



TOWARD THE MARK

*“I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF
THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.”*

PHILIPPIANS 3:14

A MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS
OF ALL AGES

October. 2003

Vol.2 . No.4

October2003

Dear reader,

“My beloved is mine and I am His”. Song of Solomon 2:16

The center and the source of Christianity is found in the person of Christ.

Christ is all. He is God’s gift to the sinner and God’s object for the saint. The deepest part of the sinner’s condition is described in the Word of God, “at that time ye were without Christ” Eph. 2:12. The highest part of the saint’s blessing is that he is able to say, “my beloved is mine, and I am His”.

When is the last time you got down upon your knees and asked the Lord the meaning of “they that which live, should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose again”. 2 Cor. 5:15

Self will and lawlessness were the marks of the days when we were afar off, wandering in the way of our own choosing. But on the day of our conversion we were brought unto the Shepherd. Now you are His, the one who feeds and leads. How blessed to have such a Shepherd and to be under his care. There is not a need of the soul that He does not know. There is not a step of the way that He has not trod. He knows its danger for He has passed through its difficulties. He has met its foes and He will lead His own safely, step by step. Herein lies their security and their blessing.

The path of faith to the flesh is not difficult, it is impossible! If a thing is difficult we will perhaps face it in our own strength and be beaten. If it is impossible we will have no choice but to go forward in the grace and power of the living God. Courage, dear young Christians, go on emirs you hear in the ocean, the fullness of his love. Under His Shepard rule you will walk in “the path of righteousness and “your cup of blessing will over flow”. Happy are the people who thus know and own the Lord.

It is our prayer that you will find this issue good reading material and help for you as you face the daily challenges of school or work, as we are dependent on Him to feed and strengthen his people

Thank you for your overwhelming response and encouragement to the this exercise.

Please keep us in prayers

Yours in our soon coming lord

Emil Nashed

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Quotations from Scripture are generally taken either from the King James translation or J.N.Darby translation.

MILK

"The truth shall make you free"

THE TABERNACLE

Some interesting facts

Why was the Tabernacle built?

To be God's dwelling place among his people (Ex25:8)

How was the Tabernacle going to be built?

According to the pattern that God showed Moses (Ex25:9)

Who built the Tabernacle?

Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hure, of the tribe of Judah;

Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan;

every wise hearted man and women (Ex. 35:25, 30, 34).

The Sections of the tabernacle

1. The Holiest of all, the Holy of Holies
2. The Holy place, or the Sanctuary.
3. The court of the Tabernacle

Metals used in the Tabernacle

1. **Gold**: typifies the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and also of divine righteousness (melting point 1946 F)
2. **Silver**: typifies redemption (melting point: 1761 F)
3. **Copper** (brass): typifies the death of Christ when He endured the judgment of God to atone for man's sin on the cross (melting point: 1982 F)

Liquid used in the Tabernacle:

1. **Blood**: typified atonement
2. **Water**: typified the Word of God
3. **Oil**: typified the Spirit of God

Curtains:

1. Curtain of
 - a. **Fine linen**: typified the spotless, pure and holy humanity of the lord Jesus
 - b. **Blue**: typified Christ as the one from haven
 - c. **Purple**: typified the emperor glory of Christ as king of kings

d. **Scarlet:** typified the glory of Christ as the king of Israel

2. **Curtain of goat's hair:** typified Christ as prophet
3. **Curtain of ram's skin dyed red:** typified Christ's devotedness to God's glory even to death
4. **Curtain of badger's skin:** typified Christ as seen by the eyes of natural man

Wood used in the tabernacle:

Shittim wood (acacia wood): typified the humanity of the Lord Jesus also of the believer as seen in the boards

The ascending scale in the tabernacle

In the court: brass and silver were used. The ordinary person could enter in.

In the holy place: silver and gold were used. Only the priest could enter.

In the holiest of all: pure gold only used. Only the high priest could enter.

There were no seats or windows in the tabernacle!

The General View

Let's take a look at the Tabernacle.

From a distance, we see fencing with linen hanging, 100 cubits long and 50 cubits wide, fixed on sturdy 60 pillars (Ex 27:9). In our measurements, this would be about 90 ft by 180 feet .the roof of the house rises above the fencing to a height of 10 cubits. The roof is not colored or bright.

Seen from here it is not very attractive at all. But are the things of God not attractive?

As we draw near, the enclosure becomes more impressive. Its **white curtains**, contrasting with the grey tent around, give an immediate impression of the purity and holiness inside. Because of its height, 5 cubits or some 9 feet, no one can see over it.

The Gate (Ex 27:16)

What a beautiful big door!

1. The door is 20cubits, about 40 feet. Not many doors are as wide as that. God is a savior , and wants all men to be saved (1 Tim 2:3,4)
2. It is a beautiful door of 4 colors; **blue purple**, and **scarlet**, embroidered on **white**. They all speak to us of the Lord Jesus.
3. The door is easily entered .it is not wood or metal;it is a curtain 20 cubits wide and 5 cubits high Young or old can enter.
4. There is only one door .the Lord Jesus said» I am the door: by me if any man enter in he shall be saved” Jn. 10: 9.

The Brazen Altar (Ex27:1)

The large, brazen altar of burnt offering stood inside the court. The large, brazen altar of burnt offering stood inside the court; it was 5 cubits wide, 5 cubits long and 3 cubits high. In the middle of this altar was the grating on which the fire burned. The altar had to be made of acacia wood. This was obtained from a tree that grew in the desert. The wood is a type of the manhood of the Lord Jesus (Isa.53: 2, 11:1), (Gal4: 4) The wood of the altar has been covered with brass. Brass typifies the power that can withstand the fire of God's judgment no man and no angel had the power to undergo the judgment of God only the righteous one the holy Son of God.

Christ the atonement of his people

The Laver (Ex30: 17-21)

Between the altar of burnt –offerings and the sanctuary stood the laver, filled with water. It was made from the mirrors of the women (Ex38: 8). the mirrors at that time were made out of polished brass. No dimensions are given for the laver.

Here the priest had to wash their hand and feet before they could enter the sanctuary. Because of their daily tasks and their path through the desert sand, they became defiled continually. To be able to continue their before God they had to wash at the laver again and again. So it is with each believer. **The New Testament does not recognize a special caste of priests, or laymen for that matter. Now there is a common priesthood of all believers.** So each time

the believer sins or becomes defiled he must return to god with confession .in this way he is cleansed.

The House:

Let us examine the construction of the house.

The boards: (Ex 26: 15-30) The house was built of large boards of acacia wood. every board was 10cubits high (15 feet) and 1 1/2 cubits wide (2 ¼ feet) altogether there was 48 such boards.the boards were held together by 4 bars, inserted through golden rings, holding boards together and keeping them standing. Under each board there were 2 block of silver weighing about 90 pounds each.

The curtains The boards for the walls and the pillars from which the curtains were hanging might be called the frame of the building.

Over this frame 4 large tent curtains were spread on the top of each other. Together they formed the roof of the building.

If you are standing in the sanctuary looking up you will see:

1. The first curtain 40 by 28 cubits woven and embroidered in the four following colors: ***white linen, blue, purple, scarlet:***
2. Over it lay a second curtain 44 by 30 cubits, made of *goat's hair*.
3. The third covering was a curtain made of ***ram skins dyed red.***
4. The outer covering was made of *badgers skins*.

The Holy Place

When the coverings are taken away, we look inside the holy place .the walls 10 cubits high, were covered with **gold**. The entrance to the holy place was closed off by a curtain woven of the four colors white, blue, purple, scarlet. It was 10 cubits wide and 5 cubits high. **Only priests were allowed to go in.**

The Golden Candlestick (Ex25: 31-40) It was of pure gold, not simply cast, but forged out of one talent of gold by an able goldsmith with a hammer. The shaft of the candlestick with the six arms or branches formed a whole. The 7 oil lamps that were on it gave light in the darkness. The lamp were filled with olive oil.

Christ the light of his people

The Golden Table The Table of Showbread (Ex25: 23-30) was made of acacia wood covered with gold it was 2 cubits by 2 cubits and it was 1 ½ cubits high. It has a golden crown as a border. On it there were 12 loaves of bread and a vessel of wine (Ex25: 29). Every Sabbath the loaves of bread were eaten by the priests and replaced by new loaves.

Christ the food of his people

12 loaves: represented the twelve tribes of Israel

The Golden Alter of incense was not used to offer animals sacrifices as was the great brazen altar in the court; only sweet-smelling incense could be burnt on it. It was made of acacia wood covered with gold. The altar was rather small only a cubit square, but it was relatively high: 2 cubits. The incense was burnt in the golden censer on it.

Christ the object of worship of his people

Incense: typifies the perfections of Christ as fragrance to God

The Holy of Holies

The Veil closed off the entrance to the Holy of Holies. It was a curtain 10 cubits wide and 10 cubits high woven in the four colors white, blue, purple and scarlet. And it portrayed cherubim as well. Only the high priest was allowed to in once a year, on the Day of Atonement to enter into the Holy of Holies, and only once a year, on the Day of Atonement.

Cherubim, angelic creature, were God's messengers of judgment

The Ark of the Covenant was made of acacia wood 2 ½ cubits long by 1 ½ cubits wide and 1 ½ cubit high it was covered within and without with pure gold. Three things were in the ark:

1. Golden pot that had manna (Christ perfect humanity and as food for his people in the wilderness)
2. Aaron's rod that budded (priesthood of Christ)
3. The tables of the law (the Lord is the only one that kept the law)

The mercy seat was a plate of pure gold 2 ½ cubits by 1 ½ cubits, which lay on the ark. From the two ends of the mercy seat rose two cherubim of gold, which were formed out of the same piece. The faces of the cherubim were turned to the blood that the high priest had sprinkled on mercy seat in the Day of Atonement.

Christ is our propitiations

The Glory of the Lord seen in The Cloud: (Ex.40:36-38)

A Cloud rested on the tabernacle above the place where the ark stood. This cloud indicated that the presence of the Lord. It also functioned as a guide while the people of God journeyed

E.S.N

Meat

“Sanctify them by the truth...”

MR. DARBY AND WORLD POLITICS

Most of you will remember having seen, at some stage, an article or a book by a certain Mr. John Nelson Darby. Some may even have his 40+ volume collection at home. ‘Quite a difficult read’ say some. ‘Mysterious’ and ‘theoretical’ say others. Again others are thrilled.

Darby in the Papers

Why, then, that so many people suddenly speak about him? The French newspaper ‘Le Monde’ mentions him, and he is no longer a stranger to the pages of the ‘Business Week’ and the ‘Time’ magazines. His name is beginning to emerge in the media in European countries and elsewhere. Some call him a ‘19th century Anglican heretic’, some the ‘Founding Father of Christian Fundamentalism’, and the terms used by some to describe Mr Darby are so derogatory that I prefer not to repeat them here. Others make him responsible for the war in Iraq. “John Nelson Darby has a big influence on George Bush”, they say, “and on millions of Americans, and on the course of world history.” Why?

John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) spent his life studying the Bible and spreading the truth. In his time, conferences took place and the biblical doctrine was examined. Many devoted much time and energy to intense study. With prayer and in dependence on the Lord they searched the Scriptures – and God answered. Thus it happened, that a series of biblical truths were re-discovered. Among them, there were, in particular, the following:

- **...that the Bible is the Word of God, and reliably predicts future events**
- **...that many prophecies in the Old Testament refer to Israel and to the geographic location known as Israel, in a literal way (and not to the church in some ‘spiritualized’ figurative way)**

-that the biblical promises for Israel are for the earth whereas the church possesses heavenly blessings and a heavenly calling.
- ...that the Lord Jesus will return, and can return any time now, to take the believers to Himself (the ‘rapture’)
- ...of the doctrine of ‘dispensations’ (different consecutive periods, which always start with failure and end in judgment). The ‘rapture’ will end the current ‘dispensation’. Then the prophetic clock will start ticking again and the 7-year tribulation period will start. After that will come the appearing of Christ in power.

J. N. Darby demonstrated that one needs to take into account the dispensations in order to understand the Bible properly, especially prophecy and the truth of the church. His teaching became wide – spread. A movement that became very influential, especially in America, and which essentially builds on Mr Darby’s re-discoveries, is now known as ‘dispensationalism’. A series of books, published in multi million editions, contributed their part to the spreading of these truths (with a greater or lesser degree of accuracy). It is estimated that, today, 20-40 million Americans subscribe to dispensational teaching.

What does all this have to do, then, with the present situation in the Middle East? Why are big newspapers getting interested? And: is this good news?

Is this good news?

Let’s take the last question first: good news it hardly is. You may be disappointed, but it is not good news at all for Bible believing Christians, but rather an attack on them and on their faith and, ultimately, on their Lord. And this how, in a nut-shell, this attack works:

Darby taught, so they say (correctly), that the Bible is to be taken literally and that it predicts future events, especially the return of the Jews to the land of Israel (remember that the modern state of Israel

was founded only in 1948), and the battle of Armageddon* (this is the battle, which will take place, probably in the area of Haifa, northern Israel, when the Lord Jesus returns to the earth in power). Further, they argue (correctly, still) that Darby taught that the believers would be ‘raptured’ seven years before this battle. But then they assert (wrongly), that Christians who are faithful to the Bible – especially those who follow Mr. Darby’s teachings – therefore try to accelerate the battle of Armageddon or even to force it through a war in the Middle East.

This might appear absurd to any believer who has - even only a faint – idea of what Mr Darby actually taught. The Lord Jesus said clearly, that the Father has ‘placed in his own authority’ the timing of these events (Acts 1:7). How absurd to think that the Lord’s return to take us could be accelerated by starting or supporting a war!

Is the attack entirely unfounded?

Sadly not. In fact, various groups of Christians have, again and again, stood up to support Israel and the settlements of Jews in biblical ‘Israel’, partly through financial support, partly through collaboration with conservative Jews. In this way, a powerful movement (Christian Zionism) was formed.

Such initiatives may be well meant. But now we see, how easily they can back-fire and become counterproductive. They achieve the opposite of what they intended and give lots of ammunition to those who oppose the Christian faith. These opponents can now point out (sadly, not wholly without basis) that Christians are trying to ‘help’ fulfilling the prophecies. First through their support, at the time, for the establishment of the State of Israel, and now through their desire to provoke an ‘Armageddon’.

This is exactly what Darby never taught. Firstly, because he insisted that Christians have a heavenly calling and should not get involved in earthly things, especially in politics. Secondly, he insisted, again and again, that Christians should wait directly and

* Revelation 16:16 and 19:11-21

constantly on their Lord (already those alive then in Thessalonica[†]). But this seems to be forgotten easily, or conveniently, by Mr Darby's modern accusers. So it is claimed that Christians would welcome an 'Armageddon', because

- (i) they would disappear before it happens, therefore:
- (ii) the earlier this happens, the earlier they will be transported to heaven, and
- (iii) 'their Jesus' would then set up His Kingdom.

This is how today's reporters, theologians and politicians put it.

With this line of argument, those who oppose the Bible have enough fuel for the fire. Suddenly, the Christians are dangerous. Not the nominal ones, of course, but those who believe that the Bible is inspired and actually means what it says.

What is behind the attack?

In the final analysis it is an attack against the truth. At last, a good reason has been found to take action against it. The truth has been uncomfortable for a long time. Why? Well, there are a number of biblical facts, which people do not want to know about:

- the depravity of man (this is exactly the central point in the doctrine of 'dispensations' that, each time, it 'goes wrong' and ends with judgement)
- the coming judgement of God
- the authority of the Bible
- the necessity of the work of redemption (on the basis of which some will be spared judgement and will be 'raptured' whereas those not accepting it will be judged).

The deepest reason, of course, is the hatred against Christ Himself which motivates this attack.

[†] 1 Thessalonians 1:10.

What can we do?

How can we react faced with these changes in our society? One possibility (and we should expect that some will opt for it) is to resort to relativism by conceding that the Bible only means what you want it to mean, and only if it is acceptable to the majority... As soon as we subject the Bible to science and philosophy, they will leave us in peace. For any who wish to remain faithful to the Lord this is not an option.

On the other hand one could be overly worried or return fire through various kinds of initiatives in order to try to 'fight our corner' in a political way. But the Bible does not ask us to do this. But here are a few ideas how we could and should react:

- We should impress upon ourselves that the Bible has been inspired, verbally[‡], and is the unerring word of God, whose predictions will be fulfilled.
- We do not interfere with the events of this world. We can observe them, and do so with the assurance that the Lord will return. Then there will be a sudden end to the opposition (which is certainly going to increase)
- We remember that these events (tribulation, Armageddon, etc.) (i) will certainly happen, but (ii) only after the rapture. Therefore, we do not try to interpret current events as fulfilled prophecy[§].
- We do not pretend to know dates and times which are not revealed in the Bible.
- We can take this opportunity as an occasion to have a look at some of Mr. Darby's books and articles and try to work out what he actually did say. If someone wants to start with a smaller and not-so-difficult-to-understand booklet, you can order a copy of the pamphlet 'What do I learn from the Scripture'.

[‡] As far as the original text is concerned.

[§] Again, Mr. Darby was very explicit on this point. Old Testament prophecy refers to the time after the rapture.

Here is a little ‘taster’: “*I learn*

- *that they [believers] are converted to wait for God's Son from heaven*
- *that Christ will come again to receive us to Himself*
- *that God has appointed a day in which He will judge this habitable world in righteousness by that man whom He has ordained”*

This is not that difficult to understand, after all, is it?

- We should ask ourselves whether we would be ready, should the opposition against the truth increase, to endure disadvantages because of it.
- We should also concentrate more on our heavenly calling and on the gospel, the good news, which people need so urgently.

M. Hardt

Exercise

“Exercise thyself unto piety”

HEAVEN'S HEROES

You can find lists of them, for example, in Hebrews 11, or, in the Old Testament, in 2 Samuel 23, David’s “mighty men”. But there are individuals also, for example, David in the Old Testament, the young man who killed Goliath with only a sling shot and cut off the giant’s head with his own sword. Let us lengthen the list a little, David Livingstone, the explorer in Africa, honored by being laid to rest in Westminster Abbey, but his heart was buried in Africa which he loved. Then there is the Dutch heroine, Corrie ten Boon. The family helped in the rescue of 700 Jews from the Germans. She herself was imprisoned in 1944, but was unexpectedly released from the concentration camp in 1945. After the war, and with help from her sister, she established a home for the rehabilitation of camp victims and wrote books which have been widely read. But, perhaps best of all, was the Scottish martyr, George Wishart, who was burned at the stake on March 1, 1546. He died triumphantly! His chief tormentor on his knees asked his forgiveness by kissing him on the cheek! His death at the age of 33 inspired John Knox to “take up the baton”.

JEREMIAH

Why consider Jeremiah one of heaven’s heroes? For the simple reason that of all the prophets he had the most difficult task, the most determined opposition, and he triumphed gloriously. Israel had drifted a long way from the God who had so abundantly blessed them. In spite of a long history of faithful men, the time was now come for the Lord to step in in judgment. In the life time of Jeremiah, Israel was overcome by the Chaldeans, the remainder of the nation carried off to Babylon. King Zedekiah was executed and Jerusalem destroyed. **Jeremiah had to explain to the nation why this extreme chastisement was necessary, speaking to the conscience of the guilty nation. Naturally, he was the most hated man in Jerusalem.** His own people, the men of Anathoth, were against him,

prophets, priests and the people fought against him, and the princes and even the King opposed him. He suffered chains, confined to the court of the prison, and twice put in the dungeon, once to sink in the mire. His very life was in danger not once or twice. **Remember too, that Jeremiah loved very dearly the very people whom he had to promise only the most awful judgments.**

This brings us to the question, how was he to be sustained in all this indignity and shame and suffering? Surely he needed very special help from the Lord, and help was not wanting. The same help is very much needed today. God's longsuffering and pleading is most severely tried. Judgment is near. The Lord will presently judge the whole world, not now with water, as in Noah's days, by fire (2 Peter 3:7). **But, faithful men and women now can prove precisely the same resource as Jeremiah. That resource is God's Holy Word.** When God speaks emphatically to men in the Old Testament, the formula is sometimes "**thus saith the Lord!**" In the Old Testament it occurs about 359 times. In Jeremiah, it occurs about 157 times. The foot-note in the JND Bible reminds us that God's name as Jehovah occurs about 700 times. It is also worth noting that **Jeremiah's name possibly means "Jah is exalted"** – a very precious consideration. We can therefore the more easily understand the verse in Jeremiah 15:16, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them, and the words were unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart". What wonderful things were made known to this prophet, i.e. The New Covenant in chapter 31. The length of the Babylon's captivity is predicted in chapter 25 and the foundation for Daniel's prayer in Daniel chapter 9 verse 2. Jeremiah's confidence in the Lord encouraged him to buy land in a country which was shortly to fall into the hands of the Babylonians (ch.32). And what wonderful fellowship Jeremiah proved in all his reproach and suffering. **Barvek**, his secretary, who re-wrote the prophecy in writing given to Zechariah when the King had burnt the previous one (ch.36). There was **Ebed-melech** who interceded for Jeremiah to the King, and, with 20 men, lifted Jeremiah out of the dungeon (ch.38). **Ahikam** also (ch.2) who delivered him out of the hands of the people who would have put him to death. "Wisdom strengthened the wise more than ten mighty men that are in a city (Ecc.7:19), but Jeremiah was appointed as "a strong city, and an iron pillar, and brazen walls, against the whole land" (Jer.1:18). **Like the reformer, Jeremiah could say, "God and**

Jeremiah are more than a match for the whole world". Remember also that when Israel finally did surrender and were carried into captivity, the only free man in Jerusalem was Jeremiah (ch.40:40)! What a public confirmation that all that Jeremiah's prophecies were true.

What is the message then for the saints of God? Give yourselves to "the Book"! We live in day where God is being bowed out, sometimes sophisticatedly, for example, the evolution theory disposes of God in creation, but sometimes it is done by the hand of one who is the prince of cunning, the Devil himself. He has an inexhaustible list of ways to engage the hearts and minds and lives of men and women with anything at all except God and his precious Holy Word. The verse on the daily calendar is not enough. Nor is the letter of scripture enough! It has to be received in meekness, it has to be the "engrafted Word" (James 1:21). "Search it out, write it down, pray it in, live it out, tell it again, indeed scatter it abroad"! Another prophet tells us encouragingly "It will not return unto Me void" (Isaiah 55:11). **And to return to the title page, this is the way to become on of Heaven's Heroes. Revelation 3:11 tells us of a company of "little strength, who do not deny my name, who keep my Name, and keep the Word of My patience". What an honor this is! Let no one rob us of this crown (Rev.3:8-11). Oh to know the Bible better and the One who is the author.**

D.W.Paterson

REST

"Shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?"

GOD'S BEST – CHOOSING A MARRIAGE PARTNER

Part 4

In these articles we would like to show to all who are unmarried that there is a better way than the world would teach to find a marriage partner. 'God's way' is the way of true blessing.

PHYSICAL ASPECT

"Marriage is honourable in all and the bed undefiled." Heb. 13:3.

As part of the blessing of marriage God has given us the pleasure of showing love through physical union and the freedom of the display of mutual affection; all within the bounds of a secure relationship. In the marriage relationship there is complete freedom in this respect but outside marriage this is forbidden as we can clearly see from our scripture. The world does not see this distinction and the holiness and purity that God intended is destroyed. This relaxation of God's standard where physical relationships are entered into wherever and with whoever one chooses, can only bring guilt and misery.

In all our relationships with the opposite sex we must make a clear and positive stand against this attitude; this will save us from being ensnared ourselves and will show a clear testimony to the world and an example to other believers.

The whole of Scripture is full of the errors of fornication (Acts 15 v 29) and adultery (Exodus 20 v 14). The first is sexual relationship outside of marriage and the second sexual relationship with a married person. We must clearly state that physical affection is only intended by God for one man and one woman and that within the confines of marriage and to a very limited extent by a couple committed to marriage (see previous article).

With the current attitude of the world to these things we must ensure that our standards are not lowered so that the old nature within us is

allowed to work and make us prey to the temptations we will face. Remember Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Genesis 39 v 13.
"Flee youthful lusts." 2 Timothy 2 v 22.

Choosing to live together rather than marry is prevalent in the world around us. This is clearly fornication; there is no commitment to marry and no public declaration of marriage. The laws of most countries states that marriage must be lawfully enacted and Romans chapter 13 verse 1 tells us "the powers that be are ordained of God", they must, therefore, be obeyed.

Let us take care to keep ourselves from the world's temptation by avoiding the display of the human body. This evil is all around us. Let's ensure that we give no room for the flesh by unsuitable dress and behaviour.

So as we grow from our youth let us keep our bodies (the temples of the Holy Spirit) pure and private until, in the will of God, He gives us a partner in marriage; in this holy relationship our physical desires can be satisfied.

GOD'S GLORY AND OUR BLESSING

God's will for marriage is that a couple may form a family unit to His glory, so that love may be displayed to those within, and reach out to those outside. A sphere where His honour may be maintained and obedience to Scripture practised and where children can be raised in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord". Ephesians 6 v 4. It is also for the blessing of man and wife. God gave Eve to Adam for an "help meet" to be his companion through life.

As with everything in the Scriptures marriage is for the glory of the Lord Jesus. He is the one who was the originator of the creation and all the laws and order in it. It is part of that grand design. The beauty of the marriage relationship is testimony to his divine wisdom. Evolution theory, which rejects the early chapters of the Bible, therefore rejects the account of Adam and Eve and the marriage bond established by God in the garden of Eden. This is the great lie of our times.

Evolution takes from Son of God the glory He has as creator, and so also, disregarding God's laws in the Scripture relating to marriage, robs the Lord Jesus of his glory. The whole marriage relationship is a picture of Christ and the assembly. The unity between The Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian Church, which will be displayed when the marriage of the Lamb is seen in heaven. "He shall see of the travail of His soul and shall be satisfied" Isaiah 53v11.

If we ignore the holiness of the marriage relationship we bring dishonour to our Lord. There is no room for my selfish will.

A step out of the will of the Lord in disobedience will only result in sadness for oneself and others. However reasonable it may seem, if it contravenes the Biblical pattern it will bring disappointment.

My prayer is that as young people grow up, amidst all the temptation with which Satan will surround them in the world, they may, in patience and obedience, and as under God's clear direction, experience **God's best** in this area of their lives. Find a marriage partner (if this is their calling) to display love to each other as a type of Christ and His church, His Bride, and know **God's best** together until our Lord comes.

Brian Warnes

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: How can justify the trinity, when the God is one?and how can you call Jesus Lord when the old testament say there is no other Lord but God?

W.R

A: Scripture clearly teaches there are three distant Persons in the Deity – Father, Son and Spirit – yet absolutely one in nature, mind, purpose and way; together forming the one, true, eternal God. In the New Testament we have the full revelation of this truth (Matt. 28:19), but it is established in the Old Testament; indeed, in the first verse of Genesis the Hebrew name translated God is *Elohim*, the plural form of *Eloah*. It suggests a trinity in the Being who created all things. In v. 2 the *Spirit* is named. Ps. 2 plainly declares the *Son* and hence if One is Son the other must be Father (Pro. 30:4). In the New Testament the Trinity is seen throughout. Christ was here, declaring Himself the Son, speaking to His Father, the Spirit coming upon Him in the form of a dove.

We call Jesus Lord, for such He is. "God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2). He is *My Lord* (Jn. 20:13, 28). He is *Our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Cor. 1:2, 3). And "no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (1 Cor. 12:13).

J. A. Pickering

THE HOPE OF DAY

And is it so, I shall be like Thy Son
Is this the grace which He for me has won?
In glory to His own blest likeness brought!

O Jesus, Lord, who loved me like to Thee?
Fruit of Thy work! With Thee, too, there to see
Thy glory, Lord, while endless ages roll,
Myself the prize and travail of Thy soul.

Yet it must be! Thy love had not its rest
Were Thy redeemed not with Thee fully blest-
That love that gives not as the world, but shares
All it possesses with its loved co-heirs!

Nor I alone; Thy loved ones all, complete,
In glory around Thee with joy shall meet;
All like Thee, for Thy glory like Thee, Lord!
Object supreme of all, by all adored!

And yet it must be so! A perfect state,
To meet Christ's perfect love- what we await;
The Spirit's hopes, desires, in us inwrought,
Our present joy- with living blessings fraught.

The heart is satisfied, can ask no more;
All thought of self is now for ever o'er;
Christ, its unmingled Object, fill the heart
In blest adoring love- its endless part.

Father of mercies, in Thy presence bright
All this shall be unfolded in the light;
Thy children, all, with joy Thy counsels know
Fulfilled; patient in hope while here below.

J.N.Darby

BELIEVING AND UNDERSTANDING !

Some people refuse to believe the Bible because they cannot understand it. “Why should we suffer for Adam’s sin?” They ask. “How could God create a universe out of nothing?” Now, while there may be things we do not understand, this should not upset us. It isn’t necessary to comprehend them; all we need to do is believe what God says. After all, there are many things we do understand; yet we accept them. Few know exactly how these bodies of ours operate from day to day. I can’t explain how in a few brief hours the meat, potatoes, bread, lettuce and pie which I ate for dinner can all be mysteriously changed into muscle, nerves, bones, blood, hair and nails. However, this doesn’t prevent me from eating! If it did, I would soon starve to death. Nor do I understand electricity; however, I do know what it does, and so I make it work for me. Who can completely and accurately define sight, taste, or feeling? We could go on to prove that we really do not understand many things, and yet we accept their reality and appreciate their benefits.

How foolish man can be! He rejects the truth of God because he can’t understand it, while at the same time he accepts the word of man which he also fails to comprehend. He accepts man’s word regarding material matters, but doubts God’s Word about eternal things. Mysteries of physiology, science and astronomy do not stagger him, but when it comes to spiritual realities, he must know the exact reason for everything, and insists on calling the eternal God into account concerning His sovereign Word. What folly!

Remember, God doesn’t expect you to understand everything He says, but He does want you to believe His Word. “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater” (I John 5:9). How strange it is that many can traverse the rocky road to perdition without difficulty; yet they stumble over a feather if it happens to lie on the pathway to Heaven.