

Articles	Page
Editorial: New Year, Same Old	1
Our Unfathomable God, pt. 3	2
Moses; Man of God, pt 4	3
The Lord's Precious Ones	5
Waiting for the Son	8
God's Marvelous Creation	9

(Note: All quotations inserted between articles this month were written by R. C. Chapman)

Editorial: New Year, Same Old

Joel Portman

Mal. 3:6 "I am the Lord, I change not..."

Heb. 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Ecc. 8:11 "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

Once again, we enter a new year and we might wonder how it is that we have reached 2026 and yet the Lord has not come. Peter has an answer for us in 2 Pet. 3:9: He is "longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" and in v 15, "...account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation." Even though we have entered another year since our glorious Lord left us the promise of His return, He has reasons for which He has not come to take His waiting saints to Himself, and that promise is still true and certain. It may be a New Year, but His promise of old is still the same, "Behold, I come quickly". (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20). He hasn't changed, His promise hasn't changed, His purposes have not changed, and our blessed hope is still the same (Tit. 2:13). The world may change, as it always does, but it is also essentially the same with an unchanging attitude of hostility toward God, against Christ, and against all who are identified with that blessed Name ("Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you", 1 Jn. 3:13).

It seems that mankind is growing more evil and antagonistic to divine principles and persons, but it is only the outward expression of the unchanging, irremediable inward state of man's sinful nature. Historically, moral standards of society change, sometimes being more upright and conducive to stability in lives, marriag-

es, homes, and public life before lapsing into more degraded and violent manifestations of man's rebellious heart. It seems that in our day, man's demonstration of his unrestrained spirit in violent behavior is becoming more evident, but it only reminds us of what God's Word says was the norm in the days of Noah (Gen. 6:11-12) and what the Lord predicted would exist before His coming (Luke 17:26-30). One can only imagine what this world will be like in that period of tribulation when anarchy and bloodshed seem to prevail (Rev. 6:4). Paul warned Timothy of the conditions in the last days (2 Tim. 3:1-8) and we seem to be nearing that state, if not already there. No, time goes on, the calendar changes, but man's heart is still set to do evil continually because the thought of divine judgment is far from their minds and "there is no fear of God before their eyes", (Rom. 3:18).

But on the other side, our God is the same as He has always been. His standards have never changed, His character is still maintained, His love for men is unchanged, His purposes are being fulfilled, and He will yet His King on His holy hill of Zion (Ps. 2). He is the God of time as well as of eternity, and the "times and seasons" are all in His hand (Acts 1:7, 1 Thess. 5:1-2). It may appear that the cause of Christ is failing and that there is no Christian hope, but that cannot be, for His object is steadfast. Psalm 2 is a great source of encouragement, for it declares from God's side that man and his government may rage and plan against the Lord, YET, His purposes will be fulfilled. He will yet receive glory and honor in His world and His glorious Son will yet rule for God in this scene (1 Cor. 15:25). In Ps. 11:4, when David was urged by others to flee from danger and distress, his response was the same as what we should express, "The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." Habakkuk expressed the same in a similar time of distress and uncertainty, "But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him." In the interim, the Spirit is seeking to move men to be reconciled with the Son while there is yet time (Ps 2:12). But, "God's patience may weary some day and leave thy sad soul in the blast.." Time is moving onward toward its consummation and His judgment is as sure as it has always been. The old saying is still true, "The wheels of God's judgment grind slowly but surely". He is never in a hurry to act judgmentally, but it is certain that He will. How important it is to be on the right side, knowing that the peace our blessed Lord secured for us is still the same and we can rest in the certainty of His Word!

And we are reminded that His Word has never changed. Men have beat their hammers against the solid anvil of the Word of God for centuries, but though the hammers have worn out, the Anvil still stands. It is the "rock unchanging" upon which we rest. It is the balm for troubled souls. It is the refreshing stream of divine truth that sweeps aside the lies of this deceitful world. It is the beacon of assurance that shines through the mist and clouds of this dark scene (2 Pet. 1:19). His Word convicts of sin, warns of danger, directs to the Refuge, and calms the spirit of believers today, even as it has since time began. It is an expression of the mind of heaven, and the verification of its truth is essential to uphold the honor of the One who has given it ("I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name", Ps. 138:2).

His commands for us have never changed. We are to obey His Word, love the brothers, honor human

government (1 Pet. 2:17), walk humbly before the Lord (Mic. 6:8), showing mercy and kindness to all men even as the Spirit of God seeks to work out in our lives the fruit of His presence within (Gal. 5:22-23). May we go on with assurance and confidence in our unchanging God until we see Him face to face..perhaps today!

"My love is ofttimes low,
My joy still ebbs and flows,
But peace with Him remains the same,
No change Jehovah knows.

I change, He changes not,
the Christ can never die,
His love, not mine, the resting place,
His truth not mine, the tie."

#255 BHB, Horatius Bonar

"Truths for our Day"

A monthly publication that is freely available on the Internet and is intended to help believers who appreciate the timeless truths of God's Word and who recognize the unchanging principles of God's will for His people. It is primarily intended to strengthen those who enjoy fellowship in local assemblies of believers who are gathered to the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Editors: Joel Portman & Jim Brown

Publisher: Joel Portman
1200 Forest Glen Ct. SE,
Cedar Rapids, IA, 52403

All Correspondence to: mail@truthsforourday.com

All issues of "Truths for our Day" are available by clicking on the link below. This will take you to the index for Truths For Our Day

Please read this notice:

We permit and encourage you to reprint any issue of "Truths for our Day" that you desire, either for yourself, or to share with other believers. However, if you wish to copy an individual article, we will forward your request to the copyright owner of the article to request his permission. For this reason, the format of the publication is locked to prevent unauthorized publication of articles that the author would prefer to reserve. Please do not copy them in any other way. We want to respect the ownership of all those who have written articles.

We also hope you will let others know about "Truths for our Day" and encourage them to subscribe as well. They may do so by simply sending an e-mail to this email address:

mail@truthsforourday.com

Thank you

The laying open the heart of God is the great design of the Scriptures: happy the reader who falls in with that design!

Our Unfathomable God, pt 3

C. Jones (Wales)

"Able to do exceeding abundantly," Eph. 3:20

These words give the impression that Paul is stretching human language to its limits in order to convey what God can and will do, for His glory and our eternal blessing. God is indeed "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"! Eph. 3:20. God has infinitely more and better blessings to bestow upon us than all our hopes and aspirations can rise to, and more than we can think or imagine. We are told that "with God all things are possible", Matt. 19:26, and "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" 1 Jn. 4:4.

The Lord is "able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" Heb. 7:25. God provides a complete salvation. He saves from the penalty and guilt of sin, Eph. 2:8; from the power of sin, Rom. 6:14, and ultimately, when He takes us to be with Himself for ever, we shall be saved from the presence of sin, 1 Jn. 3:2.

Paul wrote, "He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day", 2 Tim.1:12. In this statement Paul revealed his complete confidence in the God he knew, loved and served. His faith,

like that of every believer who trusts God completely, glorified God.

God is “able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” 2 Cor. 9:8. God lavishes grace upon us and places within us the desire to do good works, Eph. 2:10. He will provide us with all we need to do His will.

The Lord is “able to succor them that are tempted”, Heb. 2:18. The Lord, who did not and could not sin, 2 Cor.5:21; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 Jn. 3:5, knew *WHAT IT* was to be tested by Satan. We have to resist temptations, but there was nothing in the Lord to respond to temptations, Jn. 14:30. Nevertheless, the Lord, being holy, suffered when presented with trials and “in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor them that are tempted” Heb. 2:8, and “we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” Heb. 4:15.

The Lord is “able even to subdue all things unto Himself” Phil. 3:21. Such is the power of God that one day He will give believers a changed body which will not be affected by aging, pain or death. We will be with Him forever. His power will subdue all things so that His perfect will will be done throughout creation.

God is “able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” Jude 24. If we avail ourselves of the power of the Holy Spirit Who indwells every believer, 1 Cor.6:19, we will be kept from sinning. One day, because of the eternal effectiveness of the finished work on the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall be presented before His glorious presence with great joy.

Study and meditation on the truths brought before believers in the Word of God will produce inexpressible feelings of awe and admiration, and love and gratitude to God. Dwelling on these eternal truths will cause us to have a greater appreciation of the wonder of God and of the preeminent, all-sufficient Lord Jesus Christ. All the thoughts resulting from such meditation will stimulate an increasing desire to worship, praise and serve God in accordance with His perfect will.

David, a man after God’s own heart, Acts 13:22, wrote Psalm 139. He wrote of the almighty God he knew and loved. David revealed His closeness to God and his awareness of the constant presence of the eternal God. His knowledge of God, and of God’s transcendent majesty overwhelmed David and the Psalm conveys the feelings of awe and wonder David experienced when he meditated on God. The reverence due to His Name permeates the Psalm. David’s reverential fear of the all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere-present God caused David, the man who had killed a lion, a bear and Goliath, 1 Sam. 17:36; 21:9, to bow in adoration, complete and glad submission and worship.

Worship of God is both a privilege and a responsibility and is the most elevated and wonderful activity in which a believer can be involved. Our worship of God depends upon our appreciation of God. God is unfathomable and can only be understood and appreciated to a very limited extent by finite human minds, even though He has blessed us by graciously revealing Himself in His written Word and in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. God is to be worshiped, and “true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him” Jn. 4:23. As, by grace, we learn more and more of God, and serve Him in ways acceptable to Him, then our worship, led by the Holy Spirit and offered in and through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, will rise to heights we never would have thought possible. Well might we say, “Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name” Ps. 103:1.

The fairest things in the world’s sight are the foulest in the sight of God; to wit, the world’s Wisdom and the world’s Religion.

Moses: Man of God, pt 4

Moses at the Border

Alan Davidson

Moses said; “When I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land ... they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them” (Numbers 32:8-9). “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief” (Hebrews 3:19).

Moses witnessed power and provision by the hand of God when the people were blessed by deliverance from Egypt, giving them the Pillar Cloud to guide, the safe passage through the Red Sea and blessing at Marah and Elim. These were tests of Dependence. The provision of the manna, water from the smitten rock, victory in the conflict with Amalek, the giving of the Law and the offerings in the Tabernacle, were tests of Obedience. This corresponds, in the New Testament, to the transition from the abounding triumphs in the book of Acts, to the doctrines and practical responsibilities of the Epistles.

At Kadesh-barnea the people rejected God's promise. It was the test of Faith. Faith regards God's promises as being already fulfilled. Usually the biggest "giants" are ourselves, and our unbelief. "All the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron" (Numbers 14:2). "All the congregation bade stone them with stones" (Numbers 14:10). "And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke Me?" (Numbers 14:11). "I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they" (Numbers 14:12).

"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were on the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3). In an attitude of meekness, humility and prayerfulness, Moses suffered without complaint. He showed strength under provocation. Misunderstood, misrepresented, even while suffering biting sarcasm he remained silent. When Miriam's lyrics turned to leprosy, "Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God" (Numbers 12:13). Disappointed with his sister and his brother, rejected by the people on the brink of the great opportunity to accomplish his life's work, he refused to be made another Abraham to lead a "greater nation". He put the glory of the Lord before his own glory. He accepted the discipline of forty years wandering in the wilderness with unselfishness that the nation of Israel would be preserved and the honor of God be upheld before the other nations.

Returning to Kadesh after the wanderings in the wilderness, there was no water for the congregation; "And the people (a new generation) chode with Moses" (Numbers 20:2-3). God said to Moses; "Take the rod ... and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes" (Numbers 20:8). Moses said unto them "Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly" (Numbers 20:10-11). At the water of Meribah, by this act of rashness and irritation, repeated twice in public, Moses diminished the glory of God Whom he had served so faithfully for almost forty years. "The LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (Numbers 20:12). Public failure in leadership and behavioral example before the Lord's people, are grievous sins which God will not overlook in the assembly today. Jehovah will take care of His Own glory. "They angered Him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips" (Psalm 106:32-33).

Moses and His Burial

God in government kept Moses out of Canaan. God in grace brought Moses up to Pisgah and; "The LORD

shewed him all the land" (Deuteronomy 34:1-2). From Dan to the uttermost sea, Moses probably saw more of the land than Joshua ever possessed. Moses climbed Mount Pisgah, 4500 feet, at one hundred and twenty years of age. "His eye was not dim, not his natural force abated" (Deuteronomy 34:7). He spent two thirds of his life upon mountains, from Horeb to Sinai, Hor and Pisgah then to the Mount of Transfiguration. It was better to enter the land in company with the Lord, than to enter the land in company with Israel.

He was now ready to depart. He had a good finish. With the dignity of the statesman, the steadfastness of the servant, and the tenderness of the shepherd, he died alone with God. As the Servant of God, at his bidding winds retreat, waters gushed out, seas parted and met. Now his majestic spirit is laid to rest, no human eye to peer, no foot to intrude into the serene calmness. In the solitude, Jochebed, Miriam, Aaron are gone, even Joshua is no longer with him, as God buried him.

His burial was not delegated to an inferior hand. God marks the grave where the dust of His servant mingles with the dust of earth. "Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses" (Jude 9). This precious dust will not be overlooked when the voice of the archangel is heard (Daniel 12:1-3).

Moses as a Type of our Lord Jesus Christ

Moses said; "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken" (Deuteronomy 18:15).

"When they had seen the miracle (feeding the five thousand) that Jesus did, (they) said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world" (John 6:14).

"Moses" – was a "goodly" child, "Fair" to God in his father's house (Exodus 2:2).

God "Having yet therefore one Son, His well beloved, He sent Him" (Mark 12:6).

"Moses" – was born of poor parents under the oppression and cruelty of Pharaoh.

The Lord Jesus, knew poverty at His birth during the tyranny of Herod.

"Moses" – was persecuted and doomed to death at birth.

The Lord Jesus, when He was born, they sought: "The young child to destroy Him" (Matthew 2:13).

"Moses" was miraculously preserved at birth when others were slain by Pharaoh in Egypt.

Jesus, with Joseph and His mother fled to the same land of Egypt as Herod sought to slay the young child.

"Moses" came out unto his "brethren" and was rejected (Exodus 2:11).

Christ, was "Made like unto His brethren" (Hebrews 2:17). "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not" (John 1:11).

"Moses" was a humble shepherd in rejection (Exodus 3:1).

Jesus Christ was a carpenter in despised Nazareth (Mark 6:3).

"Moses" turned water into blood in the sight of Pharaoh (Exodus 7:20).

he Lord at the marriage in Cana in the beginning of miracles, turned water into wine (John 2:9).

"Moses" fasted for forty days in the wilderness of Sinai.

The Lord fasted forty days in the wilderness of Judæa.

"Moses", "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter" (Hebrews 11:24).

The Lord refused the devils offer of "the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them" (Matthew 4:8).

"Moses" was God's faithful "servant" (Numbers 12:7).

The Lord; "Took upon Him the form of a servant" (Philippians 2:7).

"Moses" – "begat" sons among the Gentiles (Acts 7:29).

The true Light, was not received by His own, (the Jewish nation), "But as many as received Him (Jews and Gentiles), to them gave He power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12).

"Moses" was used by God to be the deliverer of Israel from Egyptian bondage.

Christ is the Deliverer from; "The bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:21).

"Moses stretched out his hand over the sea" (Exodus 14:21). The waters divided at God's command.

The Lord commanded the wind and wave, He said, "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39).

"Moses" spoke with God, "mouth to mouth ... and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold" (Numbers 12:8).

John the Baptist stated; "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him" (John 1:18).

"Moses" face shone; "So that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away" (2 Corinthians 3:7).

The Lord Jesus Christ has fully and finally revealed God "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). The Lord was transfigured upon the Holy Mount, "And His face did shine as the sun" (Matthew 17:2).

"Moses" fed the people with manna from heaven (Exodus 16:15).

The Lord said; "I am the Bread of Life" (John 6:35).

"Moses" smote the rock and God gave them water (Exodus 17:6).

"That Rock was Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:4).

"Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink" (John 7:37).

"Moses" in intercession on the top of the hill with uplifted hand saw Israel prevail down below (Exodus 17:11).

Christ our glorified High Priest, Whose hand never grows weary, intercedes for us (Hebrews 9:24).

"Moses", "Now the man Moses was very meek" (Numbers 12:3).

Jesus said; "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11:29).

"Moses" died; God buried him but he appeared to Peter, James and John upon "the holy mount" (2 Peter 1:18).

Christ died, was buried, rose again and appeared to the disciples upon, "A mountain where Jesus had appointed them" (Matthew 28:16).

Moses was received by the people at his second coming. "This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer" (Acts 7:35).

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrew 9:28).

About 1500 years before the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, God raised up Moses to be a Prophet (Deuteronomy 34:10); a Teacher of the law (John 1:17); a Judge (Exodus 32:20); an Arbitrator (Exodus 32:26); a Mediator (Exodus 32:30); an Intercessor (Exodus 32:31-32); a Leader (Deuteronomy 33:29); a Ruler and a Deliverer (Acts 7:35).

"And Moses verily was faithful in all His house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after" (Hebrews 3:5). Moses was a "servant" (of high rank, management, only used here in N.T.) indicating a position of lofty responsibility with regard to the "better things" spoken of Christ in Hebrews. "Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all His (God's) house. For this Man (Christ) was counted worthy of more glory than Moses" (Hebrews 3:2-3).

The man who worships God without the new birth is a mocker of God, not a worshiper.

The Lord's Precious Ones

David McKinley

The first thing we would note about these faithful believers in Malachi 3:16 is

Their Identification.

"Them that feared the Lord" (3:16)

In a very insolent generation, they stood out as different. Others said "Wherein hast Thou loved us?", "Wherein have we despised Thy name?", "Wherein have we polluted Thee?", "Wherein have we wearied Him?", "Wherein shall we return?" and "What have we spoken so much against Thee?" But these souls had a godly fear, a fear of displeasing the God they loved. Their language was like the hymn-writer

"Lord, I desire to live as one,
Who bears a blood-bought name,
That fears of naught but grieving Thee,
And knows no other shame."
(Charitie Bancroft. 1841-1923)

The "Fear of the Lord" is not a cringing, resentful dread of an unknown and capricious superior being. Rather it is the glad, loving, submission of a grateful heart, that would be pained to cause its object any disappointment of any kind.

Their Occupation.

"Spake often one to another" (3:16)

They gravitated towards each other, because they all owned the same Lord. They spake of HIM. (Just like Anna in the temple "She --- spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38) What do we speak of most readily? The weather? The gas price? The news of the day? Do we find it easy to speak of Him? How we long to reach Charles Wesley's spiritual condition, when he wrote,

"My heart is full of Christ, and longs
Its glorious matters to declare,
Of Him I make my loftiest songs,
And cannot from His praise forbear;
My ready tongue makes haste to sing
The glories of my Lord and King."

There are things that the Lord forbids us to converse about; "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things that are done of them in secret." (Eph 5:11-12.) There are things which the Lord tells us are unprofitable to converse about; "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies and contentions and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain." (Titus 3:9) Thank the Lord,

He tells us what is good to speak about; "Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1) "Speaking the truth in love" (Eph 4:15) "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph 4:19). What do we sing about?

We'll sing of the Shepherd that died,
That died for the sake of the flock;
His love to the utmost was tried,
But firmly endured as a rock.
We'll sing of such subjects alone.
None other our tongues shall employ,
Till fully His love becomes known
In yonder bright regions of joy.
(Thomas Kelly. 1769 - 1855)

God's Appreciation.

"The Lord harkened and heard" (3:16).

It is a solemn thing to us to remember that every word we speak is heard of God, but a sweet thing to God, when our conversation is commendable and about things dear to his heart. Our Lord's pilgrimage on earth was characterized by the statement at twelve years of age "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business" (Luke 2:49). The Father found perfect delight in the unswerving focus of his Son in "the things of my Father". The Lord spoke of "My Father's Worship" (Jn. 4:23). What a privilege we have, to engage our spirits with the Great Eternal Spirit in adoring worship. He spoke of "My Father's House" (Jn. 14:2) Our Father appreciates it, when we speak of heaven, our eternal abode.

"O make us each more holy
In spirit pure and meek:
More like to heavenly citizens
As more of heaven we speak."
Mary B. Peters 1813- 1856)

He spoke of "My Father's honor". He appreciates it when we seek to honor God in our assembly activities and in our business transactions. He spoke of "My Father's Will" (Jn. 5:30). He appreciates when together we seek to simply carry out God's word personally and collectively. He spoke of "My Father's Work" (Jn. 5:17) He appreciates our involvement in His service. There is much activity in the evangelical world that is touted as "service", but what the Father appreciates, is humble service in line with His will. Good to not only speak to one another about the work, but to enjoy fellowship in the fulfilling of it as "Laborers together with God" (1 Cor.3:9)

God's Commendation.

"A book of remembrance was written before Him" (3:16)

What they conversed about was so appreciated by the Lord that he had it recorded to their credit. What about our conversations? What has been and is being recorded, of our converse that our ever-hearing Lord values as we meet with one another? Is the content “Whatever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise”? Job said “My record is on high” (Job 16 v 19) and God appreciated it so much that he wrote it in the Scriptures for us to read! God’s rebuke to Job’s three friends was “Ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right as my servant Job hath (Job 42:7).

God’s Evaluation.

“They shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels” (3:17). People whose whole interest is in the Lord and his things are valued by the Lord as his “peculiar treasure” now, but he has a purpose to bring them out in display in “that day”. We will usually take good care of anything we pay a lot of money to obtain and we appreciate when others express their admiration of it. God has paid the ultimate price for us, even “the precious blood of Christ as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Pet 1:19). He appreciates His purchase now and in a coming day will display to the whole wondering universe, the treasure that He paid so much for. Glorious prospect for us who were once “by nature the children of wrath, even as others”!

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. (Dan. 12:3)

God’s Preservation.

“And I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.” (3:17). The precious are preserved. The faithful are favored. The piously obedient are protectively overshadowed by a caring God, who in grace has made us sons by adoption. “If God be for us, who can be against us?” (Rom. 8:31)

Though the sons of night blaspheme,
 More there are with us than them;
 God with us, we cannot fear;
 Fear, ye fiends, for Christ is here!
 Lo to faith’s enlightened sight,
 All the mountain flames with light!
 Hell is nigh, but God is nigher,
 Circling us with hosts of fire.
 (Chas. Wesley 1707 - 1788)

Their Perception.

“Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.” (3:18). Those that fear the Lord and stand in His counsels will have a sharp-

ened discernment in divine things. We live in a day when there is a great push for change in assembly practices. The insolent will clamor to have new ideas introduced and if resisted will demand chapter and verse for all our practices in assembly life. We readily agree that we should have solid scriptural principles and precepts to guide us and to instruct every genuine seeker after truth. But the godly will have a “sense” of what is right and wrong, because of living in the atmosphere of the Lord’s presence. Can we turn to a text to guide us exactly as to how to proceed in our remembrance meeting? Why do we spend significant time in a variety of audible worship, in prayer and song or devotional reading, before actually breaking the bread? Is it not that godly men with a lot of spiritual discernment developed this practice in accord with 1st Corinthians, chapters 12 to 14? It is at the peril of losing much that is precious, if we start tampering with the practices developed by assembly men and women of an earlier day, who feared the Lord above many.

Their Protection.

“Behold the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea and all that do wickedly, shall be as stubble: And the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” (4:1)

A searching time of judgment is ahead! God is going to arise to contend with his foes. There will be a very thorough and exhaustive searching out of all that display traits of the evil one (pride and wickedness), but will it touch God’s precious ones? Nay verily! They will enjoy the protection of the One they reverence and serve.

Their Expectation.

“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings” (4:2). The coming day of glory will break for the godly remnant and out of all their affliction and persecution the bright dawn of Messiah’s return will deliver them. All the heartaches will instantly be healed by the righteous King claiming his throne and instituting his divine rule over a blessed Israel and across the broad empires of a groaning world.

And what is our hope? The Morning Star will arise to call us out of this sin-cursed earth before the thunderbolts of Tribulation wrath begin to shake this world from pole to pole. What a bright prospect! What grace to be assured that, “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear (be manifested), then shall ye also appear (be manifested) with him in glory” (Col 3:4). How glorious that when we are caught up, we are going to be where He is. We will be with Him in all of his future program. “So shall we ever be with the Lord”(1 Thess 4:17).

God's Exhortation.

"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel" (4:4). For the last of the last days of the old dispensation, what was needed? Something new and novel? No! It was "Back to the Book!" It was back to the original holy oracles given by God over 1000 years previously. What do we need for the closing days of the period of Grace? Just the same – back to the original. Back to simple God-ordained apostolic teaching of almost 2000 years ago; back to precious truths rediscovered and gladly reinstated as a testimony to an absent Lord by godly men of some 190 to 200 years ago. In these Laodicean days we need a simple humble return to the obedient faith that our Lord himself exhibited while on earth. He was "Obedient unto (to the extent of) death, even the death of the cross" Undivided love for His Father produced uncompromising obedience to the Father's will. Today we don't need plans and programs culled from the religious confusion of Babylon. We greatly need the godly fear that marked these ancient saints, renewed in our hearts as we await the consummation of our hopes in His glorious appearing.

God would ever have us regard Sin in its pollution and guilt, and deal with it as done against Him. (Ps. 51:4.)

Waiting For The Son

C.H. Mackintosh
Revelation 1: 5-7

In a day like the present, when knowledge on every question is so widely diffused, it is most needful to press upon the conscience of the Christian reader the vast distinction between merely holding the *doctrine* of the Lord's second coming and actually waiting for His appearing (1 Thessalonians 1:10). Many, alas! hold and, it may be, eloquently preach, the doctrine of a second advent who really do not know *the Person* whose advent they profess to believe and preach. This evil must be faithfully pointed out and dealt with. The present is an age of knowledge—of religious knowledge; but oh! my reader, knowledge is not life, knowledge is not power—knowledge will not deliver from sin, or Satan, from the world, from death, from hell. Knowledge, I mean,

short of the knowledge of God in Christ. One may know a great deal of Scripture, a great deal of prophecy, a great deal of doctrine, and all the while, be dead in trespasses and sins.

There is, however, one kind of knowledge which necessarily involves eternal life, and that is the knowledge of God, as He is revealed in the face of Jesus Christ. "This is life eternal, to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). Now, it is impossible to be living in the daily and hourly expectation of "the coming of the Son of Man," if the Son of Man be not experimentally known. I may take up the prophetic record, and by mere study, and the exercise of my intellectual faculties, discover the doctrine of the Lord's second coming, and yet be totally ignorant of Christ, and living a life of entire alienation of heart from Him. How often has this been the case! How many have astonished us with their vast fund of prophetic knowledge—a fund acquired, it may be, by years of laborious research, and yet, in the end, proved themselves to have been displaying unhallowed light—light not acquired by prayerful waiting upon God! Surely the thought of this should deeply affect our hearts and solemnize our minds, and lead us to inquire whether or not we know the blessed Person who, again and again, announces Himself as about to "come quickly;" else, if we know Him not, we may find ourselves of the number of those addressed by the prophet in the following startling words:—"Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? The day of the Lord is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness and not light? even very dark and no brightness in it?" (Amos 5:18-20).

The second chapter of Matthew furnishes us with a very striking illustration of the difference between mere prophetic knowledge and the knowledge of Christ—between the exercise of the intellect on the letter of Scripture, and the drawings of the Father to the Person of Christ. The wise men, manifestly led by the finger of God, were in true and earnest search of Christ, and they found Him. As to Scriptural knowledge, they could not, for a moment, have competed with the chief priests and scribes; yet what did the Scriptural knowledge of the latter do for them? Why, it rendered them efficient instruments for Herod, who called them together for the purpose of making use of their Biblical knowledge in his deadly opposition to God's Anointed. They were able to give him chapter and verse, as we say. But, my reader, while they were assisting Herod by their knowledge, the wise men were, by the drawings of the Father, making their way to Jesus. Blessed contrast! How much happier to be a worshipper at the feet of Jesus, though with slender knowledge, than to be a learned scribe, with a heart cold, dead, and distant from that blessed One! How much better to have the heart

full of lively affection for Christ than to have the intellect stored with the most accurate knowledge of the letter of Scripture! What is the melancholy characteristic of the present time? A wide diffusion of Scriptural knowledge with little love for Christ, and little devotedness to His work; abundant readiness to quote Scripture, like the scribes and chief priests, but little purpose of heart, like the wise men, to open the treasures and present to Christ the willing offerings of a heart filled by the sense of what He is. What we want is personal devotedness, and not the mere empty display of knowledge. It is not that we would undervalue Scriptural knowledge; God forbid, if that knowledge be found in connection with genuine discipleship. But if it be not, I ask, of what value is it? None whatever. The most extensive range of knowledge, if Christ be not its centre, will avail just nothing; yea, it will, in all probability, render us more efficient instruments in Satan's hand for the furthering of his purposes of hostility to Christ. An ignorant man can do but little mischief; but a learned man, without Christ, can do a great deal.

The verses which stand at the head of this paper present to us the divine basis on which to found all Scriptural knowledge, more especially prophetic knowledge. Before anyone can utter his hearty amen to the announcement, "Behold he cometh with clouds," he must, without any question, be able to join in the blessed burst of praise, "To him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood." The believer knows the One who is coming, because He has loved him, and washed him from his sins. The believer expects the everlasting Lover of his soul. The meek and lowly One who served, suffered, and was emptied down here, will speedily come in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory, and *all* who know Him will welcome Him with glad hosannahs—they will be able to say, "This is the Lord, *we have waited for* him, we will rejoice and be glad in his salvation." But, alas! there are, it is to be feared, very many who hold and argue about the Lord's coming who are not waiting for Him at all, who are living for themselves in the world, and "mind earthly things." How terrible to be found talking about the Lord's coming, and yet, when He does come, *to be left behind!* Oh! my beloved reader, think of this; and if you are really conscious that you know not the Lord, then let me entreat of you to behold Him shedding His precious blood to wash you from your sins, and learn to confide in Him, to lean upon Him, to rejoice in Him, and IN HIM ALONE.

But if you can look up to heaven, and say, "Thank God, I do know Him, and I am waiting for Him," then let me remind you of what the apostle John says, as to the practical result of this blessed hope. "Every man that hath this hope *in him*, purifieth himself, even as *he* is pure." Yes, this must ever be the result of waiting for the Son from heaven; but not at all so of the mere prophetic doctrine. Many of the most impure,

profane and ungodly characters, that have made their appearance in the world, have held, in theory, the second advent of Christ; but they were not *waiting for the Son*, and therefore they did not, and could not purify themselves. It is impossible that anyone can be waiting for Christ's appearing, and not make efforts after increased holiness, separation, and devotedness of heart: "Behold, I come quickly (Revelation 22:7) and blessed is he that watcheth (Revelation 16:15)." Those who know the Lord Jesus Christ, and love His appearing, will daily seek to shake off everything contrary to their Master's mind; they will seek to become more conformed to Him in all things. Men may hold the doctrine of the Lord's coming, and yet grasp the world and the things thereof with great eagerness; but the true-hearted servant will ever keep his eye steadily fixed on his Master's return, remembering His blessed words, "I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).

What a day will that be when the Saviour appears!
How welcome to those who have shared in His
cross!

A crown incorruptible then will be theirs
A rich compensation for suffering and loss.

****Editor note:** The article above was published in 1898, 127 years before this issue of "Truths For Our Day". If our brother Mackintosh perceived this great difference, so many years ago, between merely holding pre-millennial doctrine intellectually and an eager, genuine anticipation of the Lord's return for His own, just think of how much more pressing and pronounced the real-time delineation must be today! May we all be found on the God-honoring, soul-securing side of this dichotomy!

The greater power we have over Sin, the more intolerable do we feel the burden of it, and the more earnestly do we seek the cleansing of that blood which purges the conscience from its defilement.

God's Marvelous Creation

Genesis 1:1

Carlos Cariñas

Throughout history, our world has known many brilliant and dedicated minds who have spent years of

their lives seeking explanations for the marvelous phenomena we witness daily. They have tried to unravel the wonder of life in animals, plants, and human beings. It has been an immense challenge to discover how our astonishing universe came into being, how the first human appeared, and how humanity spread across the earth.

Several decades ago, a distinguished Belgian priest and physicist, recognized as a pioneer in cosmology, proposed what he called The Big Bang Theory. Through it, he sought to explain the origin of the universe as the result of a massive explosion. Yet, despite the sophistication of his reasoning, he could not convincingly explain how the vast diversity of stars came to be, nor the unique features of our planet—characteristics unmatched by any other in the solar system.

Any student in secondary or pre-university studies is inevitably fascinated when learning about galaxies, and especially about our Solar System. It is truly remarkable to see how each planet revolves around the Sun—the great center of the system. Even more intriguing is the fact that these orbits are not perfectly circular but elliptical, elongated like the shape of an egg. In addition, the Earth rotates on an invisible internal axis. As it circles the Sun and simultaneously spins on its axis, the Earth finds itself twice a year closer to the Sun and twice farther away, producing the change of seasons. The tilt and rotation of the planet also explain why, while one hemisphere experiences the heat of summer, the opposite side endures the cold of winter. In the Northern Hemisphere, the coldest season extends from mid-November through February, while at the same time, the Southern Hemisphere enjoys a hot summer. Such harmony cannot be explained away by mere mathematical formulas or chance speculations—it points clearly to a supreme, intelligent mind who designed and sustains it all.

But the marvels of our world do not end there. Many wonders escape our notice, either because we take them for granted or because we do not know them. Take, for instance, the polar bear, that massive creature dwelling among ice and snow. Observing it raises an obvious question: how does it survive in such extreme temperatures? Zoologists explain that its white fur is in fact composed of tiny hollow cylinders that act like prisms, breaking down the sun's rays and channeling their energy to the skin. The bear's skin is not white but black, absorbing the heat transmitted through the fur. Beneath it, a thick layer of fat works like a thermal engine, preserving warmth. Ironically, the polar bear's greatest threat is not freezing to death, but overheating when it exerts itself too much.

Equally marvelous is the mango tree. After the fruiting season, many old leaves fall. With the rains, the branch tips sprout with tiny whitish blossoms, soon followed by reddish shoots that grow into broad leaves. These gradually shift from reddish-brown to yellowish,

until they take on the deep green shade that characterizes the tree—until the next cycle of fruit arrives.

And what can we say about the extraordinary and intricate system of human life? Each day we continue to uncover new mysteries about our own bodies. Can such wonders truly be the product of chance? Can we honestly attribute the complexity of our cells, organs, and the perfect cooperation among them to mere accident or spontaneous processes?

The apostle Paul provides the answer in his letter to the Colossians: "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:15–17)

King Solomon echoes this truth in Ecclesiastes: "I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3:10–11)

The book of Genesis begins by affirming that in the beginning, an intelligent and powerful Being—whom we know as God—created every element of our universe, our planet, and all living beings. The apostle John, in his Gospel, teaches us the same truth: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:1, 3–4, 14)

These words resonate with Paul's testimony to the Colossians. Reflecting on the miracle of conception, growth, and birth of each human life, we cannot help but be moved to awe and worship. God, in His infinite love, gave His only Son to accomplish the work of redemption—for every human being who recognizes his sinfulness and separation from God and accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This is perhaps the greatest of all God's wonders: that the Righteous One died for the unrighteous, bearing in His own body the punishment our sins deserved, to reconcile us to God and grant us eternal life in His glory.