



# *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

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Dear Reader,

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in sprit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim.4: 12).

As young Christians we often say to ourselves, “How will God use me in the future?” or “What is God’s will for my life?”

But God has a plan and purpose for your life right now! He has commanded us to be an example to those around us, and his word tells us to “remember now [our] creator in the days of [our] youth.”

We face many challenges today. We are continually pressured by the world and even by other professing Christians to “loosen up”--relax our beliefs and convictions. But this is never God’s will for our lives. No matter what our circumstances are, we can make a difference in today’s world and honor our Savior by being an example in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith and in purity.

It is our prayer that you will find this issue good reading material for the summer months, as we are dependent on Him to feed and strengthen His people.

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

**Please keep praying!**

Yours in our soon coming Lord,

*Emil S. Nashed*

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# Toward The Mark

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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

## THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH

A friend of mine, commenting on the sad events that took place last September, said there is no way a full assurance of any security could be guaranteed to anybody anymore.

**I told my friend, who was very concerned, that I know the Scriptures give full assurance of the eternal security of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The friend, who is a sincere young Christian, looked very curious when I said that, and to my surprise he replied, “I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Lord and Savior by faith. Since then I’ve often worried about losing that salvation. Can you help me?” “I’ll be more than happy,” I said. “Why don’t you open your Bible and let us see what the Word of God teaches us.”

As a believer you are:

- Forgiven (1 John 2:12 ; Col. 1:14, 2:13)
- Saved (Eph. 2:8 , 2 Tim. 1:9, Tit. 3:5)
- Justified (Acts 13:39, Rom. 3:24, 1 Cor. 6:11)
- Have eternal life (John 3:36, 5:24, 6:47)
- Sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13, 4:30)

**Let nothing shake your confidence as to these things, for they are as sure as the word that reveals them. The enemy of our souls, Satan, presents wrong teachings, doubts, and reasoning, “Yea, hath God said?” Genesis 3:1. The Holy Spirit encourages simple faith, prayerful belief in the Word of God.**

Let us consider what the Lord said in John 10:27-29, “My sheep . . . shall never perish.”

As His sheep, our security is the sole responsibility of the shepherd and bishop of our souls (1 Peter 2:25).

**I want to draw your attention to the word “NEVER” in verse 28. In the Greek, this word is the strongest—doubly emphatic.** He, who declares the sheep shall never perish, knows well their continual proneness to wander and their timidity and weakness on the slightest apparent danger. Nevertheless, in John 5:24, He, who endured the judgment of God for them, assures them that they shall never come into judgment: “Neither shall any pluck them out of my hand.” How safe the sheep are! No enemy can reach them there. Nor is it the good sheep alone which are grasped by and held in the secure hand of their omnipotent Savior. All the sheep are equally maintained by divine power; all are equally safe. “My Father which gave them me is greater than all,” (v. 29). Believers are the Father’s gift to the Son. This very fact in itself insures the resurrection of every one given to the Son (John 6:37, 39,40; 17:24). “No man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” We are in the hand of the Son (v. 28), and in the hand of the Father (v. 29). “Kept by the power of God,” 1 Peter 1:5.

**Thus our eternal security is in other and more powerful hands than our own.**

### *Relationship and behavior*

“But does my behavior have any impact on my relationship with Him? Could my bad behavior cause me to lose my salvation?” my friend asked.

**Although our relationship is permanent our behavior is often variable.** With these two distinct truths every child of God should be well acquainted, as they are of utmost importance for our spiritual understanding and happiness.

Our relationship to God as His children is unchangeable. Natural birth constitutes you a child of your parents.

**The relationship is an eternal one. Good conduct cannot in the nature of things strengthen it, nor failure**

**weaken it. That which is born of God abides forever (1 John 3:9). Once a child of God, His child you cannot cease to be. “To as many as received him, to them gave he power to be come children of God.” John 1:12, 1 John 3:2.**

Behavior that is unbecoming such a blessed relationship as a child of God will most certainly mar the feelings proper to it, and forfeit for the time being the joy of salvation; but neither the relationship nor the salvation can be lost. The advocacy of the Lord Jesus with the Father (1 John 2:1) and the prayer of the Lord Jesus for even a self confident disciple (Luke 22:31, 32) were not to restore a relationship which was not broken, but to restore fellowship and the loss of joy. David, after his sin, did not pray for the restoration of salvation, but for the “joy” of it (Psalms 51:12, 23:3). Parents have to correct a child who misbehaves—but he is still their child!

**Remember that good behavior is never the means of keeping salvation, it is rather the evidence that one has been saved.**

So, my friend

**You are in His hand, and kept by His mighty power. He will never withdraw His eyes from you, never let you out of His hand; but love you and keep you to the end.**

He may have to teach you how weak you are, that no good thing lives in you (Romans 7:18). He may rebuke and punish you (Hebrews 12:5-11) but will always comfort and encourage you. His love is unwearying. Having taken you up, He will not let you go, but will bring you safely through every opposing thing; for salvation from first to last is of the Lord.

**Now, what security company in the world can offer any measure of safety like the security of His firm hand?**

**Remember, He said they would *never* perish.**

**E. S. N.**

Meat

Sanctify them by the truth

## FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship in 1 John 1 is, first, individual and, second, collective.

In the first four verses we see the wonderful knowledge of fellowship we have individually with the Father and the Son. It is based upon that which was seen, known, and handled by the apostles and is made known to us today. We are brought, by the grace of God and His sovereign action, into that sphere where, as an individual, we have fellowship *with* Divine Persons. Every one who has accepted God's plan of salvation (Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior) is now able to walk in the light—to walk in the good of the knowledge of God as fully revealed and known in our Lord Jesus Christ. What a place of favor! To be able to rest in all the blessedness of the closeness of fellowship with the Father; that closeness known and practiced by our Lord, who always dwelt in the bosom of the Father (John 1:18) and knew the rest and peace of that place even in the face of the most extreme opposition when here in this world.

**We can know and live in that same sphere so our joy may be full. We can enjoy the communion of Divine Persons at all times and in all of our circumstances.**

At verse 7, we are brought into fellowship with one another as we walk in the light, and the basis of it is the blood of Jesus Christ, which cleanses us from all sin. This collective fellowship is on the same ground of favor and privilege, brought about by God acting sovereignly for our blessing. We are brought into fellowship (the communion of saints) as those who are “walking in the light,” walking here in this world in the knowledge of God displayed and known by the heart. We enjoy the same light and partake of the same life and nature of Him who is light. Those who “were once darkness” (Eph. 5:8) are now righteously and sovereignly introduced into this exalted position. Thus we have this communion with one another, based on the blood of our blessed Lord.

In order to have the power to enjoy this fellowship we are brought into the knowledge of the Holy Spirit, given to dwell in each believer (2 Cor. 13:10-14, Phil. 1:1-2).

What a beautiful display of practical Christian behavior can be seen amongst those who know the Father!

The new life experimentally displays all the gracious characteristics of our blessed Savior because we are born of God (new nature) and our life is hid in Christ; the flesh has no place or part in this life. Paul develops this collective fellowship one step further, describing it as the “fellowship of His Son,” 1 Cor. 1:9. The Son of God has here on earth His fellowship, composed of those purchased with His own blood—HE is the owner of it; it is HIS fellowship. Note that this is the place of responsibility every believer is called into (1 Cor. 1:1-3); it is the collective place of the Assembly. Again, let us emphasize that every believer is called to this place and is responsible to reflect the Owner of the fellowship. Even the Corinthians, a company failing in this regard, could recognize that “God is faithful, who has called us.”

The basis of the enjoyment of communion is found in 2 Cor. 6:14-18, which contrasts the separation **from** this world and its practice with separation **to** God and His service. The great secret of our enjoyment of this fellowship is separation to HIM: "What fellowship has light with darkness?" We were brought from darkness to light.

**The reality of the communion or fellowship of saints should be found and enjoyed here in this world, under the Lordship of Christ, owning Him as Head of the Assembly.** There can be nothing of this world or the flesh allowed. The character of fellowship is the known possession of Divine life in Christ and its enjoyment is found in the power of the Holy Spirit and in separation from the world to Himself.

May we know it and experience it more and more.

**J.A.Pickering**

Honey

How sweet are thy words unto my taste!

## THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

### GENESIS

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). Genesis means "beginning." It deals with creation and life, giving the seeds of all that is later developed throughout the entire Bible. Genesis beautifully depicts the simplicity of early life upon earth; but the beginning of sin and corruption is also seen there together with God's abhorrence and judgment of evil.

Genesis symbolizes the life-giving work of God begun in a soul—new birth—with promise of fruit to come. The book specially revolves around the lives of seven outstanding patriarchs:

- 1- In Adam is seen the lesson of life and death. He is a figure of Christ, for he was the head of a race; but a contrast to Christ, for death claimed him, whereas Christ is a living Head.
- 2- Enoch teaches us of walk and translation. He walked with God, and "by faith was translated," a type (or picture) of saints who will be raptured at the coming of the Lord.
- 3- Noah illustrates work and salvation. His work was a work of faith, and his salvation was into a new world, a type of those believers saved through the tribulation for the millennial earth.
- 4- Abraham tells us of faith and separation. His altar speaks of the first, his tent of the second. By God's call he became a pilgrim.
- 5- Isaac shows the principles of submission and continuance, for; in general, his was an obedient, consistent life.
- 6- Jacob illustrates discipline and anticipation. God's dealings are seen in his life securing Jacob's subjection and leading him on to worship as death approached.

7- Joseph: suffering and exaltation is the theme of his life, a precious example for faith in all ages.

## EXODUS

And Jehovah said, "I have seen assuredly the affliction of my people who are in Egypt . . . And I am come down to deliver them."

Exodus means "going out." Deliverance is its great theme. Here we find Israel grown to a great nation, but under bondage to the Egyptians as slaves. After much trouble and anguish, and after God's sending many dreadful plagues upon Egypt, He liberates Israel. First, in chapter 12, the blood of the lamb sprinkled on the doorposts and lintel of the houses is typical of our redemption from the guilt of our sins by the blood of Christ. Second, the parting of the Red Sea and Israel's safe crossing before the Egyptians were trapped and drowned is a type of our redemption by the power of God from the bondage of sin and of the world — redemption accomplished through the death and resurrection of Christ.

A second section of the book, beginning at chapter 19, deals with the giving of the law and the building of the tabernacle, together with the institution of a special priesthood in Israel. Although today believers are in no sense under law, yet the giving of the law symbolizes God's authority being established among a redeemed people. The high priest is a type of Christ, linked with a family of priests, who typify all saints today—the church of God—believer-priests who worship God by the spirit, rather than by carnal forms. The tabernacle service also beautifully illustrates the grace by which God cares continually for His people, delighting to have them near Himself on the basis of the sacrifice of Christ.

**L.M.Grant**

Intelligence Report

..All that go forth to military service..

## THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

### PART 3

#### **Feet Shod With . . . The Gospel of Peace**

It is a blessed privilege to carry with us wherever we go the wonderful message of the Gospel of peace. This is a privilege that God has given to all His saints; it is not the prerogative of the preacher, although he has a special privilege in relation to God's testimony. This preparation is not only for our speaking the word of the Gospel of peace, but that our every step should be marked by peace that is consistent with the Gospel. The Gospel not only brings us peace with God, but a life that is honoring to God, and in which are all beautiful features exhibited in Christ's manhood here.

One of the requirements of a <sup>7</sup>bishop given in 1 Tim. 3:3 is "not a brawler." Brawling is utterly inconsistent with Christianity, as is every other trait that would dishonor the name of the Lord before the world or bring disquietude among the saints of God. Our God is a God of peace, and one of the seven things that He hates is, "he that soweth discord among brethren." (Prov. 6:19).

Before the Gospel reached us, as sinners of the Gentiles, we were without God, and "the way of peace" we did not know. But now the Gospel has provided shoes for our feet, not only shoes of privilege for the house of God, like those given to the returned prodigal, but shoes

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\* overseer

of peace for the conflict. It is written concerning wisdom, "Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace" (Prov. 3:17). This is the path we are all called to tread and one that is so contrary to that of the natural man.

The steps of the blessed Lord Jesus were always marked with peace, even when meeting Satan--whether in the wilderness or at the cross--and even when meeting those whom Satan used, whether religious or political leaders, in seeking to hinder His work for His God and Father.

The exhortation to "follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord," was written to those who had received the Gospel of peace while contending for the faith (whether for its foundations or its superstructure). We are not to be marked by a contentious spirit, which belongs to the flesh, but by the Spirit of Him who said "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you." To the man of the world and the untaught Christian it will be an enigma that those whose feet are shod with peace can hope to stand for God in the spiritual conflict of Christianity. Paul, before the leaders of Israel, before Felix, Festus, and King Agrippa, exhibited the same peaceful traits as did his Lord and master before the chief Priests, Herod, and Pilate. With the Lord all was perfection; He never uttered a threat or spoke an angry word in the presence of all His false accusers, even though a word from His mouth could have swept all into perdition.

**H.Smith**

### Exercise

...Exercise thyself unto piety

## THE STORY OF RAM AND LAXMAN

In 1980 twin sons were born to a Hindu couple in a small Himalayan village in the Kingdom of Bhutan. The king of the country was a Buddhist and wanted all his subjects to practice the same religion. To gain his ends he ultimately drove many Hindus out of the country. Many Hindus fled to Nepal—the only officially Hindu country in the world.

On their arrival in Nepal the parents with the twins lived in a refugee-camp with other exiles who were Hindu and Christian. In spite of their different religious upbringings many of the children became friends. Ram, the elder twin, was often in the company of some young Christians whose parents were breaking bread. As a result of these contacts he became interested in the testimony of these teenagers. In 1998, Ram, then 18 years old, came to know the Lord Jesus as his Savior.

Then his problems began. Hinduism is a religion that involves the worship of idols and animals. Some temples have areas dedicated to serpents, others to rats but cows are the most holy. The urine and dung are used for ceremonial cleansing. Drinking the urine is considered an obligation and privilege.

Ram realized that, as a Christian, he could no longer be associated with such religious practices. His non-participation in family worship and other activities led eventually to his parents casting him out of the house and



holding a funeral service for him. Some neighbors seized his clothes and beat him.

A year after this Ram was overjoyed to learn that his brother Laxman had also come to know the Lord Jesus. Laxman went through the same exercises as Ram and he too was cast out. He went to live with his brother. An old widower in the refugee camp let the twins live in his hut.

But even then the parents' persecution did not stop. They approached the camp authorities and asked that the refugee food ration should not be given to their sons. For six months the twins shared the food of the old brother and other Christians until the camp authorities issued them their rations directly.

Now 22 years old, the brothers are active in their local assembly. We heard both of them taking part in worship at the breaking of bread. They showed a great interest in the Scriptures and had many questions and discussions regarding them. Ram and Laxman are persevering in their college studies and "in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles."

**Both young men would be comfortable in the company of the four we read about in Daniel 1:12, 13: "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink; and let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenances of the youths that eat of the king's delicate food: and as thou shalt see, deal with thy servants."**

**N. S.**

## Vision

While we look not at the things that are seen

# VISION, VENTURE AND VICTORY

## AS SEEN IN HABAKKUK

Do you believe in visions? I do, and from an early age. When I started my first job (office boy), the weekly salary was 12 shillings and 6 pence (less than \$1) but I looked forward to the day when I would be chairman of the board or president, or whatever you call it.

Happily the Lord had better things in store. I learned I was a sinner before God, but provision had been made for all who confessed their sins. Through mercy I was brought to know Jesus as the savior of sinners.

What a transformation that made! My sins were forgiven. God had great plans; first for His Son, but also for me and all who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you one of His?

But let us have a look at Habakkuk. He lived in an evil day. Israel had fallen into idolatry, and the moral state of the nation was very low. Judgment was coming, and of the severest kind—Jerusalem to be destroyed and the nation carried off into captivity. Was that all? Certainly not. God had made promises to Israel, unconditional promises, and God cannot lie. This makes Habakkuk bold. He goes to the watchtower, a good place to get a long view.

He got a vision: "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea"(2:14). Habakkuk would know the Scripture had said

this before, but this time there was more detail (see Numbers 14:21 and Isaiah 11:9).

This is wonderful, but not to be compared with the Lord's plans for us, His heavenly people (see Ephesians 1:10). The vision effected a big change in Habakkuk; he rightly felt that he must get adjusted to this remarkable discovery.

"I must venture my life to be in conformity with the truth" he says, in effect. "Revive thy work, O Lord . . . in the midst of the years make known" (3:2).

This brings us to another use of the watchtower; he looked for an answer to his prayer, just as you and I may do when we really pray earnestly. Here was an answer! In the midst of the judgments, God raised up a good king, Josiah, in Judah. Then a season of refreshment and blessing was known even in the small circumstances (see 2 Chron. 35:18). In addition, a wonderful prophet was brought into prominence, Jeremiah, the one who wept over the desolations, but also had the privilege of showing God's mercy to the nation—and the new covenant to us (Jer. 31). Revival is a powerful movement, and it is available at the same time as God's hand is upon the nations and also upon His people. If you want to know more about revival, look at Psalm 85:6 and Psalm 138:7 among others.

But there is something important to learn about this interesting story. There is only one way in which all this can come to pass: look at 2:4, "the just shall live by his faith." There are only two references to faith in the Old Testament, and this is one of them. It also tells us it is not faith generally, or in others, but in us individually ("his faith") and this is where so many of us fail.

Habakkuk asked for a hard thing. The enemy of our soul puts every possible difficulty in the way, but this is

where the victory can be won. God, in His wonderful love for us, puts all His resources at our disposal.

"Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4). Hard things are to be overcome (see 2 Kings 2:10). Once again Habakkuk comes in with a message. Look at the conclusion (3:17-19)—he is rejoicing when there is nothing visible to rejoice in! Think about that for a moment, and then consider how Habakkuk can bring a wonderful message of encouragement to us also.

Young men in our day also see visions (Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17). God needs such today because the days are evil (2 Timothy 3:1). Judgment is coming but the Lord is long-suffering (2 Peter 3:9) and wants all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). But we also can venture forth in faith. We also can ask him to revive us (Isaiah 57:15) and ask him to increase our faith (Luke 17:50). Sometimes we marvel at saints who are real overcomers in the face of burdens that are insupportable without Divine help. This is the victory that our God is looking for in us today. Let us thank God for Habakkuk and seek to walk in his steps. Amen

**D.W. Paterson**

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q:** I was saved a few years ago but I'm still sinning! I have earnestly asked God to give me power over all sin, but I have no answer, and I cannot tell where my mistakes are. I understand that a man has to confess to God that he is a sinner and believe that Christ died for him in order to have the new life. I am anxious to leave off all sin. I want to live as God would have me to live, but I do not know what to do.

**A:** Before I attempt to answer your question, I want to assure you that soon we will experience the reality of our salvation from the dominion, power, and presence of sin when the Lord Jesus comes.

As to your question, I would suggest that you are experiencing the struggle of the man in Romans chapter 7.

A lesson that every believer ought to learn is stated in verse 18, "For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing." As long as we are in this scene there will be a conflict between the flesh and the spirit. Although I am saved, yet I still carry with me the old package I inherited from Adam when he disobeyed God. So now I need to always have before me that I am crucified with Christ, and if I want to experience victory over sin, it is not by my own strength and energy, but through Christ living in me (Gal. 2:20). Though we are His, we need to understand that living in Christ is not by my own power (Peter learned that lesson in Luke 22:33) but by surrendering all to Christ and entering into all that I am in Him (Rom 8:2,11,16-18).

In conclusion, it is not a matter of overcoming sin now by my own power (I can't! See John 1:8-10) but allowing the Spirit of God to form the life of Christ in me (Gal. 4: 19). This is how I will have a victorious Christian life.

**J.A.**

## UNCHANGING LOVE

O Lord, Thy love's unbounded,  
So sweet, so full, so free;  
My soul is all transported,  
Whene'er I think on Thee.

Yet Lord, alas! What weakness  
Within myself I find;  
No infant's changing pleasure  
Is like my wandering mind.

And yet, Thy love's unchanging,  
And doth recall my heart  
To joy, in all its brightness--  
The peace its beams impart!

Yet sure, if in Thy presence  
My soul still constant were,  
Mine eye would, more familiar,  
Its brighter glories bear.

And thus, Thy deep perfections  
Much better should I know,  
And, with adoring fervour,  
In this Thy nature grow.

Still, sweet 'tis to discover,  
If clouds have dimmed my sight,  
When passed, Eternal Lover,  
Towards me, as e'er, Thou'rt bright.

Oh guard my soul, then Jesus,  
Abiding still with Thee;  
And if I wander, teach me  
Soon back to Thee to flee;

That all Thy gracious favour  
May to my soul be known;  
And versed in this Thy goodness  
My hopes Thyself shalt crown.

**J. N. D.**

## MAN'S QUESTIONS??

## GOD'S ANSWERS!!

### **Am I accountable to God?**

Every one of us shall give account of himself to God”

(Romans 14:12)

### **Has God seen all my ways?**

“All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

(Hebrews 4:13)

### **Does God charge me with sin?**

“All have sinned “

(Romans 3:23)

“The Scripture hath concluded all under sin”

(Galatians 3:22)

### **Will God punish sin?**

“The soul that sinneth, it shall die”

(Ezekiel 18:4)

“For the wages of sin is death”

(Romans 6:23).

### **Must I perish?**

“The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”

(2 Peter 3:9)

### **How can I escape?**

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”

(Acts 16:31)

### **Can I be saved now?**

“Now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation”

(2 Corinthians 6:2)

“Him that cometh to Me I will no wise cast out”

(John 6:37)