lungs may also decrease. The medical evidence is quite clear that dehydration in the last phase of a terminal illness is a very natural and compassionate way to die. The only uncomfortable symptom of dehydration is a dry mouth, which can be alleviated with good mouth care, ice chips and sips of water.

WHAT IF MY LOVED ONE WANTS TO EAT OR DRINK? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Some people are not able to swallow correctly due

to illness. In this situation it is possible that eating or drinking could cause food or fluid to fall into the lungs, which can cause pneumonia or breathing problems. However, if your loved one is alert and wants to eat or drink, the pleasure of eating and drinking may override other concerns. Tiny amounts of ice cream, ice chips, yogurt, Italian ices and applesauce can usually be given safely – even to the sickest patient. You should discuss this with your physician.

I remember a patient I had who loved the taste of beer but was unable to swallow liquids anymore. The hospice team helped his wife to make slushy ices from frozen beer!

Should artificial nutrition or hydration be started? Each person's situation is unique. If a person isn't able to swallow because of a temporary medical problem, artificial nutrition (feeding tubes or intravenous nutrition) can be given until they recover. However, as the body weakens or their disease gets worse, tube feedings and IVs can be a burden and increase the risk for infection and pain – in other words, they may do more harm than good. Feeding tubes may feel uncomfortable, and they can become plugged up, causing pain and nausea. Fluids can cause bloating, diarrhea and aspiration. Sometimes patients may need to be physically restrained or sedated to keep them from pulling out the tube or intravenous line. For each person, the benefits of artificial hydration and nutrition need to be weighed against the risks.

SURFACE (continued from page 2793)

Now if anyone has not Christ's spirit, this one is not His. Now if Christ is in you, the body, indeed, is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is life because of righteousness. Now if the spirit of Him Who rouses Jesus from among the dead is making its home in you, He Who rouses Christ Jesus from among the dead will also be vivifying your mortal bodies because of His spirit making its home in you. For whoever are being led by God's spirit, these are the sons of God (Romans 8:9-11, 14).

There are wonderful parallels in David's turbulent life and the life of ups and downs God gives in preparation for the glorious role He has in store for us. David has been prepared for a millennial kingship in the coming eon, and we are being prepared for our celestial future (Philippians 3:20). In all cases, as

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A DYING PERSON DOES NOT EAT OR DRINK?

People who don't receive food or fluids because of illness will eventually fall into a deep sleep and usually die in one to three weeks. This is the common last phase for most dying people – whether the fatal disease is cancer or some other disease. The medical evidence is quite clear that this is a very natural and compassionate way to die.

Back to my grandfather:

As you now understand, the problem was not that my grandfather was not eating or drinking. His not eating and drinking was simply a signpost that he was in the last phase – the dying phase – of his life. As this became clear to my mother and grandmother, they thankfully stopped coaxing him to eat or drink and instead began preparing emotionally and spiritually for his death. Ice chips, lemon Italian ices and vanilla ice cream were his total intake for the last three weeks of his life. Visits from friends and family, bedside prayers for peace and comfort, and reflections about his life became commonplace occurrences in that little apartment.

AseraCare Hospice

Romans 8:27 reminds us, "***He Who is searching the hearts is aware what is the disposition of the spirit ...***" Our mighty God always looks beneath the surface to the very heart of the matter.

Each and every one of us, like David, will experience our right measure of good and bad. These experiences don't "just happen" because they are in fact the result of our Father prospering us just as His spirit prospered with David. Rest assured that, when Father begins His work within our hearts, He will prosper us to the full measure of success, to His glory.

Take comfort in the knowledge that God is working all together for the good of those who love Him, for those called to the foreknown purpose of being conformed to the image of His Son.² That glorious goal lies just before us.

2. Paraphrased from Romans 8:28-29.

Dear Saints,

I want to thank each one who has inquired about missing my audios and personal articles in the *Daily Email Goodies*. Between the care of my terminally ill mother and the many guests from out of town who have come to visit her, we are a couple of months behind on our normal activities.

A word about the recent quotations used in the *Daily Email Goodies*. Instead of placing the *DEGs* on hold during this time, I have decided to begin to share with you from the storehouse of short quotations that I have collected over the years.

I have always been a gleaner by nature. I probably have thousands of quotations that have spoken to me from books that I have read. Although some are from trusted sources, more often than not, I do not always endorse the authors or books from which the quotations are taken. Sometimes, when I am reading, it is amazing to me how a certain author can admit in print to some grand truth that their writings otherwise generally deny. The more unlikely the source – in some ways to me – the more amazing it seems to testify of the truth and how God can even

get it said through them; after all, even Paul quoted a pagan poet on Mars' Hill.

I appreciate each of you who have sent my mother cards, letters and flowers. They have been a comfort, and meant so very much to her – which means a lot to me as well.

With my mother's condition I have been obviously giving much thought to some of the practical sides of death. As a result, you may be seeing me address some of these matters in these pages, as in this issue I have shared a helpful article on eating. I hope that this may be as helpful to some of you one day, as it has been to me recently.

Thank you so much for your continued fellowship, prayers and support.

My love to each of you.



Clyde



Nothing Will Be Lost! The Truth About God's Good News

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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