

133

Living Water

'Living Water' is published by the Stone Publishing Trust (Registered Charity 1034689)

Stone Publishing Trust

33 The Floats,

Riverhead

SEVENOAKS

TN13 2QT

If you know of any one who might be interested in receiving this magazine, please pass their name and address to the Stone Publishing Trust. Copies of the next few issues will be sent to them free of charge.

Quotations from the Bible in 'Living Water' are normally from the Darby translation or from the Authorised (King James) Version.

The permission of the Editor should be obtained before reproducing material contained in this magazine. It is the policy of the Trustees to encourage the use of articles for the work of the Lord wherever this is possible so long as it does not infringe the rights of others.

Articles are sometimes shortened or otherwise amended and for this the Editor takes full responsibility.

Cover Picture: Two streams meet, Val d'Ultimo, Italy - J.E.Casavecchia

Editor: Mark Lemon

Printed by Lakeside Printing,

Unit 4A, Munday Industrial Estate, Morley Rd, Tonbridge, TN9 1RA, UK

Living Water 133

(January – February 2016)

Recent Ministry

- A LIVING HOPE Philip White 1
A word at a burial, Worthing, May 2015.
- SEEING THINGS AS GOD SEES THEM Marcus Chapman 3
An address at Basildon, 22nd November 2014

Poetry Selection

- FAITHFUL LOVE E. H. Chater 18
*Concluding the series of poems taken from
"The Ways of God and His Praise".*

Testimony Section

- JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL - A TESTIMONY
Philip Bawdekar 19
- RANSOMED, HEALED, RESTORED, FORGIVEN! Suzi 21

A voice from the past

- SEEING THINGS FROM
GOD'S POINT OF VIEW L. V. Vessey 21
Extracted from a Notebook.

Reprinted from "Living Water" No 33

- GROWING OLD THROUGH GRACE J. N. Darby 22
*Continuing the series of reprints from the
early issues of the magazine*

A word for today

- HE GAVE HIMSELF J. Doughty 23
*Extracted from "The Letters of J. Doughty
(November 1920 to March 1922)"*

Recent Ministry

A LIVING HOPE

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his great mercy, has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from among the dead, to an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance, reserved in the heavens for you” (1 Peter 1:3, 4).

It is very evident, dear brethren, that we are in the presence of death and with that comes sorrow. That is a right and proper feeling. but this scripture is a great comfort because it speaks of a real living hope. It is not a hope which is vague as ‘I hope things will turn out all right’. It is a certain hope, a sure hope - that those who believe in the Lord Jesus will rise again and they will meet the Lord – that they have *“an unfading inheritance reserved in the heavens”*.

It is interesting it does not actually speak here in the Scripture of a certain or sure hope: it speaks of a *“living hope”*. Now, why would that be? I think it is because it is to be a present reality with us; it is a hope we rejoice in every

This living hope is ours through Jesus Christ

day. Our sister had this living hope within her heart. It is not like an insurance policy that you put in the drawer and when calamity strikes you retrieve it. This hope is something which we can enjoy every day while we wait for the coming of the Lord.

This living hope is ours through Jesus Christ. He is the One who has brought the hope. We have no hope outside of Him. It is because of His death and resurrection that we have hope. People fight many battles on this earth. The last battle they fight is death and every one loses that battle. But we know

One, the Lord Jesus, who has fought that battle and won! He has come out of the grave victorious. He is ever-living and He is soon to return to claim everyone who belongs to Him. Our dear sister here is one of those for whom He is going to come.

So we read of, *“an incorruptible and undefiled and unfading inheritance”*. What a wonderful view is before us. We live in a world which is marked by corruption: physical, moral, and spiritual corruption. We live in a world which is marked by degeneration and decline. Yet what the believer in Jesus has in view is something that is glorious. It is *“reserved in the heavens for you”*. Our sister made her reservation many years ago when she trusted in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. That booking cannot be cancelled or moved. It is sure because it is not based on any merit of ours or anything that we can do, but on what Jesus did at Calvary to God’s full satisfaction. So it is *“the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his great mercy, has begotten us”* to this *“living hope”*. It is the work of God. Our sister would have been the first to admit that it was God who had worked in her heart and brought her to the Lord Jesus and it is the same for many here today.

So it is a wonderful thing that we have this living hope, a hope that is to be real to us and to characterise us every day of our lives while we await the coming of the Lord. It is a transforming hope that is to have a sanctifying effect on us even now.

Well, I just leave it with us, that our sister, now with Christ, had this *“living hope”*. At the coming of the Lord this will become a reality to all who have trusted in Him. The apostle writing to the Thessalonians says, *“we do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are fallen asleep,*

to the end that ye be not grieved even as also the rest who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). That is the difference between the believer in Jesus and the unbeliever. The believer has a hope. We sorrow, as feeling the loss of our sister, and members of the family will sorrow in a very special way, but we do not sorrow as those who have no hope. We have a living hope in a living Saviour. I pray that anyone here who has not this hope will find it today as trusting in Jesus.

It is a wonderful thing that the Lord Jesus is coming very soon. He is coming to claim every one who has trusted in Him. The apostle Paul, writing to the Thessalonians, spoke about those who sorrow but yet had a true hope. Then he proceeds to speak about the coming of the Lord in great detail and he ends that passage by saying, "*So encourage one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18).*

So at this time we would be encouraged and would encourage one another that the Lord is coming soon for our sister and for every one who puts their trust and faith in Him.

Philip White.

Word at a burial at Worthing, May 2015

SEEING THINGS AS GOD SEES THEM

Exodus 15:1-4; 11-18; 20

Numbers 13:1-2; 21-23; 13:26-14:10

Acts 16:14-15; 18:24-28

I want to speak about getting God's view of things. It is important in small things as well as in great matters. Indeed, we need it in all that we think or do, whether as individuals, or collectively. God's thoughts are not our thoughts and God's ways are not our ways (see Isaiah 55:8), so we need help to see things as God sees them and to come into line with how God views them.

a redeemed people can sing to God

I read in Exodus 15 because it is a remarkable chapter. It is the first song recorded in scripture.

Until redemption was known

there could be no real singing to God. The children of Israel, led by Moses, could sing to God because they knew what it was to have been redeemed. It is a redeemed people that can sing to God. It is only as you and I come to Christ and know what it is to be redeemed, to be bought by Him, to have our sins forgiven that we can truly sing a song of praise to God.

But what I wanted to draw your attention to in Exodus 15 is that there are two songs: one sung by Moses and the men, and another by Miriam and the women. One song is much longer than the other. One song takes you from Egypt right to the land of Promise – to Canaan. The other song only celebrates the escape from Egypt. Now, as I understand it, Moses was given a wonderful view by God as to His purposes for His people. God had secured His people, not just to deliver them from Egypt but to bring them through the wilderness into the land of His purpose, to Canaan.

That is a picture of what God desires for you and for me. Egypt represents the world in its independence away from God. The world that we see all around us is independent of God. God by redemption has secured you and me, and He wants to bring us into His inheritance. He has a wonderful spiritual inheritance for us to enjoy. It is not found in the world, it is found in heavenly things in heavenly places.

Ephesians 1 shows us something of the inheritance that God has for us. The apostle Paul says, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3)*. That is what God wants to do for you and for me, and

a picture of it is seen in what He wanted to do for His earthly people, Israel.

When we read of the Passover lamb, earlier in Exodus, there was not one single family that did not slay the Passover lamb and put the blood on the doorpost and over the lintel. They believed what God said and were delivered from the destroying angel. Maybe you have put your faith and trust in Christ to be delivered from the judgment of God. Thank God for every one of us who has come to Jesus as Saviour and Lord and put their faith and trust in His precious shed blood. The next step is to be delivered from Egypt, from this *"present evil world"* (Galatians 1:4).

Exodus 15 shows us the Children of Israel having crossed the Red Sea. They had been sheltered, delivered from God's judgment by the blood of the Passover lamb and they had been brought safely through the Red Sea to the other side. As I look around I can see that many if not all here have had that experience and know what it is to be delivered from the world, to be saved by the precious blood of Christ and to be brought out of the present evil age.

But there is more to it than that! The song of Moses takes us from Egypt to Canaan and I would like to speak about Moses as one who had been given God's view. I would love to be able to set before you God's view of the inheritance to attract your heart towards that wonderful place where Jesus is and where you and I can enjoy the precious thoughts of God. Ephesians 1 shows us the wonderful spiritual blessings that God has in mind for us. God has given us His Spirit so that we might come in the present time into His great thoughts for us.

Here we have a people who have been delivered from the world and Moses can lead a song that takes them from Egypt

to Canaan. We sing some lovely hymns about the grace of God and what God has done and what He has brought us into. But, in the reality of my soul I often find I have to challenge myself whether I am really in the good of what I sing about. Let us desire to be in the enjoyment of what God has for us.

Moses here could sing of being brought out, of being delivered – the enemy overwhelmed by the sea. Then Moses could sing too of what God had in view. God’s thoughts were not to leave them on the other side of the Red Sea but to bring them to Himself and then to bring them into the land. So God has two further thoughts in mind. One is, *“Thou hast guided them by thy strength unto the abode of thy holiness”*. The song speaks of things that were yet to happen as though they were accomplished. In other words, although it had not happened, Moses was in the light and gain of what God was going to do and he speaks about it as having already taken place.

Then the tabernacle had to be built in the wilderness. God needed to have a centre for His people to gather to Him. If you read the book of Numbers you will see that the children of Israel encamped around the tabernacle tribe by tribe. There was to be order. They were to have God as their centre in the wilderness. God was able to dwell in the midst of a people He had called and had redeemed.

Now, we are in a wilderness – that is what the world has become to us. The wilderness through which the children of Israel passed was a desert but God provided food and water. God can provide us with spiritual food and spiritual refreshment in the wilderness of this world. He keeps us as we go through life in the midst of a world where there is nothing to satisfy our spiritual desires.

God provided the manna; day by day He provided food from heaven and He provided water. There was an instance – which speaks to us of the Spirit given – when the rock was smitten and the water flowed. But also, every day water was provided and food for His people so that they should be preserved through their wilderness pathway. That is, I believe, what is envisaged by being *“guided ... by thy strength unto the abode of thy holiness”*. God said earlier on that He would bring them to Himself. He had taken them out of Egypt and He would bring them to Himself. They were not to stay by the Red Sea but to reach what God had prepared for them.

So we are not to stay, as it were, on the bank of the Red Sea merely being thankful for the forgiveness of sins and deliverance from the world. It is a wonderful and most blessed thing to have our sins forgiven but there is more in Christianity than that. I believe that Moses in singing this song represents the purpose of God in what is said here, and Miriam and the women in their song represent the people’s state. When you read Miriam’s song it only takes you the first step of the way!

I do trust that I am not like Miriam in that sense: I do trust that I have gone a little bit further and come in some measure into the enjoyment of God’s purposes. The tabernacle in the wilderness was not the ultimate thought. The ultimate thought was God’s dwelling, the land, in Canaan, not only what He was going to give them but the sanctuary that He was going to make.

So having come to the wilderness, having come to the tabernacle, they found that there was a daily source of guidance. The tabernacle was in the midst of the camp. If you were an Israelite you would see the pillar of cloud by day. Every day you would know God was there because you would see the cloud. That was the evidence to their eyes of the

presence of God in their midst. And at night there was the pillar of fire. There was fire at night and cloud by day. There was a 24/7 evidence of the presence of God.

So God had not left them and God has not left us. We may be in difficult circumstances. We may be going through various trials and problems. As a young believer, you may be facing many difficulties. But God is still there. He is in the midst of His people day and night. The tabernacle was God's provision, not only for Himself to dwell in the midst of His people but for His people to know Him in their midst.

Then the final thought is, *"Till thy people pass over, Jehovah, Till the people pass over that thou hast purchased"*. God wanted them to pass over Jordan and to come into the land of Canaan. God would have every one of us come into the enjoyment of the land of Canaan, not to stay in the wilderness, still less to remain on the bank of the Red Sea in our spiritual state, but to pass over into the land of Canaan.

We read, *"the people... that thou hast purchased"*. God has purchased us. He has purchased a people for Himself. This is not the view of what God has done for us; it is the view of what God has done for Himself. I would like to try to convey that to you, that God has blessed you: He has taken you up for blessing for His own pleasure, purpose and glory. Our blessing is a wonderful thing but the greatness of God is shown in that He has done it for His own glory and pleasure.

The children of Israel are but a picture of what we are in reality brought into. Moses' song goes on to the people passing over the Jordan: a people that have been redeemed and purchased by God. He has paid a price for us. The price is the precious shed blood of Jesus, to purchase us for Himself and to bring us into a glorious land, a heavenly land. Canaan represents the enjoyment of heavenly things while we are still on earth.

We are coming to heaven very shortly; then we shall be like Him and we shall see Him as He is (*see 1 John 3:2*). But now we can enjoy by the Spirit what we shall enjoy eternally. God's thought was that His people should enjoy rest. The book of Joshua shows that the people had to fight battles to get rest. So for us, we have to overcome certain things in ourselves. We have to judge the flesh in us in order to get into the enjoyment of this spiritual blessing.

So Moses says, *"Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, The place that thou, Jehovah, hast made thy dwelling"*. God chose Jerusalem – it is not revealed where we read – but He chose Jerusalem to put His name there. Now God is not putting His name on any earthly centre here today. He has chosen us for blessing and He dwells amongst His people: a habitation of God in the Spirit here on earth (*Ephesians 2:22 and see Psalm 107:7, 36*).

So there is that which we shall come to eternally, but also that which is now a habitation of God in the Spirit here on earth and we can be amongst those who form God's habitation. All these verses show what God has done for His own pleasure and what we are brought into it. *"Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, The place that thou, Jehovah, hast made thy dwelling"*. Think of that, God planting. When you do a bit of gardening and are planting things, you plant them so that they might grow and prosper, get big and flower and give pleasure. That is why we plant plants. God has planted His people. He has planted them in the mountain of His inheritance. The children of Israel were to be there for the pleasure of God.

In the same way we are to be planted for the pleasure of God. That is, everything from the divine side – from God's

how much do I know of the Sanctuary?

viewpoint – is for His pleasure and delight. I would like to try to give you that viewpoint. We so often think about how things affect us. Around us

in the world the question is, ‘What is in it for me?’ But here we have, ‘What is in it for God?’ God has a scene of pleasure for His own heart in mind. In His grace, and in His wonderful love He wants us in it too.

“The Sanctuary, Lord, that thy hands have prepared”. That is where He is going to dwell, the Sanctuary. A place set aside for the dwelling of God. Well, how much do I know of the Sanctuary? But He is not dwelling there alone, He is dwelling there in company with His people. God wants to have His people around Him. Just as in the wilderness the tabernacle was to be the centre of the encampments of the children of Israel, so in the land God’s centre is Christ and He wants His people surrounding Him. *“Jehovah shall reign for ever and ever”*. What a wonderful conclusion to this song sung on the banks of the Red Sea, but having in mind the purposes of God and a note of praise to God: *“Jehovah shall reign for ever and ever”*.

When we come to Miriam’s song she does not get beyond, *“The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea”*. Yes, often I do not get beyond the forgiveness of my sins. Often I may not get beyond knowing that God has saved me and delivered me from wrath and judgment, but let us desire to get into the purposes of God. That is God’s view. What we have presented in Exodus 15 is God’s view. Moses was given God’s view and the men sang with him but I doubt if very many, actually, were in the state of their soul, up to what they had sung. I fear that very often I sing a lovely hymn but I doubt often whether my state of soul is in line with my

singing. May God work in our hearts to bring us into the gain, the good and the blessing of all that He has for us. That is what I wanted to draw your attention to in Moses and in Miriam.

We come now to a very interesting further period in the wilderness. Twelve spies were sent out by God to spy out the land and bring back evidence of the quality of what was there. God was so gracious to His people. He did not just tell them that Canaan was a great and good land, He actually sent people out to bring them back a sample. If you are making a decision on something for the home you often like to see a sample. Well, God brought back through those spies a sample of the fruit of Canaan – a great big bunch of grapes, so heavy that it had to be carried on a pole by two men as well as figs and pomegranates. God had a fruitful land to give His people and He was going to bring them into it.

These twelve men came back with that great bunch of grapes. The children of Israel saw it – they saw the evidence of Canaan. They could not deny that it was a wonderful land, a land flowing with milk and honey. They had evidence before their eyes. I have never met any believer who would deny the greatness of the purposes of God, the greatness of our spiritual blessings but what the children of Israel said was, 'We are not able for it; we have not got the strength to possess it'. I would encourage all of us, but, particularly our younger brethren, not to think of the purposes and the blessing that God has for us as something that we are not able for. It is a very sad thing to, say, 'Yes it is true but it is not for me'. I have never yet met a believer in the Lord Jesus who denied that God's blessings were great and wonderful. But I have met quite a few who have little interest in the things of God. Do not let any one of us go down that road.

God's thoughts are going through in Christ. Our blessed God has secured everything in Christ and His heart is full of blessing to you and to me.

Two men, Caleb and Joshua, were faithful men. Out of twelve spies, ten brought back an evil report. Do you know what happened to them? They were slain. They came under the governmental consequence of what they had done in trying to mislead the people. Because the people immediately said, *"Let us make a captain, and let us return to Egypt"*. The ten spies – you can read it for yourself (*Numbers 14:37*) – came to a bad end. Caleb and Joshua were the only two men who came out of Egypt and went into Canaan. They brought back a true report. They said, *We are able for it, "If Jehovah delight in us, he will bring us into this land, and give it us"*. They had faith that God would bring them into the land.

God is very able to bless you with every spiritual blessing. He wants to do so but there is something that you have to do. You have to go in for it. You have to give up something, to judge yourself, maybe to give up some worldly interest and seek the wonderful blessings that God has for you.

The children of Israel did not want it and they were going to stone Caleb and Joshua. It is quite astonishing; not only did they believe the ten who gave the false report, but they wanted to stone the two who gave a right report. The glory of Jehovah appeared and disaster was prevented. Well, there have been some disasters in the Christian profession. We know of some of them. I do not want to dwell on that – I want to give you an impression, if I can, with God's help, of the wonder and the glory and the blessedness of His thoughts in Christ and the spiritual blessings which are available to you. I would encourage us all to go in for them.

‘Some saints want to be wheeled to heaven in a perambulator’

We need to go in for them. They will not just come walking down. C. A. Coates, a godly man, said, ‘Some saints want to be wheeled to heaven in a perambulator’. We need to actively go in for the things of God. We will not get heavenly blessings unless we go in for them. We are exhorted to *“seek the things which are above, where the Christ is” (Colossians 3:1)*. How often my mind gets distracted, diverted, turned aside from the blessing that God has.

Well, these two men were faithful and we read of them later on when they went into Canaan. Joshua was buried in a corner of his inheritance in mount Ephraim. Just as an aside, it is very interesting that Joshua was of the tribe of Ephraim and Caleb was of the tribe of Judah. Later on in the history of Israel, Ephraim and Judah became split into two separate kingdoms. Yet, in a coming day they will be reunited. So these two men, representing the two parts of Israel, were faithful to what they knew of God. They had God’s view of Canaan and were faithful and true to it. Now, dear brethren, we have God’s view of the heavenly land, the spiritual blessings that we can enjoy in Christ. Eternal life is to be enjoyed now in Christ amongst believers, but we have to go in for it. I would stir us all up, including myself, to go in more for the blessed things of God while we have time and opportunity.

I want to turn now to the New Testament. Firstly, let us take a look at Lydia. I like to be able to speak about women as well as men who were used and blessed of God because I think it encourages our sisters. Not everyone has to be a brother to be a blessing to the saints or to be a servant of God.

Now, this is just a very simple impression. *“Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, who worshipped God”*. She was not, initially, a Christian but she had a respect, a fear, a devotion to God. Then it says of her, *“whose heart the Lord opened to attend to the things spoken by Paul”*. The first city that Paul visited in Europe was Philippi and the first person there to get converted was a woman. Now I have no doubt she had a very mixed view of things. She was probably what we call a proselyte, someone who followed the Jewish faith, because she had turned aside from the terrible paganism of the Gentiles and sought God amongst the Jews. But then she had her heart opened to attend to the things spoken by Paul.

It is a wonderful thing when God opens our heart. I believe, as I look around, that everyone in this room has had their heart opened by God. Here, Lydia had her heart opened to attend to the things spoken by Paul. It is not just that she listened. I believe that *“attend to”* means a good deal more than that. Here we have someone who was listening, she was attending to, she was taking on board what Paul was saying and it was because God had opened her heart.

It is a wonderful thing that God opens hearts to attend to what He is saying, so that we might get His viewpoint. It does not matter what I say. It does not matter what I think. What does matter is what God says. What matters is for us to get God’s viewpoint – and we can. The Holy Spirit is given to those that believe; we have this wonderful Person indwelling us so we have the means to get God’s view of everything. Let us be concerned to do so. Lydia had her heart opened to attend to the things spoken by Paul. As a result Lydia was baptised, as a result she invited Paul into her house. Now, is that not wonderful? Not only has she taken a stand against the world and she has come over onto Christian

ground but she wants Paul in her house. So there is progression through somebody getting God's view of things, God's view of Christ, God's view of Christianity, and she got it through Paul. **Apollos was fervent in spirit**

She wanted Paul in her house. It is a wonderful thing to make room in our houses for what the Lord has given. We have the scriptures and also there are spiritual gifts, gifts given by God. Do not let us overlook them.

Finally, I just like to say a word about Apollos. Here is another person who was given God's view of things. He was a Jew *"an Alexandrian by race, an eloquent man, who was mighty in the scriptures"*. Apollos had a lot going for him. But he was not going to be any use to God until he got God's view of things. God was pleased to use a man and his wife to take Apollos to their home and unfold to him the way of God more exactly.

Apollos was fervent in spirit, he was enthusiastic and *"he spoke and taught exactly the things concerning Jesus"* but he only knew the baptism of John. In other words he only knew that Christ was the one who was coming. He did not know that the Lord Jesus had come, had suffered and died and risen again and gone into glory. Aquila and Priscilla had the lovely task of helping him to see that.

You can see that they were successful by what is said about him afterwards. I would to God that I could be more useful to Him in my home, because I do believe there is a lot we can do to help the people of God in our homes. I think the home is a great place for Christian witness. Some have said that it is the bulwark of the testimony. What a support Aquila and Priscilla were to the brethren in the various places where they lived. They moved about a bit but they were always working

the work of the Lord. Sometimes Paul laboured with them, sometimes they were on their own.

They were able, by the grace of God, to help Apollos to see things from God's viewpoint, to see Christ in all His glory. To have got the baptism of John was a great start but it needed completing. As soon as it is completed he is a good testimony. *"For he with great force convinced the Jews publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ"*.

Now, he could not have shown by the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ if he did not know them. It is important to know the scriptures, I wish I knew them better. If you know scripture the Spirit of God can bring those verses back to your mind and help you apply them rightly. I once knew a brother who said, 'The Lord can bring to your mind what you have read. He cannot bring to your mind what you have not read'. That says quite a lot. It is an important thing to read the scriptures and get to know them.

Apollos was mighty in the scriptures, an eloquent man. That was the Old Testament scriptures. At this point in time the New Testament had not been put together. So he knew the Old Testament and he could show from the Old Testament that Jesus was the Christ. Could you? If you or I had only the Old Testament to work from could we show that Jesus was the Christ? It would be a very interesting exercise, would it not? What scriptures would you use? There are a whole lot of scriptures about the suffering Messiah and a lot of scriptures about the reigning Messiah and we must not confuse them.

So here was Apollos who was mighty in the scriptures and he was able to convince the Jews publicly. They could not gainsay him. The enemy will always try to gainsay you. If you speak to someone who does not know the Lord, you might

find they try to argue. Apollos was able to convince them. I am not suggesting that you go out and argue with people. Apollos was mighty in the scriptures; he could bring the right scripture to bear at the right place. I would like the skill to be able to do that.

So these people were able to do and say what they did because they had God's point of view. It is very important to us all, young and old, that we always have God's point of view. We may have to pray about it. We may have to search the scriptures. The Bereans were more noble than others because they searched the scriptures. They checked up that what they were hearing was right and sound and good. So, when you hear something, check it out. Go to scripture because we need always to base what we believe and do clearly on scripture. Any other ground is unreliable.

Well, here are some people in both the Old and the New Testament who were given God's viewpoint and were blessed of God; I am sure Lydia's testimony bore fruit in Philippi. And I have no doubt, and scripture supports it, that Apollos's testimony bore fruit too. Well, is our testimony bearing fruit? It is a test, it is a challenge. But I believe the Lord would first of all get us round to His way of thinking, to His point of view and as we start from there we will be helped, blessed and encouraged.

May it be the portion of every one of us, for His name's sake.

Marcus Chapman,

An Address at Basildon, 22nd November 2014

Next Page:

In 1913 a collection of the hymns of Edward Chater (1845 – 1915) was published with the title, "The Ways of God and His Praise". This concludes the series of E H Chater's poems.

Poetry Selection

FAITHFUL LOVE

What wondrous love, O Lord, led Thee to go
From glory's heights, to suffer shame and loss,
And here to drink the bitter cup of woe
On Calvary's cross.

No love, blest Lord, can with Thy love compare,
Love faithful till Thou yieldest Thy life's breath
God's holy judgement Thou didst bear,
And vanquish death.

'Twas love to God, and love unto Thine own,
Whom He, the Father, gave, Lord, unto Thee,
Which led Thee there, and Thou for them hast won
Great victory.

Thou lov'dst us unto death, Thy self didst give,
And us the guilty from God's sight remove,
That we in Thee, the risen One, might live
In holy love.

Victorious Lord, we see Thee on God's throne.
We hail Thee there, all worthy, with delight,
And soon wilt Thou present us as Thine own
In Thy blest sight.

In priestly grace Thou dost our hearts sustain,
As we press home to Thee on life's highway,
Singing to Thee, our everlasting gain,
In joyful lay.

O wondrous moment, when the heavens ring
With Thy blest voice, calling Thine own above!
Then shall our hearts before Thee sing
In endless love.

Within the Father's home! There all is love;
And cloudless light, where He for ever dwells;
And in that blessed scene of joy above
Thy glory tells.

E. H. Chater

Testimony Section

JESUS LOVER OF MY SOUL – A TESTIMONY

In the Song of Solomon we read: *“my beloved is mine and I am his” (Song of Songs 2:16)* but it was a long time before I came to appreciate this wonderful promise and realised God’s wonderful love in Christ Jesus.

I was abandoned by my Hindu mother when I was only two months old, so I was brought up by a missionary nurse from Ormskirk, Lancashire, England, called Elizabeth Morris, as her adopted Indian son. As I grew older I went with her to church, but saying prayers and singing Christian songs was simply a traditional routine. In my heart there was an emptiness and a void. Thank God, because of God’s love and mercy, the blessed day came in 1955 when I was seventeen, I was gloriously saved. The Holy Spirit convicted me of my lost condition without Christ and the urgent need I had of a Saviour. The conviction became so strong that I rushed to my room, opened God’s word at 1 John 1:9¹ and began to pour out my heart before the Lord crying and pleading for forgiveness and mercy.

The Lord as per Acts 5:31 granted me a spirit of repentance² and then the gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8)³. Reading John 1:12⁴ and Ephesians 3:17⁵ helped me to receive Christ as personal Saviour and Lord in my heart. The Lord taught me

1 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2 Him has God exalted by his right hand as leader and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and remission of sins.

3 For ye are saved by grace, through faith; and this not of yourselves; it is God’s gift.

4 To as many as received him, to them gave he the right to be children of God

5 That the Christ may dwell through faith in your hearts.

a good lesson, not just to trust your emotions but to take God at His blessed word and promise: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9)*. As 1 John 1:7 says, the blood of Jesus Christ cleansed me from all sin.

At once a spiritual miracle took place. The joy of salvation flooded my heart and I knew Jesus as the lover of my soul for the first time in my life. I was made a new creation in Christ. This new-found life in Christ made me a witness to my friends, classmates, neighbours and others. Jesus became so precious to me. God’s word became alive and sharing my faith in Jesus with others became both alive and challenging.

If anyone asks me ‘What do you think of Christ?’ My response is: He is altogether lovely, He is my Beloved, my joy, my crown. He is the life, the way and the truth. He is my Friend who loves me so much. I thank the Lord for saving my soul, for giving me His great salvation, so full and free. My burden is to let everyone know who Jesus is. He is my personal Saviour, King of kings and Lord of lords. My soul rejoices in the Lord – to Him be all glory, honour and praise. Hallelujah.

It has been my privilege over many years to be able to share the good news of Christ’s salvation with many boys and girls through Scripture Union and through ministry. India needs Christ, the whole world needs Christ. Truly the harvest is great and the workmen are few, the fields are ready for harvest.

Our King of glory is coming soon, let us be waiting for Him. Let us be winning souls for Him. Let us be praising Him. May God challenge all His people with these objectives.

Philip Bawdekar (March 2015)

India

RANSOMED, HEALED, RESTORED, FORGIVEN!

I did not have a good upbringing, not that I blame my mother; she did one thing right and took me to church and Sunday school. At the age of seven I gave my heart to the Lord Jesus. However, after a while I came to reject the strict routine of attending church and I stopped going. During my teenage years I was taken into care and got hooked on tobacco, drugs and alcohol, and then when I was twenty-one I had my daughter. I still prayed at times but mainly when I was in trouble!

There was a lot that was wrong in my life and many things that I was unhappy about. It was these feelings that, somewhat like the prodigal son of Luke 15, led me to feel that I wanted to get to know my Father in heaven. I went with my daughter, who was seven at the time, to a house group in my mother's house. Boy, was I in for a surprise! God touched me in the prayer meeting and I knew that I wanted to grow in my knowledge of God. What had happened when I was seven suddenly began to mean something again.

That was all about eleven years ago and both my daughter and I have come to trust in Christ and seek to serve Him. In Him I have forgiveness of sins but also through Christ Jesus I have been delivered from all my addictions, I have been healed physically and mentally and I give thanks for this to the Father.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and daily I claim the promises of God that are available in Him

Suzi (September 2015.)

Kent

A voice from the past

SEEING THINGS FROM GOD'S POINT OF VIEW

Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are of a pure heart

But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped
(Psalm 73:1-2)

The many and difficult circumstances through which believers are passing are very testing at the present time. This has been allowed of God to bring to light whether we are living in our circumstances, or increasing in the knowledge of God. If the latter, whatever may change in relation to our circumstances, the soul rests in its knowledge of the One unchanging God and like Asaph in Psalm 73 gives you his answer to the difficulty in the first verse of his Psalm, and then shows how it has all been worked out. So, whatever the trial or difficulty, the answer is: *"Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are of a pure heart"*. He had found his circumstances very testing, especially as seeing the prosperity of the wicked, and he had sought to purify his heart and to wash his hands in innocence. He took account of his motives and of his actions and looked for a present recompense for his piety. So you can understand him saying, *"But as for me, my feet were almost gone, my steps had well nigh slipped"*.

We might ask, 'Does God save him from falling by changing his circumstances and judging the wicked?' No! Rather, God allows him to see things from His view point in the sanctuaries of God and Asaph feels the power of God *"holding his right hand"* and guiding him by His counsel and, after the glory, receiving him (see vvs 23-24).

You can understand that after this time in the presence of God, God is supreme in his affections and he can say: *"Whom have I in the heavens? And there is none upon the earth that I desire beside thee.... God is the rock of my heart and my portion for ever"* (vvs 25 & 26).

From the Notebook of L. V. Vessey (Wath-on-Dearne)

Reprinted from "Living Water" No 33

GROWING OLD THROUGH GRACE

All things become real as we grow old through grace; yet He is always the same, sufficient for the young, sufficient also for

the old, and so full of tenderness and grace, May we be kept humble, so as to know Him and all the resources that are in Him for present difficulties, and even for loneliness, for He has felt it. *"Ye shall leave me alone; and yet I am not alone for the Father is with me"* (John 16:32) So you can say, 'I and Christ that is with me'. He said to Peter: *"take it and give for me and thee"* – to think of putting us so together!

J. N. Darby

This article is re-printed from "Living Water" No 33.

If there is an article from a past issue of "Living Water" which you would like to see reprinted please contact the editor.

A word for today

"HE GAVE HIMSELF"

I have been deeply impressed of late with the importance of giving serious attention to the context of scriptural statements. Take, for instance, the statement *"He gave Himself"*. This is so precious in itself that every truly converted soul could not help being affected by it in some degree and yet might quite miss the reason given why He gave Himself.

Let us take the scriptures in their moral order:

Titus 2:14

He *"gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all lawlessness, and purify to himself a peculiar people, zealous for good works"*. Human nature has become lawless by sin coming in, for sin is lawlessness in its very nature. Law is no remedy for this, for the *"strength of sin is the law"*. Our Lord Jesus, the sinless One, was made sin for us, *"that we might become God's righteousness in him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). Thank God, although we carry about with us this lawless principle in our flesh, yet it has no right over us, because our Saviour Jesus Christ has given Himself as the ransom price from all its claims in order to purify

us from all its workings to Himself, setting us free from its dominion, zealous for good works.

Galatians 1:4-5

“Who gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of our God and our Father: to whom be glory for ever, Amen”. How blessed to know that it is the will of our God and Father that we should be out of the present course of things in mind, heart, and spirit, while bodily in it. We have the wondrous sacrifice of the One who knew our God and Father’s will, as the perfect, divine answer to all our sins, and so are free to have Himself as our Object outside the present course of things and everything that is in it. I am persuaded that we should all be deeply moved by this gracious thought of our Lord and Saviour... and earnestly and prayerfully seek to realise this deliverance... as necessary and preliminary to our entrance into heavenly things.

Galatians 2:20

“...the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me”. Paul beautifully expresses the motive which actuated him in living by faith while here in the body. He lived in the life of his soul by the glorious light of a divine Person in manhood who had so loved him as to give Himself for him. Thus self had no further claims upon Paul... He gave Himself for me, says the apostle, so that I am now free to have Him instead of myself as my Object. How blessed to know that the Son of God had this in mind when He gave Himself for me, for self is doubtless one of our main difficulties, and can only be answered effectually by having an Object outside of all that appeals to self, and who is infinitely greater than self and every influence that feeds it.

Ephesians 5:1

“Be ye therefore imitators of God as beloved children, and walk in love, even as the Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an

offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour". The Christ is Head of His church and does not instruct us to do what He has not first done Himself as a Man. We can only follow Him. We cannot be first in anything that is acceptable to God. He therefore gave Himself for us as the expression of the true character of divine love, and of what is acceptable to God.

We need to pay attention to this presentation of love in a day when human thoughts of spiritual things prevail so widely. Especially is this important in regard to so sacred a matter as the divine affections and what is acceptable to God in the way of love. Love is clearly sacrificial as here presented, and therefore we can only walk in love, and offer to God, as we refuse self. Galatians 2:20, therefore prepares us for this.

Ephesians 5:25-27

"Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it, in order that he might sanctify it, purifying it by the washing of water by the word, that he might present the church to himself glorious..." The grand climax of giving Himself comes out in view of the church. He *"loved the church, and gave himself for it"* that He might sanctify it and wash it, and present it to Himself. All this was in His heart and mind when He gave Himself for the church. He did not consider the giving of Himself too great a price to pay for such a treasure. How blessed to be of such a company.

What wonderful thoughts are connected with this precious statement, *"He gave Himself"*. May we all ponder them and be affected by them and so answer to what He had in mind in giving Himself.

J. Doughty