ON THE HOME FRONT

Gary Colley

Our attendance at Getwell of late has been very good. There are some, of course, who seemingly and evidently do not see the importance of attending all of the classes and worship services. We shall continue to encourage these to make their lives align with the Lord’s commands (Heb. 10:23-35) and help them, if we can, to put the Lord first in their lives (Matt. 6:33).

The inspired writer Matthew, in giving us the history of the life of Christ, shows Christ’s intention to “build” His church on earth as He rules it in Heaven (Acts 2). We refer to Matthew 16:18, where Jesus said, “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it”. To build His church He gave His teaching, and for us to build up His church we must abide in His teaching and convey it to others (I Tim. 4:16; Jn. 15:1-6).

But some make a different statement of intention toward the church of Christ than our Lord! They may say, “I will build my business” or “I will build my school” or “I will build my philosophy” or “I will build my reputation” or “I will build my following” or “I will build my way” or “I will build my money” or “I will build my opinions” or “I will build my program” or “I will build my church” or “I will build my denomination”!

We should all determine to strive to build only the Lord’s church, since it is the only body He promises to bless, direct, be the Head of, provide all spiritual blessings for, and save!
Some think their life is so dull and discouraging that there is to be no happiness for them. If as some proclaim, “there is no God” (Psa. 14:1), this might be the case. There would not be right and wrong, good and evil, love and hope, and, therefore, nothing but despair, if there is no God! But there is the true and living God, who created man and woman (Gen. 1:26-27), created the beauties of earth for their happiness (Gen. 1:1), and who supplies all of the earth’s daily needs (Matt. 5:45).

Yet, because man does not realize and accept his personal responsibility to work with his hands, rebels against the Will of God, and does not labor to make the world a better place, some miss the good days that could be theirs (II Thess. 3:10). Peter writes, “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew [refuse GC] evil, and do good; let him seek peace and ensue [pursue GC] it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (I Pet. 3:10-12).

The precious gift of life is from God and is to be used to the fullest of our ability to serve our Creator as we live for His Son Jesus the Christ. When we abide in His church or body and seek it first, we know all needed things will be added to our lives (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; Matt. 6:33). We should awake each day with the question on our minds, “What good thing can I do today to serve God as a Christian, and help others?” (Acts 20:35). This does not mean there will be no difficulties, disappointments, or disagreements, but it does mean that as we walk by faith there will be nothing we cannot handle (Phil. 4:13).

If we have not already done so, let us learn to appreciate and reverence God (Ecc. 12:13). Let us apply God’s Word to our lives each day, as we study His Word to show ourselves approved in His sight (II Tim. 2:15). Not only will good days be the result of such living, but the hope of Heaven will also be in our view (Heb. 11:1). When we are conforming our lives by acting in harmony with God’s Word, we will not allow the world to pour us into its mold, but we will be “transformed by the renewing of our minds” (Rom. 12:1-2).

Let us not trust our own thoughts and ways but rather seek for God’s thoughts and His Way, which are far higher than our own (Isa. 55:8-9). Let us “refrain our tongue from evil, and our lips that they speak no guile” (I Pet. 3:10). This kind of life will make our home a place of honor. We will lead our family and friends in the right way (Eph. 6:4). Let us attend the worship services of the Lord’s church, with our family, every time the doors are open! By following God’s wise counsel, we will have a life filled with happiness and joy!
Has anyone ever asked you “what’s so great about being a Christian?” How did you respond? The following article addressed that question from the editors of *Think* magazine. Maybe the information will prove useful in leading someone to Christ.

Ron Wallace

**Think: FROM THE EDITORS**

Brad Harrub, Dan Cottrell, Billy Davis, Keith Parker, Steve Hale, Jerry Groves, Jack Wilkie, and Lance Benson

**WHAT’S SO GREAT ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN?**

Several years ago, I asked this question to a friend: What’s so great about being a Christian? My friend was a Christian but his wife was not. We were studying the Bible with his wife trying to lead her to the Lord. So I asked the question. His answer surprised me. He responded with silence. He just sat there. I tried again for a response. I said, “You’re a Christian. I’m a Christian. What’s so good about being in Christ?” And he could not answer.

The apostle Paul said in Ephesians 1:3: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” All blessings are in Christ. Let me share a few of them with you.

**First:** forgiveness. “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1: 7). Forgiveness is “a letting go.” If you forgive someone, you take his trespasses and “let go” of them. You drop them. God through the blood of His son has taken our sins and released them.

**Second:** favor. “For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8). Grace is favor or kindness that we do not deserve. G-R-A-C-E: God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense. God has given us what we need instead of what we deserve. If I go to Heaven, I will go not because I have been so good to God, but because He has been so good to me.

**Third:** family. “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named” (Ephesians 3:14-15). We have a family. God’s glorious family is the church. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We are blood-related. The blood of Jesus unites us.

**Fourth:** faith. “One Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Ephesians 4:5). The Gospel is a message of faith to which we respond in faith. We should earnestly contend for the faith which was delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

**Fifth:** Father. “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20). God is a good father. He is so good that He wants us to be saved even more than we want ourselves to be saved. Regardless of how committed we are, there is a God in Heaven who wants us to go to Heaven even more than we want ourselves to go to Heaven. What a Father!

**Sixth:** future. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:1-3). “Living long on the earth” is not the past or the present, but the future. People can take away our jobs, our houses, our money and our lives, but they can’t take away our future. It is secured in Heaven by God.

So what’s so great about being a child of God? Read the book of Ephesians. Find the fortune. God has blessed us greatly. He provides our forgiveness, favor, family, faith and future. What a fantastic Father. *Think* on these things.