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Publishers of
THE SPIRITUAL SWORD
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Home of The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

Radio Program *The Truth in Love* WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 98.5 Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Worship	
Worship	5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Volume LXIII

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Well everyone is taking a deep breath. We have just completed a great Spiritual Sword Lectureship. The theme was "Powerful Passages of the Pentateuch." It was a series that was well planned by Bradley Smith, the director of the 47th annual event. All the speakers were well prepared and true to God's Word. Next year's lectureship theme will be "The Doctrine of Christ" that will expose and debunk so many of the false teachings that are being taught in the religious world today.

In connection with this year's event, the Getwell congregation came through splendidly. I will not attempt to name names but let me say everyone pulled their weight and did so with a cheerful attitude. We also had help from brothers and sisters from area congregation: Huston Prater, Olive Branch, Judy Conley, Forest Hill, Jacob Wallace, Germantown, June Ashby, Jefferson Ave Cookeville, TN and Noah Wallace, Olive Branch. Thanks goes out to all of these folks who pitched in and helped us make this lectureship a successful event.

We also want to thank Paul Sain, who published the lectureship book. As usual he did a professional job with the book. The book and audio compact discs are available of the lessons given last week. Charles Shappley did an excellent job recording and editing the audio recordings. We also have digital video discs available of the week's lectureship. Paul Davenport and Steve Ulrich did their usual professional job in recording the week's lectures.

We were especially blessed to have Mark Posey Winfield, Alabama present a lesson. Brother Posey has just escaped from the Ukraine and I do mean escape, just ahead of Mr. Putin's murder squad. Mark was interviewed by Michael Wyatt on our radio program, "The Truth in Love" program, this past Lord's day. According to Mark 96 people have obeyed the gospel in the last 119 days. We continue to pray for the church in the Ukraine. We thank God for his wonderful love and power in the lives of men.

Until next week!

Ron Wallace

What is the "Great Tribulation"?

The word *tribulation* was used by Jesus and the apostles more than twenty times in the New Testament to refer to the distress and trials that Christ's followers must suffer in this life. For example, Acts 14:22 tells us that Paul and Barnabas taught that we should "continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.'"

The words *great tribulation* found in Matthew 24:21 describe a period of unparalleled suffering. "Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be." Premillennialism incorrectly teaches that the "great tribulation" is a seven-year period in the future that follows the "rapture" of the church and precedes the Lord's second coming. (There are variations among premillennialists, but these ideas are generally accepted.)

The disciples asked Jesus privately, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3). Notice they asked about two things: "the sign" of Jesus' coming, and "the end of the age." The two separate things are the destruction of Jerusalem and the Lord's second coming at the end of the world. Matthew 24 and 25 give Christ's description of these two events. Matthew 24:1–35 describes the destruction of Jerusalem that occurred in AD 70, and the remainder of the passage describes the second coming.

The great tribulation, which premillennialists want to project to the end of time, is a description of the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus said, "This generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place" (Matthew 24:34). Thus within a generation—thirty to forty years—the events He described would come to pass. The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 fulfilled this prophecy. Daniel had prophesied a coming "abomination of desolation" (Daniel 11:31; 12:11). "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (Matthew 24:15), was seen in the fulfillment of the desecration and destruction of the temple by the Romans as they destroyed Jerusalem.

The fact that this great tribulation was the destruction of Jerusalem, and not a coming period of misery, is demonstrated by Jesus' instructions to His followers to watch for the signs, and "flee to the mountains" to escape, saying that they should pray that it "may not be in the winter," when the weather would be bad, nor that their flight be "on the Sabbath" when the city gates would be closed (Matthew 24:16, 20).

History shows that Christians heeded this warning and were able to escape the destruction of Jerusalem by fleeing to the mountains. All who follow Christ will suffer tribulation, but the period of great tribulation has already passed.

November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*BIRTHDAY **ANNIVERSARY Please be sure that we have your birth date and anniversary date on file in the church office.		1 Mark 5-8	2 Mark 9-12	3 Mark 13-16	4 Luke 1-4	5 Luke 5-8
6 Luke 9-12	7 Luke 13-16	8 Luke 17-20	9 Luke 21-24	10 John 1-4	11 John 5-8 VETERANS DAY	12 John 9-12
Daylight Saving Time Ends						
13 John 13-16	14 John 17-21	15 Acts 1-4 *Willie Flynn	16 Acts 5-8	17 Acts 9-12 *Raymond McCoy	18 Acts 13-16	19 Acts 17-20
20 Acts 21-24	21 Acts 25-28	22 Romans 1-4	23 Romans 5-8 *Frances Wallace	24Romans 9-12 Office Closed	25Romans13-16 Office Closed	26 1 Cor. 1-4
27 1 Cor. 5-8	28 1 Cor. 9-12	29 I Cor. 13-16	30 II Cor. 1-4			