

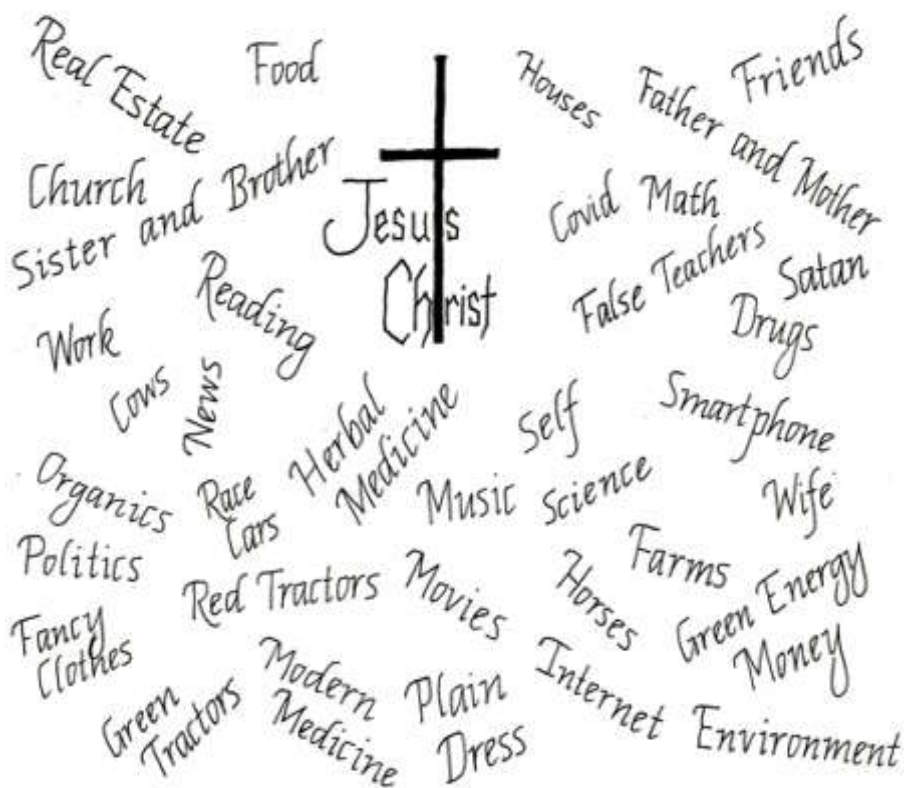
# The Bugle

Calling everyone to the service of Christ

Vol. 23, Number 1

Spring 2023

Who has your attention?



Jesus said, "Follow Me."

# Welcome to The Bugle

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## The Bugle

Is a ministry of the Parishville Christian Church.

The magazine is edited by various members of the Luke & Rachel Martin family. The Boy's Bugle was started in 2001 by Melvin to help fill the need for a Christian boys' magazine. In 2011 we changed

the name to The Bugle.

We publish as we have the time and satisfactory material. Any comments, suggestions, submissions, or ideas you send us are greatly appreciated.

If you are ever in the area, we would be delighted for you to stop in for a visit or to wor-

**On the front cover:** Does He have your foremost attention?

Designed by: Nathaniel Martin

Drawn by: Maria Giffen



# Editor's Desk



## Love.

God is love. Is not love doing good to others? God has done good to us in that He sent His Son to take away sin—guilt and death—terror. He cared about our own problem that we made for ourselves. He snatched us from eternal death. He asks us to care about others. Help them out of their problem when we can. Is there anything else He wants us to do?

Husbands, do good things for your wife. I am not just talking of good feelings or good words, but good acts.

Fathers, don't make your children mad. Do what is good for them.

Never forget the first thing: God did good to us first. I say never forget. Don't get hung up on some other love or idea. Remember I said not just talk or feelings, but true care and real acts of kindness.

God did more than sit in heaven and talk. He came down and got dirty. Big acts, small acts—does it matter? God sees the heart. Do you care? Do you do? This matter of love is not a side issue. It is at the core of who we are. If we love our brother we will never go wrong. Hate is darkness and death—terror!

God, we need You. We need to see true love, true acts of kindness.

How many acts of kindness do we need? One a day, or is two enough? We need a continual care from God to us and from us to others. All the time. There is no “time out” for love. Say and not do? Not God. He did the act. He died for me. Thank-you, God!

I do not present this issue of The Bugle as if it is perfect and without error; I pray that it points

*Nathaniel J. Martin*

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

**God is a jealous God; He wants your**

## The Name You Claim

Scriptures taken from the Webster Bible

Have you ever considered what all is behind a name? What is the meaning of the names we claim? How do they identify us? What image do they attach to us? Whether it be a person, group, party, club, gang, cause, religion, church, schism, whatever—you name it—we want something to belong to in order to be secure and significant.

Mankind has been that way for a long time. **And they said, come, let us build us a city, and a tower, whose top may reach to heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we should be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men were building. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Come, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel...** (Gen. 11:4-9)

Ever since mankind first left the security of fellowship with God and taken his own way, he has been seeking for security and purpose. The empires, institutions, and gangs we build and control and the names we make for ourselves to keep us together, only end in confusion, misunderstanding, and scattering. **...O LORD, for lo, thy enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.** (Psalm 92:9)

God is calling us to return to Him for the security and purpose that He created us with. He wants us to trust in His name. Receive Him into your heart, accept His forgiveness, and obey Him.

What is behind His name? Enough to make us all tremble, if we will look and listen. Enough love and mercy to take us to heaven, if we choose.

**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 on earth, and things under the earth;** (Phil. 2:9-10)

**Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:** (Eph. 1:21)

**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, by which we must be saved.** (Acts 4:12)

Those who truly have placed themselves under God's Name, are one in Him. Christ is the Head of His church. God sets the members in the body as it pleases Him. (1Cor. 12:18)

However, there are many who use His name but do not know Him or

obey Him.

**Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out demons? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matt. 7:21-23)**

In Old Testament times, the Israelites were God's people. They would constantly fall into idolatry. Then God, in anger, would scatter them and they would be in bondage to heathen nations. This was a grief to God. **But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and my eye shall weep bitterly, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive. (Jer. 13:17)**

By Jesus' day, the Jewish sect of the Pharisees had added many of their own rules to God's law. Jesus said to them, **Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draw nigh to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Matt. 15:7-9)**

**...Thus ye also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. (Matt. 23:28)**

Jesus lamented, **O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent to thee; how often would I have gathered thy children, as a hen gathereth her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left to you desolate. And verily I say to you, ye shall not see me, until the time shall come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. (Luke 13:34-35)**

Jesus called the Pharisees, **Ye fools, and blind. (Matt. 23:17&19)**. He would say the same to us today, when we build our churches, with our own wisdom, ideas, rules, righteousness, and control. Misunderstandings and divisions result. We think we do God service. We don't see how destructive and foolish our own ways are. But many know they are submitting to foolishness in order to be a part of the group. Do you think the Almighty, all wise, all-knowing God cares, when, in His Holy Name, we knowingly do stupid things? How serious are we, when we take the name of God?

**Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (Ex. 20:7)**

To take the name of God is a grave responsibility. How many souls, seeking love and peace, pass the Savior by and end in hell, because of wrong examples, advice, teaching, and preaching of "Christians"?

**Except the LORD shall build the house, they labor in vain that**

**build it.** (Psalm 127:1)

Some claim the name of Jesus, but go by the name of Menno, Ammann, Luther, or other men, even though they may or may not live or believe like their namesake did. This is like a woman claiming to be married to one man but going by the name of another man that she admires. Who does she really love and belong to? No wonder God is jealous.

**And whatever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.** (Col 3:17)

**As for you, O house of Israel, thus saith the Lord GOD; Go ye, serve ye every one his idols, and hereafter also, if ye will not hearken to me: but profane ye my holy name no more with your gifts, and with your idols.** (emphasis is mine) (Eze. 20:39)

**But let him that glorieth, glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD who exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.** (Jer. 9:24)

How can we represent God if we do not know Him or understand His Word? Do we believe that He forgives us our sins? Do we believe that He will give us power to overcome sin and live victoriously and be like Him? Do we know that He is merciful and longsuffering toward us when we fail? Do we realize that He takes no excuses for our failures and our lack, but expects us to avail ourselves of His grace and press on in renewed faith in His name?

The prophet Daniel prayed, **O my God, incline thy ear, and hear; open thy eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thy own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.** (emphasis is mine) (Dan. 9:18-19).

Of ourselves, we cannot truly represent God. We need the power of His Spirit to open our eyes to our own sins and the idols that we hold to. The Spirit will enable us to forsake them and obey Him. It is a miracle of grace that we weak and wicked paupers can be changed into ... **laborers together with God** <sup>(1Co. 3:9)</sup>. What an honor it is to be shown ...**the riches of the glory of** <sup>(Col. 1:27)</sup> ...**the mystery of godliness:** <sup>(1Tim. 3:16)</sup> ...**of the kingdom of heaven.** <sup>(Matt. 13:11)</sup> The mystery these 3 verses speak of are truths hidden to those who will not hear or see.

**The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.** (Prov. 18:10)

In God's name we are secure and significant. But if we do not know Him, we will try to create it for ourselves. In mercy, and for His own name's sake, God will thwart our "building." If we seek and obey Him, we will learn to know Him. His Spirit will teach and restore us until



## History of the Believers' Church

Jesus said “you must be born again” John 3:7. In the book of Romans, chapter 8 and verse 9b, it tells us that “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” So proper church history will follow those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with all their heart.

What seems to be largely unknown is the history that shows that there were always those who refused to compromise the truth.

A study of church history shows us that from the beginning of the New Testament church, people became part of it, by repenting of their sins, and believing that Jesus paid the penalty for those sins on the cross of Calvary, confessing that Jesus is the Christ and then being baptized with water as an answer of a good conscience.

These people had “the faith that works by love.” Gal.5:6. They followed Jesus’ teaching to “love your enemies”, “to bless and curse not”, “not to swear oaths”, to be faithful in marriage and to do all Jesus and His apostles taught.

Jesus taught that we can expect persecution, and so it has been. He suffered by his own religious people, and so it has been throughout church history. Often the so-called church does the persecuting of Jesus’ followers. Strange as it may seem, so often the persecuted will, in turn persecute others. When that happens, you should be able to tell who is not following Jesus.

These people (that is, the followers of Jesus) were known by various names at different times and places, such as Nazarenes, Christian, the Brethren, Old Evangelicals, Albigenses, Waldensians, Bohemian Brethren, Pichards, Beghards, Swiss Brethren, and today many are known as Anabaptists.

There is recorded evidence that these people were the people who influenced some of the Roman Catholic priests to question the unscriptural practices of the Roman Catholic church. An example of this is: Luther was brought to the path of the Reformation by Johann Von Staupitz, who introduced him to the “Old German” theology in 1517-1520. But Luther denied the freedom of will and so caused a rift with his earlier friend. Because of this, his connection to the Bohemian Brethren came to an end. Luther went on to become one of the great reformers, but he did not hold to the values of the true followers of Jesus. In fact he became one of the persecutors of Christians.


On page 7 The History of the Bernese Anabaptists states that the “Taufers” did not form because of the Reformation, but were in existence before that happened.

Martyrs Mirror also mentions evidence of these people being persecuted by the Roman church from its start. Later the Reformers also perse-

cuted the Anabaptists.

All of these believers did not believe in the Original Sin doctrine or of swearing by oath. Most were pacifists and against using the sword. Unfortunately, there were some groups that did use the sword, such as the Munsterites, and a part of the Waldensians. Today some who claim to be Anabaptist do go to war.

Many people leave a movement in favor of something better, but often bring along the foundation of the error that they are leaving. Many of the reformers leaving the Catholics did not leave behind all the false doctrine and practices. It is important that a person studies the scripture as the standard for faith and practice. There is much believed in the name of Christianity today that are nothing more than pagan practices or cultural tradition. Of note is Menno Simons who clearly believed in the original sin doctrine, as in his writings he goes in great detail to defend it.

One of the problems with the idea that we inherited Adams' sin, or his sin nature, is that Jesus would then as the Son of Man have inherited it too. The Roman Catholics get around the problem by saying that Jesus' mother somehow mysteriously didn't inherit Adams' sin. Menno Simons taught that a child does not get any genes from his mother but only from his father. He said that a woman is like a field and the father places the seed in her to nourish it, but she is in no way responsible for the child's nature. Many today have excuses and reasons along this line as well. "And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God". *1 John 4:3a* Hebrews teaches that Jesus was tempted in all points as we. He said he was the Son of Man and also the Son of 

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## Jesus the Son of God—Jesus the Son of Man

How can it be that Jesus is both the Son of God and the Son of Man? What is meant by His being the Son of God? What is meant by His being the Son of Man?

First let us look at His being the Son of God. The word "God" here means; Deity, supreme, very good, {as defined by #2316 in Strong's concordance}.

It is recorded in Matt. 3:17 "A voice from heaven, saying, "This my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." This provides us with a witness from heaven that Jesus is the Son of God. His disciples confirmed this by saying, (Matt. 14:33) "that of a truth thou art the Son of God," because that they had seen Jesus commanding Peter to walk on water. Peter clearly shared that he believed Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:16). Again Jesus clearly stated He is the Son of God to the man who had been blind, that He restored his sight to (John 9:35-37).

There are many more scriptures confirming that Jesus was God, like when He said that He was before Abraham (John 8:54-58, and as recorded in John 1:1-



18 of the Word being God and that the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

This brings us to the next point, that Jesus was also the Son of Man.

The word Man means Adam in the Old Testament (#120 Strong's) and a human being in the New Testament (#444 Strong's). The Bible also tells us that He was born of a woman (Gal. 4:4). The Bible tells us that He had brothers and sisters (Matt. 13:55 & 56; Mark 6:3; 1 Cor. 9:5; & Gal. 1:19).

The term Son of Man always referred to a son born of Adam, whether it was used as a title for Jesus or some other man (Ezek. 2:1-8; 3:1-17; Daniel 7:13; Matt. 16:27; 20:28; 26:2 & etc.).

God promised to the serpent in the Garden of Eden that Eve's (woman's) seed would crush him (Gen. 3:15). This, of course, was Jesus who was born of a woman. In Deut. 18:15-19, Moses prophesies that a Prophet would be raised from among their midst (one of them). Then in the New Testament we find Jesus Himself stating that He, (the Son of Man) would be killed and be raised back to life again, (Mark 10:33-45).

He even calls Himself the Son of Man (Adam) in declaration of His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, (Matt. 16:27 & 28). The Apostle Paul also called Jesus by the name, Adam, (1 Cor. 15:45-49).

Now some people will claim that Jesus was not tempted like us, because that He being God, the temptation would have been different, but Heb. 4:14-16 tells us that Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are. Matt. 4:1-11 goes into detail telling us how Jesus was tempted, and it was just like you and I get tempted, and how Eve was tempted too, with passion (lust of the flesh); possession (lust of the eye); and position (pride of life).

Notice that the Apostle John used these expressions (1 John 2:15-17) to describe what the world is that we struggle against. The Apostle James explains how that it is lust that enters us and if we yield, it produces sin, which in turn has a penalty of death, (James 1:12-15).

Isaiah 53:1-12, tells us more of Jesus' suffering, and Matt. 8:20 tells us that He did not even have a place to call home.

Now, 1 John 4:1-6 tells us to try the spirits; and that every spirit that does not confess that Jesus came in the flesh (son of Adam) is that spirit of antichrist.

Some people deny Jesus' deity. Some deny that He was a Son of Adam. However we have seen that He was both.

A widespread belief is that before Adam sinned, he and Jesus were both equal before God. A question for that is found by reading, 1 Cor. 15:45-49. The first Adam was of the earth, and the second Adam (Jesus), was from heaven. It is true that Jesus, by being born of a woman, had this characteristic too. But Adam was not from heaven, and never at any time, was he called God as Jesus was. Adam had an earthly nature, even as he walked and talked with God. Jesus had both an earthly nature and a heavenly divine nature and He also talked with God His Father.

It is necessary for us, if we are going to be overcoming temptations to sin, to be born again of the Spirit of God (John 3:6 & Rom. 8:9).

Some argue that the reason man sins, is because man has a fallen and de-

praved nature. Those folks argue that when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, their nature changed and so now man is prone to sin, whereas before he was not. Why then did Adam and Eve sin when they supposedly had a divine nature? It seems to me that they behaved the same as people do today. James 3:9 tells us that men are made after the similitude of God, just like Genesis 1:26 & 27 says, that God made man after his own image. I believe it is incorrect to say that Adam's nature changed when he sinned. Rather what his nature was became known by his action.

There is a doctrine held by the Catholic Church as taught by St. Augustine, called Original Sin. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, (authorized by John Paul the 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1986), section 404 says, "How did the sin of Adam become the sin of all his descendants? The whole human race is in Adam "as one body of one man." By this "unity of the human race" all men are implicated in Christ's justice. Still, the transmission of original sin is a mystery that we cannot fully understand. But we do know, by revelation, that Adam had received original holiness and justice not for himself alone, but for all human nature. By yielding to the tempter, Adam and Eve committed a personal sin, but this sin affected the human nature that they then would transmit in a fallen state. It is a sin, which will be transmitted by propagation to all mankind, that is, by the transmission of a human nature, deprived of original holiness and justice. And that is why original sin is called "sin" only in an analogical sense; it is a sin "contracted" and not committed" – a state and not an act."

If you notice, it is taught here that all of Adam's offspring inherit his sin. Now it is true that all have sinned (Rom. 5:12), however, I do not believe that this means we sinned while we were in Adam's loins and somehow are guilty of being part of his decision to sin, but rather, having Adam's nature we are prone to sin and have all ourselves sinned.

If it were true that because of Adam's sin we are all condemned (Rom. 5:12), then it must also be true that through Jesus we are all (everyone of Adam's race) released from the penalty of sin and death, and are all made alive (Rom. 5:17&18). Of course, this is not understanding the scripture in Romans properly. It is Adam's nature in us that causes us to sin, and it is by faith in the righteousness of Jesus that we live and do not sin. So then we cannot—and may not—blame-shift our sins onto Adam.

It seems that some Protestants went even further with the Original Sin doctrine than the Catholic Church did. These people say a man is so totally depraved that he cannot even call out for mercy and help from God, unless God picks him out and extends a special grace that is only for certain people. They teach that only certain people can be saved from their lost condition. I am glad that God in His wisdom had His scribes declare that "Jesus died once for all" (Heb. 10:10), also that it is not the will of God that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Revelation 22:17 tells us that the invitation by the Holy Spirit and the Church is that whosoever is thirsty for life may come.

To say that only certain people are elected by God to be saved and live holy lives, is to say that the rest who are called sinners are also doing the will of God,

if it is true that they are doing what God planned for them. So then I ask what is sin, if it is not missing the mark or goal that God meant for them?

Charles Finney said, “The foundation of the error of which I speak, is the dogma that human nature is sinful in itself; and that, therefore sinners are entirely unable to become Christians. It is admitted, either expressly or virtually, that sinners may want to be Christians, and often try to be Christians, and yet somehow fail.

“It had been the practice, and still is to some extent, when ministers were preaching repentance, and urging the people to repent, to save their orthodoxy by telling them that they could not repent, any more than they could make a world. But the sinner must be set to do something; and with all their orthodoxy, they could not bear to tell him he had nothing to do. They must therefore, set him self righteously to pray for a new heart. They would sometimes tell him to do his duty, to press forward in duty, to read his Bible, to use the means of grace; in short, they would tell him to do any thing and everything, but the very thing which God commanded him to do. God commands him to repent now, to believe now, and to make him a new heart now. But they were afraid to urge God’s claims in this form, because they were continually telling the sinner that he had no ability whatever to do these things.”

On this Original Sin idea, I have even heard some people claim that Adam’s genes changed when he sinned, and when we are born again in Christ, that our genes change back to being like Adam’s original genes.

The problem with all of this is that Jesus called Himself the Son of Man (Adam) and as I showed earlier there is plenty of evidence that he was a man of the same race as Adam.

Now if the Original Sin doctrine (or Total Depravity as some call it) is true, then Jesus also must have inherited Adam’s sin and would necessarily have had a depraved nature. But the scriptures tell us that He was without sin (1 Peter 2:22, & 2 Cor. 5:21).

Remember Jesus called Himself the Son of Man and as a descendent of Adam He was tempted in all points like unto us (Heb. 4:15). He had the same temptations and human flesh the rest of us have. I believe Menno Simmons was wrong when he said that women do not contribute any genes to the offspring, but all the genes come from the father.

Consider 1 John 4:1-3, where the scripture teaches that whoever doesn’t believe that Jesus came in the flesh (Son of Adam), has the spirit of antichrist. If you are thinking like I am, you probably will now consider the Original Sin and total depravity doctrines to be false and misleading, even being antichrist!

There is a possibility that John had the Gnostics in mind when he wrote these words. The Gnostics had many varied ideas. On our subject here, they had a belief that the Deity descended on Jesus at his baptism, and ascended again to heaven before His crucifixion. Their idea seems to be that of a spirit that enlightens (an inner light), that He became an enlightened one, teaching we all can become gods in the same manner as Jesus was God. This is the conclusion of my

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# The Kingdom Where Love And Truth Reign

Has the Kingdom of God come to earth?

John the Baptist said: **Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** (Matthew 3:2) **From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** (Matthew 4:17) Here the Greek word for "at hand" is "eggizo," which means to bring; or approach. This word is used in Matt. 21:1, **And when they drew nigh (eggizo) unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples -** --; also in verse 34, **And when the time of the fruit drew near, (eggizo) he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.** Another verse that uses this word is found in Mark 14:42, **Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.** (eggizo) We can see by these examples that the Kingdom of Heaven was approaching and was being brought near.

John the Baptist declared that the kingdom was approaching (or at hand), but the apostle Paul in writing to the Colossians, about 30 years later, says in Col. 1:12-13, **Giving 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.** So we understand that the kingdom of which Jesus is king has arrived.

This is the same kingdom spoken of by the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-33, **And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name *was* Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women. And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**

The prophets also spoke of this in Isaiah 9:6-7. **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

II Sam. 7:12-17, **And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of**

thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

Dan. 2:44, **And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.**

Paul in writing to the Colossians says that they were in the Kingdom of Jesus (who is God). But in II Tim. 4:1 He declares that Jesus will judge the quick (living) and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom, referring to Jesus' statement in Matt. 16:27-28, **For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.**

The allegory in Gal. 4:21-31 shows an overlap in the existence of the old and new covenants. **Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman *was* by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 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 than she which hath an 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.** This shows us that the son of promise (Isaac) could not receive the promise till the son of bondage was cast out (Ishmael). In this transitional period, the Kingdom came to maturity.

The Old Covenant had to pass away. Heb. 8:6-13, **But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for**

the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. In that he saith, A new *covenant*, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old *is* ready to vanish away.

Notice also Heb. 10:9-10. Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. This He says in reference to establishing the second or New Covenant. We can see Jesus teaching this in Luke 21:30-32. **When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.** Here the words "nigh at hand" are the Greek word "eggus" which means "in the vicinity or here." Other scriptures using this word are Matt. 24:32-33, Matt. 26:18, Mark 13:28-29, Eph. 2:13. Also Rev. 1:3, **Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.** And Rev. 22:10, **And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.** This was written in approximately AD 65-66.

In Luke 21:30-32 Jesus is speaking of the destruction of the temple which would occur in the generation he was speaking to; thus bringing to an end the old sacrificial system. Verse 31 says, "the kingdom of God is nigh at hand" (eggus) meaning it was not approaching (eggizo) but will have arrived. The destruction of the temple occurred in the summer of AD 70. Since that time there have been no high priests offering sacrifices in the Temple. The last days of the Old Covenant system were over! Now the Kingdom was fully established in Jesus Christ, the new High Priest and King.

### **What is the nature of the Kingdom of God?**

In Luke 4:16-21 Jesus states what His mission is:

To preach the gospel to the poor. James 2:5 **Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith and heirs of the Kingdom?** Also in Matt. 5:3 He says **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**

To heal the brokenhearted. Matthew 11:28-29 **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon**

you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

To preach deliverance to the captives. Romans 6:16-23, **Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**

But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The recovering of sight to the blind. John 9:1-41 especially verses 39-41, **And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And *some* of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.**

To set at liberty them that are bruised. Ephesians 2:11-17 **Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.**

To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. This is speaking of the year of Jubilee when everything was forgiven, land restored, and slaves set free. This typifies the work of Christ in giving new life.

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. ch. 5, 6, & 7), Christ teaches the rules for living in His kingdom. He instructs His disciples to be meek, to be hungry for righteousness, to be pure in heart, to be peacemakers, to love their enemies and

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to bless them that curse them. He taught them about purity with the opposite sex,



## Are You Serving Idols? Check Your Heart!

*Note: when a word is in quotation marks I am referring to those who may claim to be Christians, but do not necessarily follow Jesus with their whole heart.*

What is happening to the “church” here in the free world? At what value do they hold the Savior’s gift of love? Do they follow Christ as if their life depends on their connection and walk with God? Does something stand between their heart and God’s heart, perhaps secret sin, money, family, their “church,” or themselves?

How about you? Is there anything that stands between you and God? Check your heart and see if there is anything you value more than Christ. My experience has been that I must search my heart daily for things I love more than Christ; I have had idols between God and me. Because we are human and prone to selfishness, as long as we are in this battle we must continually tear down the high places and altars to false gods. Do you think your money, food, house, neighbor, hobby, business, work, or favorite sport would go to the cross as a sacrifice for the sins you have committed? No, only Christ can and has atoned for your trespasses. Will you accept the gift of salvation, or will you separate yourself from mercy through unbelief, rebellion, unthankfulness, or nonacceptance?

Hearts not completely given to Christ are a bigger problem among Christians than we want to admit. Some wear a cross from a chain around their neck; but as soon as the cross of temptation slips upon them they fall to whatever allures them. Some attend meetings with other “Christians”; yet when they meet outside the church building, they talk of how great their favorite movie stars are (who played in some lewd scene) or about the next party they are having (which will include devilish music, talk, and alcohol.) I meet “Christians” who when around me are all about Jesus, but when their friend who is not a Christian walks in the door, Jesus gets pushed into the closet and their friend gets all the attention.

This grieves me even more: I meet fellow “Christians” in plain clothes who are all pious up front; yet when you try to have a discussion about things of the Lord with them, they might talk but have no interest in the discussion. However, when the subject changes to business, quite a change comes over these same people; they get alive and sit up straighter, their eyes and ears take in everything, and attention is all in. Why is this serving mammon over God among people who emphasize separation from the world? Do they not know that separation from the world is a circumcised heart and mind before Christ—a heart undivided, serving its heavenly Master alone above all others? What would happen to the little faith they



have if they suffered a Job experience or if Christ asked them to sell everything, give to the poor, and follow Him?

The problem lies not only among the laity, but also among the pastors, bishops, deacons, elders, and whoever may be in a leadership position. These men are called to be blameless. A heart divided and not set wholly on Christ is definitely to blame. “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. (Matthew 6: 24) Sadly, he will most likely love the earthly master that still binds his heart so he can’t truly love Christ. Why am I, a youth, at all concerned about this? Because we youth want examples around us that are completely about Christ, no other. So, as a son to his father, I entreat you to stand for and lead us in the truth. Hold fast to the Word of truth and do not feed us man’s ideas, but rather the Word of God with nothing added or removed. I want to see my leaders lose their life for Christ, rather than half-heartedly pretend to love God.

Brothers and sisters, just because we live where we may worship God undisturbed by worldly men, does not mean that our worship is not undisturbed by worldly things close to home. Our English word “worship” barely captures the full meaning of the original languages. Worship is not just merely the reverencing of and exalting of our God, but also the bowing of our self down before Him in humility, a giving of one’s entire self to God, as a holy, living sacrifice, withholding nothing from Him. Are you willing to lose your life for Christ? Do you withhold anything from God? Is His Holy Word totally authoritative in your life, or is there something in the Scriptures that is conveniently avoided because it conflicts with your life and beliefs? Don’t try to form God’s Word to you, but let God’s Word transform you.

Siblings in Christ, don’t try to save your life by trying to hide your broken humanness in the closet to save face before God. Christ understands and knows about what you have hidden in your life—those sins and pleasures—and He wants to clean them up. What?! Are you afraid to come to the light? My answer is “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us” (1John 4:18,19). So then, let’s give to our God an undivided heart, loving Him without fear.

Perhaps you are not willing to bear your cross and lose your life for the Lord. It is your choice whom you will serve. As for me, I intend to love my Lord with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, giving my life totally into Jesus Christ my Master’s hand. I am taking the warning of Luke 14:26-35. I have weighed the cost of following the narrow path, which is a heart consecrated for service to my Lord, withholding nothing from Him. He gave all I have to me, therefore I gladly return all back to His service.



# Behold Me Lord, My Wretchedness

Psalms 34:17-19  
Godly Sorrow 8.8.8.8.

Micah Rosenbarker 2022

$\text{♩} = 80$

Micah Rosenbarker 2022

*Moderately soft, with feeling*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a 3/8 time signature. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo and dynamics are marked 'Moderately soft, with feeling' and '♩ = 80'. The score includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in lines corresponding to the musical phrases.

1. Be - hold me Lord, my wretch - ed - ness, My truth-less, love -  
2. My sins are man - y un - to death! Fa - ther, this child  
3. My soul la - ments the past I've had, And cries to be  
4. Up - on the cross You bled for me, Such love, such love  
5. My sins did nail You to that tree; Yet still You speak,  
6. O Lord, see here Your mourn - ing child, Cre - ate a - new  
7. In You a - lone is free - dom found With love, and truth,  
8. Lord, now for joy my tears are shed, For joy that Christ

less, faith - less heart; Your Way I cared for, nor knew not,  
has broke Your will. Such thoughts im - pure do plague this mind;  
for - giv - en all. Bro - ken, with - out a sin - gle hope,  
for sin to die! 'Twas me that should have suf - fered so,  
"Fa - ther, for - give." Though ver - y sin - ful I have been,  
my heart for thee. I need sal - va - tion's bless - ing, love;  
and pu - ri - ty. You cleansed me of my guilt - y ways;  
did die for me. O Lord what bless - ings You have poured,

I far from thee have been a - part,  
Yet, Lord Your blood cries "mer - cy" still!  
I must, I must up - on You fall!  
Not You my Lord; "for - give!" I cry.  
You sac - ri - fice so I may live.  
Sav - iour, that love to chas - tise me.  
You broke my chains and set me free!  
I give my heart, my whole to Thee. A - men.

Micah Rosenbarker, August 21, 2022.

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# The Example of Christ

They mocked you, dear Jesus  
And cursed you  
And reviled you  
And spit on you  
When your hands had only  
Blessed them  
And healed them  
And fed them.

You offered them a crown  
Of joy  
And glory  
And life forever  
And they crowned your precious head  
With thorns  
And sorrow  
And pain.

And even on that cruel cross,  
You forgave  
And loved  
And surrendered.

Dear Jesus, help me always  
To live  
And love  
And forgive.....  
Just like you.

**“Pain and Pleasure”**

Can you not enjoy the beauty  
Of this moment you behold  
Because you’re wishing stronger  
For a life with joy untold?

Does the beauty of the picture  
Leave an ache you can’t describe  
And suddenly the beauty  
Leaves a hollow feel inside?

There are passing through your mem-ry  
Other scenes you’ve loved before  
But they were marred by trials  
That had shook you to your core.

And in gazing at the beauty  
You will think it cannot last  
Because your pain is stronger  
From that moment in the past.

There is purpose for the beauty  
There’s a Hand behind each scene  
Unfolding into splendor  
A pure joy where pain had been.

Just to realize that this picture  
Is for you this very day  
In fullness and in splendor  
God will bless you on your way.

In the future there’ll be trials  
(God will also be there, too)  
But now enjoy the beauty

## “Pain and Pleasure”

Beautiful things do not always affect a person in this way. Sometimes we just feel a lack of awe... there is a part of us that cannot fully fathom the beautiful things in life. I think that full joy and awe is something reserved for us to enjoy forever in heaven. We only experience a glimpse of it here to make us long for heaven even more.

What this poem is speaking about are the times we've been through painful circumstances in life and we have not found complete healing. The pain only seems more raw as we behold the beautiful. For the person who has used something else to cover-up and mask the pain, it hurts too bad to allow yourself to feel enjoyment. We cannot use a cover-up, for it only drives the pain deeper into our souls. We need to allow the Healing Hand of God to touch us and change us in these areas. Yes, it will be painful to face reality, but God promises to be with us in it. Just as it takes time for a wound to heal, so it takes time for our emotional wounds to heal. God will repeatedly bless our lives with beauty along the way to remind us of His compassionate love.... and that beauty will bring healing to our souls.

*“But though I cannot sing, or tell, or know the fulness of thy love while here below, my empty vessel I may freely bring: O thou who art of love the living spring, My vessel fill.” - Mary Shekleton*



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## The Big Lie

Honor and truth and manhood,  
These are the things that stand.  
Though the sneer and the jibe of the cynic tribe  
Are loud through the width of the land.

The scoffer may lord it an hour on earth,  
And a lie may live for a day,  
But truth and honor and manly worth  
Are things that endure always.

But a lie, whatever the guise it wears,  
IS A LIE AS IT WAS OF YORE,  
But a truth that lasted a million years

# Down On the Farm

*By Savannah Martin*

## **Cottage Cheese**

Cottage cheese is inexpensive and easy to make. Our normal procedure is to use skimmed milk. Sometimes (especially in the summer) we stir in  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of yogurt to a gallon of milk (the yogurt insures that you have a good culture). Set the jar in a warm spot (70°-90° F) until it is clabbered. We then put the clabbered milk into a cheesecloth and hang it up to drain the whey off. Next we mix in 2 teaspoons of salt per gallon of milk (that is the number of gallons of milk before the whey was drained off). We also mix in sweet or sour cream.

Our favorite ways to eat raw cottage cheese are with apple butter on pancakes or bread, with a bowl of soup, in cheesecake, on apple halves, and as cream cheese substitute for dip and icing.

## **Whey**

Whey has many uses, especially whey from making raw cottage cheese and Greek (drained) yogurt.

I like using raw whey in place of buttermilk and sour milk in baking. It makes fine cakes and pancakes. I have used it in place of water or milk in buns along with a pinch of baking soda.

Raw whey is high in lactic acid. Whey from making rennet cheese does not have as much lactic acid in it as whey from making raw cottage cheese. (Usually, the only rennet whey I save is the salty stuff that comes from the cheese press. I use it in scrambled eggs or in baking).

After I learned that lactic acid is a degreaser and that raw whey is a good alternative to hair conditioner, I decided to experiment. I have been using only fresh whey (from the same day I drain the curd) for shampoo and conditioner, and am very pleased with the results despite our hard water. I do not know if this would work for all hair types, but it has worked well for me the past few years.

I warm the whey up to a comfortable temperature and pour it into an old shampoo bottle for easy application. More recently I have been adding whey to the bath water (1 to 2 cups of raw whey per gallon of water). It seems to work just as well and is less hassle. Just add cold whey to a tub of

## Cow Udder

Who likes crispy, crunchy chicken skin and thinks there's never enough? Let me tell you how we get more. Be sure to save the udder from the next cow you butcher. Skin it. Cut it into 8 to 16 pieces. Soak them in cold water overnight. Boil them in salt water until you can poke them easily with a fork. Cool. Trim away excess fat if you wish. Cut into ¼" slices. Fry it in plenty of oil until crispy. Let the pieces cool just a little before devouring them! They are best warm alongside mashed potatoes or in a sandwich. Please don't say "Ugh" and never give yourself a chance for a treat. I'll take udder any day-it's so delicious!



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## The Garlic Peeler

A number of years ago I bought a little garlic peeler from China. It is very slow and does a poor job most of the time with only about half of the cloves actually peeled on the hard neck garlic that grows well here in the north. One day as I was looking at that somewhat frustrating and complex machine, a brainstorm came for a way to make another peeler that would be much simpler and hopefully work better. My son Phillip has some metal-working skills. He built what I had in mind and we tried it out.

The result is a very simple machine that is much faster with close to a 100% peel rate. The product is clean and nice. Yesterday afternoon I peeled a blue crate full (about 50 pounds of garlic) in one hour. This tool is built using a 4-inch piece of thinwall tubing about a foot long with the bottom closed that has compressed air blowing in through an orifice at the correct angle just above the bottom. We are feeding it manually.

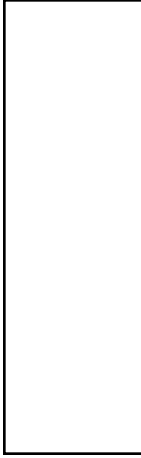
This peeled garlic can be used as it is fresh. Peeled garlic also freezes well. We just put the whole cloves into a bag and put it in the freezer. When one is ready to use the garlic, just get out as many cloves as desired and place on a plate on the countertop for a few minutes to soften (do not finish defrosting). Then it can be crushed or cut as you wish and used.

After it is peeled, we process some of the garlic farther by slicing and dehydrating it. Our homemade garlic powder is

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Look unto me, and  
be ye saved, all  
the ends of the  
earth: for I *am*  
God, and *there is*  
none else.