



# THE CHALLENGER

US POSTAGE PD  
PERIODICAL  
(USPS 557-980)

Our NEW WEB address: [thehourofgraceandpower.org](http://thehourofgraceandpower.org)

Vol. 37 No. 7

PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

July 2008

## ~ God's Faithfulness ~

BY THE EDITOR

**G**OD not only reveals His Person in the Scriptures, but also declares what He will do, and the conditions to be met for His promises to become a reality in our lives. Never will you know the reality of that first sentence until you personally get into the Word where such is revealed. "Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word" (Psalm 119:65). "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (I Thessalonians 5:24). Not only is God faithful, but the same revelation is declared in His Son, our Savior. (Romans 3:22; Galatians 2:16,20)

Faithfulness includes various virtues. God's immutability (unchanging) is included, along with dependability and sufficient power to perform as promised. Never will His children lose the eternal benefits of His love, mercy, and grace. "And behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth; and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof" (Joshua 23:14). "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord" (I Corinthians 1:9).

Even if we believe not, yet He abideth faithful; He cannot deny Him-

self. Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his, and, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (II Timothy

***"To be satisfactory before God, we must believe in the faithfulness of Christ"***

2:13,19). "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever; thy faithfulness shall thou establish in the very heavens. Nevertheless, my loving kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips" (Psalms 89:1,2,33,34).

At every communion service we are admonished to remember God's faithfulness in the provision of Christ as our Savior and Lord. That command to "REMEMBER" is repeated many times in your Bible. The opposite to the exercise of this word is to FORGET. So, we are to remember His faithfulness constantly. (This is another good reason for daily Bible reading.)

### Our Eternal Salvation

This glorious provision depends upon the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets. Even the righteousness of God which is by (on the basis of) faith of (He possesses it) Jesus Christ, to all and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference" (Romans 3:21,22). I have already given you other references for this truth. By the cross, Christ shared His righteousness with us. We possess none of our own and must have such if ever to be in fellowship with a holy God. In order to be satisfactory before God, we must believe in the FAITHFULNESS of Christ, Who met all demands of His righteous Father.

Have you ever named your sins in repentance before God and trusted in His supply for all your needs in and through His Son? Why not find a place of prayer and go into action. You do not believe in *your* faithfulness. *You have none.* Your trust is in the faithfulness of Christ Who died in your deserved place and was raised from the dead with His power to change you from a sinner into a saint. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:7). When are you going to do this? Let me know about it.

# The Affairs of State

WHEN A NATION AND ITS people become morally ill, that nation dies and only God, our Creator, can resurrect it to a state of moral health, be it His will to do so. When we look at the moral illness of Europe as a whole, we see most countries already have died. The varied parts of our planet's body became sick and have been terminal. The Lord our God has not healed them to life. The last and reasonably healthy part of planet earth as a body, the USA, has done its best to follow suit as a dying part of a once healthy planetary body. The moral concern of planet earth seems to be a validation of the prophetic biblical scenario that a new healthy replacement is at hand.

Christian parents are paying the salaries of liberal secular professors and teachers. The how and the means is by taxes and tuitions paid by many Christian parents and other well meaning parents who have little idea of what these morally bankrupt teachers and professors are doing to the heart and heads of the children at all schooling levels. They have and are seducing this country's children with their socialistic ideologies and outright loose moral values. These liberal humanists have had an important role in the deterioration of our educational system.

Morality devoid of Christian ethics is **no** morality at all. "*Hate evil and love good and establish judgment in the gate*" (Amos 5:15). "*The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good*" (Proverbs 15:3). We must understand that moral freedom is the centrality of liberal humanistic values, and this is

what is taking place as an agenda by most so-called educational systems funded by the average citizen's tax dollars. Are their exceptions? Yes, but they are rare, except in the area of *home* schooling and *most Christian* schooling.

These liberal humanists teach with a desire to increase the results of their sexual revolution by being involved with and championing the cause of Planned parenthood and the like. The goal of Planned Parenthood seems to be to help youngsters to receive sexual satisfaction *before marriage*, with little accent, if any, of even being married, and certainly no teaching on abstinence prior to marriage. All other moral failures are born of and from the teachings in the liberal educational system, which comes from a public school system that teaches "values clarification," which in turn says, each individual gives birth to ethical wisdom. Children are taught, in many cases, to make decisions concerning which life is worthy of continuing, or which is to be terminated — and all for the good of mankind and the world community.

Without Jesus Christ, God the Son, in our life, there is no life, only death — *physical* and *spiritual* death — leading to an eternity in hell and the Lake of Fire. We can assure you this is not a truth allowed in our Public School System. In the first few verses in the gospel of John, we see that Christ is God. God the Father revealed Himself in the Person of Christ Jesus, His eternal Son, and ordained God the Son to create all creation. "All things were made by Him (Christ) and without Him was not anything that was made" (John 1:3). "In Him was life and the life

was the light of men" (John 1:4).

Our current political system and its major candidates for Presidential Office are a shame and a sham — another area of moral and ethical weakness. "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (I Corinthians 2:5). Because of the liberal humanistic school system and the wicked political system, we must pay attention to God's Word in Romans 1:28, "and even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind to do those things that are not convenient (things not worthy of God and that are evil). At the end of each day and before the Lord returns, believers, faced with all of the above evil, must never forget that "where sin abounds, grace abounds much more."

Liberal humanism, which is constant in this late hour, in the educational and political systems, says that there is innate goodness in man; however, the Word of God, therefore true Christianity, says man is a fallen creation because of disobedience to God. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

We are surrounded with socialistic, liberal-minded educators and politicians every day. The true Christian who has a personal relationship with the Lord, will and should keep focused on Christ Jesus. We certainly have the benefit of God the Holy Spirit to enable us to do so.

We sincerely hope that, as you read this article, you can truly fit the eternal benefit of John 4:4: "You are of God little children, and have overcome them (spirits of anti-Christ), because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (system)."

— DR. RALPH PETTI

## The Gift That Keeps on Giving!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

DANIEL JACKOSITZ

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### Box 400

I would like very much to be enrolled in your free Bible Study Course. I am in prison for three years, and I want to use the time to read and study God's Word. Thanks for your help. I look forward to receiving my first lesson.

— a prisoner

*Personal Word*



Some of you are probably wondering what has happened to me. I have written nothing about this coming election. The USA political situation has dropped to such deplorable depths that my response is of little consequence. Can you ever remember such name-calling, accusations, and maneuvering to make the other party look bad? Outright lies are propagated in the news media by both parties. The news agency builds the case of an unpopular president and like vultures, they tear him to shreds. The level of today's political discussion is an insult to my intelligence. Is America this dumb? (Think how much more I could say!)

**Do Keep Praying**

We have needs that only God can supply. We must be led by His Spirit. His anointing must be upon us if Christ is going to be glorified. God has promised to honor, bless and use His Word, not ours. We desire the spiritual growth of God's children. We must reach many more precious souls with the life-transforming gospel, working within the lives of those who hear, believe, and move into His service. Pray that God will send some of them our way. What joy will be theirs in laboring with us. What glorious ministry as they keep us moving forward by the investment of their prayers and purse. "Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labors are not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).



**FROM BOX 400**

I am a prisoner in a state prison system, a child of God, trying to find my way into a loving and friendly relationship with my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I read a piece of paper by your ministry about accepting God for Whom He says He is, and faith in all He says. I know what God says is truth, and I believe all His promises, but the way you said it makes me really see the light for what it is. All I want to do is adjust my life according to God's Word and let His will be done in my life and everyone else's around me. I pray that God recognizes how your ministry has blessed my life with His Word, that He will bless your ministry with the measure He sees fit. Please put me on your mailing list. I would like to read more about what you communicate in *The Challenger*.

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**More from Box 400**

Thank you for your ministry that reaches out to minister to the hearts of people in this world, but also to inmates who are in the prison system. God has and is doing a mighty work within the prison system that is changing the hearts of hardened men, who have been consumed in destruction that was leading them to death. God bless you.

I am writing to request the Bible Study Course you offer, along with any other resources that you make available to inmates. I have deep compassion and desire to grow in the Word and seek sound teaching to help me through this time period. I view it as an opportunity to be enrolled in God's Bible School.

– a prisoner (TX)

I am writing to receive *The Challenger* and your Bible Study Course. I have given my life to Him and am willing to learn His Word so that I can apply it to my life. Thanks for helping me with my spiritual needs.

– a prisoner

FROM THE DESK OF . . . DR. MICHAEL ECCLESTON

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### Luke 22:31,32:

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: *But I have prayed for thee*, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

### Luke 23:34:

“Then said Jesus, *Father, forgive them; they know not what they do.*”

In the above instances, the Lord Jesus Christ set the example for all born-again believers to pray. He prayed often and at different parts of the day or night. In John 17, we have His great high priestly prayer for His own.

Prayer can be private, public, social, family-oriented or church-related. Prayer can be for ourselves or for others. Intercessory prayers are a very important part of the family of God. We know that our Savior, according to Hebrews 7:25, “. . . ever liveth to make intercession for them.” We also know that the Holy Spirit, according to Romans 8:26, “. . . maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Did you wonder how we could ever mess up as a believer when we have our Lord Jesus Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit both making intercession for us?

Why should we, however, make intercession for others? Because it is commanded. First Timothy 2:1-2 says: “*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men: For kings, and for all who are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*” That would include the people we work for, the people who work for you, the children, including our own, friends, the people of our country, the sick, and, yes, even our enemies: “*But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you*” (Matthew 5:44). We should pray for those who forsake us in our ministries, as Paul did in II Timothy 4:16: “*At my first answer no man stood with me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.*” We should pray diligently for all of our brethren in Christ. Ephesians 6:18 states, “*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.*”

The above should keep every one of us busy in prayer for a long time. The Lord told us to “*pray always,*” and never to quit. We can be praying in every situation we are in at any time of the day or night — and we should.

If you spend any amount of time in the Book of Job, you’ll know that he suffered immensely — for being a righteous man. He had three friends who came to him and sat with him in his grief for a whole week, never saying a word to him, because they saw how great that grief was. They were there for him. But then, one by one, they began to accuse him of unrighteousness and sin. They portrayed him as a hypocrite who lived one way and spoke another. Chapter after chapter they go on, Job answers, and they retaliate with new charges. Then, something changed. Job prayed for them. “*And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before*” (Job 42:10). It is true, intercessory prayer can benefit the one who utilizes it. We saw that already in praying for all who are in authority — so that we could live quietly and peaceably, in godly, honest lives.

One more thing — if we don’t pray for others, the Bible declares it to be sin. First Samuel 12:23 says, “*Moreover, as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you. . . .*” Christian people are to be praying people. Paul prayed for his own countrymen to be saved, while they did all they could to thwart and injure his ministry of the gospel and his person. Yet, this man was willing to be excluded from heaven — if only the people of Israel would be saved.

I pray that more than one of you who reads this would be another Paul for his people, and a continual intercessor in the behalf of others.

## THE CHALLENGER

(USPS 557.980)

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Published monthly by *The Hour of Grace and Power, Inc.*

Editorial & General offices located at 862 Barber Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958-4825

Periodical postage paid in Vero Beach, Florida, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to  
**THE CHALLENGER**  
PO Box 400  
Roseland, FL 32957-0400

Without cost or obligation, this publication will be sent to you monthly. Extra copies are available.

Address **The Challenger** mail to:  
PO Box 400  
Roseland, FL 32957-0400

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**thehourofgraceandpower.org**

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*“Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord” I Corinthians 15:58*

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