ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

Sorrow has again invaded the members at Getwell. Brother Rodger Shappley passed from this life April 13, 2016, after a lengthy illness. He attended the services at Getwell until his health deteriorated. It seems but a short time since sister Carloyyn Ann Shappley, wife of Rodger, passed on to her eternal reward. She was a great woman who loved the Lord and His church, and who taught children in Bible classes for several years.

Their son, Charles, is a compliment to this family. He has been a great helper in taking care of the audio for the auditorium classes and worship services for many years. He also has been a faithful helper with recording the radio programs for WHBQ’s Sunday morning “Truth in Love” program. We appreciate brother Charlie for his devotion to his parents and for his intent interest in the work at Getwell. He is to be commended for standing by his father to the end of his life. He also made a statement to this preacher that impressed me with his deep interest in the work at Getwell. He said, after his father’s passing and after preparing the program for the coming week, “Well, the work must go on.

A celebration of life was conducted at the Getwell building on Saturday April 16, for the family and friends of the Shappley family.
Let the Gospel Be Preached!

Gary Colley

All faithful Christians glory in pleasing God through the preaching of His Word! All alert students of the Word know that the Gospel is the only power that God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit exert on the hearts of men to save them (Rom. 1:16). The early church knew this fact and depended on the preaching of the Word to spread the borders of the kingdom from day to day and week to week (Acts 2:42-47). The first ingredient in every conversion of the New Testament involved the preaching of the Word (Acts 8:4). These realized, as we should today, that it was their divine mission as the church of Christ to be “the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Tim. 3:15). These words express and impress upon Christians the solemn nature of our work. We are responsible for planting and watering the Word, while Jehovah gives the increase (I Cor. 3:6). Isaiah records Jehovah as saying, “For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, and giveth seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isa. 55:10-11).

Jehovah Gives Earthly Blessings

Though some may think it foolish and do not always understand the purpose of the rain and the snow from heaven, especially in the desert, the purposes of God are still served. The beautiful flowers that flourish even in the deserts of our world beautify the earth and bring honor to Him who made and cares for them. The watering of the earth always has its purpose. God’s law from the beginning has been that all seed produces after its kind (Gen. 1). And in addition to the seed producing abundance after its kind in the bountiful harvest, additional seed is given for planting again and again. Seed has within itself the germ of life! To inspect God’s bountiful earthly blessings through which His favor is wonderfully shown to earth’s inhabitants, “on the just and on the unjust” (Mt. 5:45), is to realize the thanksgiving daily that should ascend to our Heavenly Father.

Jehovah Gives Spiritual Blessings

Jesus said, “It is the Spirit that giveth life; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (Jn. 6:63). Hence the source of spiritual life is in the seed or the Word. “The hope of the Gospel” (Col. 1:23) is the only hope the world has, and that hope only comes through the faithful proclamation and humble acceptance of the Word (Mk. 16:15-16). God’s promise to the sowers of His Word is that His Word will not return unto Him void or without profit. It will save those who believe and embrace it; it will condemn those who disbelieve and reject it; it is the Christian’s responsibility to proclaim it at every opportunity! But some think today, even among a few of our own brethren, that the preaching of the Word is only foolishness. Paul states, “For the word of the cross [preaching the death of Christ, GC] is to them that perish [are perishing, GC] foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God” (I Cor. 1:18). “For seeing that in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom knew not God, it was God’s good pleasure through the foolishness of the preaching to save them that believe” (I Cor. 1:21). The saved are those who have heard, believed, repented, confessed their faith, and have been baptized to wash away their sins. These are “in Christ” because of their faith in the Word. “In Christ” is the only place where all the spiritual blessings are to be found (Eph. 1:3).

Heaven Is Our Goal

To save ourselves and those who hear us, we must preach the Word (I Tim. 4:16)! Let us ever remember and be encouraged that Jehovah says of the faithful preaching the Word that it “shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isa. 55:11).

Let the Gospel Be Preached!
That the Fearful Will Be Lost?

The Word of God promises no reward for those who in FEAR turn their backs on Christ and His Word. Concerning the lost, John recorded, “But the FEARFUL, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev. 21:8). In the number of sins mentioned of these lost ones, the first is “THE FEARFUL.” It may be that many preachers, elders, deacons, and Bible class teachers fall into this category! Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words, in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels” (Mk. 8:38). Jesus referred to some who though believing in Christ, would not confess Him, because of their FEAR of being “put out of the synagogue,” or as it might be today their denomination (12:42-43). If “faith only” could have saved, it would have saved these! (cf. Jas. 2:24). However, he said they would not be saved, because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God AND IN FEAR WOULD NOT OBEY! The Bible makes it evident that all who would be saved must make a stand for and with the Truth, and stand there! Paul charged the Ephesian church to “take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore . . .” (Eph. 6:13-17). Not only then must one embrace the Truth in obedience to be saved (Mk. 16:15-16) but also must continue in “the love of the Truth, that they might be saved (II Thess. 2:10). About preaching, Paul wrote, “For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe (misery, shame, destruction GC) is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel (I Cor. 9:1:16). There are those who at one time were willing to accept and defend the Truth, but when tested they became FEARFUL and fell away (II Pet. 2:20-22). Paul wrote the Corinthian church of Christ saying, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit [act] you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity” (I Cor. 16:13).” “TheLord shall judge his people. It is A FEARFUL THING to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:30-31).