



THE CHALLENGER

US POSTAGE PD
PERIODICAL
(USPS 557-980)

Our NEW WEB address: thehourofgraceandpower.org

Vol. 37 No. 3

PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

March 2008

Oh, That Men Would Praise the Lord

BY THE EDITOR

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations” (Psalm 100:4,5). “Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!” (Psalm 107:8,15,21)

WHAT is the most wonderful privilege we possess as God’s children? Rather than spend your time to share two or three answers to this one question, I shall give you only one to think about. It is to express praise, thanks and love to God Who has provided all things in His Son. Stop to consider with me His grace. Every motivation for our eternal benefit has come from Him. In dealing with a holy God, what can we do as dead, damned sinners that would encourage His involvement with us? In plain language hear what God has said. “For BY GRACE are you saved, THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES, it is the gift of God; NOT OF WORKS, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8,9). Few people believe these clear, plain facts. They want to *do* something such as “make a decision” or believe some laws, concluding they possess some kind of efficacious faith.

Everything God has provided is a *gift*. In this eighth verse it includes grace, salvation, and faith. We can only receive the gift that God has made available to us. God gives the ability to repent, which He demands along with faith. (Luke 13:3) “For the wages of sin is death; but the GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). But as many as RECEIVED HIM (Jesus Christ) to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name” (John 1:12).

Is it any wonder that praise and glory is given to God by the individual placed into His family, independent of any human effort or personal merit? We become sons of God through the work and merit of God’s Son, Jesus Christ. It is not the consequence of our will. It is God’s will and He brings it to pass. “Which were born, not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, BUT OF GOD” (John 1:12). “Therefore by the DEEDS OF THE LAW shall no flesh be justified in His sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20). Have you had a personal intimate talk with God about your sin and declared your trust in His Word, that Christ paid the penalty for sin that His Father’s justice demanded? Do not hesitate to talk to God about the eternal salvation He has promised to you. Talk to Him! “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Have You Heard?

One of the huge mega churches has spoken. Publicly, the pastors have acknowledged their failure to teach spiritual growth to their people. The lack of such teaching was declared openly. I do not know the official name of the church, but I do remember it must be located near a creek among the willows. There is no hope of spiritual maturity independent of genuine Bible study. Hear the plain commandment of God to TEACH and preach His Word. I wonder what will happen to this large church when the biblical Truth is taught about self-denial, holiness, separation, clean living, and a personal example before the world? Time will tell if they give people WHAT GOD HAS SAID.

Giving thanks and praise to God is the greatest privilege of His children. God has commanded us to do so. A problem? Not easy to do? It is always easy to disobey God, but not in the realization of His grace that has provided us strength to do so. (Philippians 4:13) If God gave His Son, Who shed His blood on the cross to wash away my sin, I intend to serve Him with my whole heart from the day He accepted me into His family. What joy to obey Him. “The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad” (Psalm 126:3).

- In prayer do we spend more time in praise than in petition?
- Do we spend more time praising the Lord in front of people or do we count our problems one by one to see what the devil has done?

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Oh That Men Would Praise . . . (cont. from page 1)

- Do we praise the Lord in the presence of our coworkers and people with whom we do business? Many ask us about our condition. What a wonderful opportunity to give praise to God for His goodness.
- Do people look forward to our fellowship because of our thankfulness to God or are they turned off by our complaining about discouraging situations?
- Are we practicing Philippians 4:4 by rejoicing always? You do have a few things happen that are good. Are you sharing them with others? What a privilege!
- Are you an asset or a liability to the general attitude of the church people with whom you mingle?

“I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever; with my mouth will I make known your faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 89:1). “O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercies endure forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord SAY SO, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy” (Psalm 107:1,2). “Make a joyful noise to God, all you lands. Sing for the honor of His name; make His praise glorious” (Psalm 66:1,2). “Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing, then said they among the heathen, The Lord has done great things for them” (Psalm 126:3).

It is impossible to cover much of the Lord’s goodness in this short discourse. Trials, tribulation, suffering comes with the package of Christianity. In the midst of it all, God is molding you into a useful messenger. Never does He forsake His own. “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for YOU ARE WITH ME; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4). “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things; so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:2-5,12). With an open Bible, we learn of God’s eternal benefits provided for His children. We serve and obey Him, counting it our highest honor in the light of His eternal blessings.

Our Personal Action

Many people are so governed by their emotions, they sit back and do nothing unless they feel like it. That word does not exist in the Bible. (You should read our free message entitled “EMOTION IS NOT DEVOTION.”) If you act only on your feelings, nothing of value will ever happen to you. If God tells me to rejoice, my feelings have nothing to do with my course of action. I start rejoicing! Despair lingers as long as you do only according to your feelings. If I read instruction in the Bible, please get out of my way as I rise to do His bidding. Obedience is more than mental assent. It is action!

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you, but REJOICE, inasmuch as you are partaker of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory shall be revealed, you may be glad also, with EXCEEDING JOY” (I Peter 4:12,13). “Fear you not, for I am with you, be not afraid, be not dismayed; for I am your God, I will strengthen you, yea, I will help you, yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness” (Isaiah 41:10). Be careful for nothing (not be anxious), but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). Where did we ever get the idea that we are to share our anxieties with mere humans? We can talk over all things with the God Who created the yonder mountains and the mighty oceans. Neglect reading your Bible and God shrinks in your mind and heart. Have

you read my free booklet on “FEAR, FRUSTRATION AND WORRY”? Know someone who, along with you, should read it at least five times?

We Believe His Promises

So many promises to rest upon. “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with eagles, they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31). “Now the God of hope fill you with all JOY and PEACE in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:13). “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

I spend hours producing these Bible messages. Do you just skim over them and go on to other things? Anything more important than biblical Truth? Why not read this one at least five times? Are you a rejoicing Christian? It is a matter of obedience. Better get busy, for the day of accounting is just around the corner? Who will be your judge? He is the One Who died to take away your sin. He is the same One Who has given instructions for your action NOW that you are saved.



Box 400

God bless you and your staff. The Bible study on prayer truly ministered to my heart. A lot of what I read was confirming to my spirit. It was definitely inspiring and encouraging. I have made the decision to “let go and let God,” completely surrendering all. No matter how I feel, I dare not run to man. In turn, this teaches me to be dependent alone upon God. Thank you for your prayers and support.

I am now reading Psalm 119 and learning a lot. It is the precious, powerful Word of God. May God’s grace be with you always. Your ministry is deepening my fellowship with God.

– a lady prisoner (CA)

Personal Word



The other day a man phoned me from Mobile, wanting to know if I was the same man who was on the radio years ago. When assuring him in the affirmative, the first question he asked, Was I on the Internet? Almost everyone finding me for the first time in years ask that same question. Why? In seconds they discover our present-day ministry. The man on the phone asked about our monthly publication and other literature. Our ministry had a great impact upon His Christian walk. He appreciated my direct, forward presentation of God's Word. We both had a joyous time rejoicing in the Lord's goodness.

What Will You Find on Our Web-Site?

- We have nothing to sell.
- We make no financial appeals in any of our literature or audio messages.
- We give everything away, without cost, solicitation, or obligation.
- We still believe there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun.
- All that we produce is in understandable language.
- We welcome your participation in learning and declaring the unsearchable riches of God's grace, found in His Word, to everyone, everywhere.

Web Address: thehourofgraceandpower.org

The Moral Decline

A young lady of 16 announced that she was pregnant. So what? This girl is the leading star on the top teen TV program. She now struts around on TV news as though she owned the entire industry. It is news, but few commentators indicate any challenge of her sad conduct.

It is both interesting and amusing when panels discuss the moral decline in our day and generation. What a difficult time they have when very few of them have any moral standards whatsoever. They have thrown overboard (so they think) any absolutes and starting points that clearly declare the differences. They want no God telling them what to do or not do. They are determined to do as they please. The panel wants no restraint, so how dare we call anyone's action as sin, with the certainty of God's judgment? The easiest way out is to discredit or do away with God in order to destroy all restraints. If one refuses the absolutes of God's commandments, they must endorse what anyone does. Listen to these panels hem and haw. Occasionally, a panelist will declare God's laws. The reactions of others ridicule such outdated concepts.

Israel faced the same pressure and folded completely: "In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). Today, parents lay aside their Bible and wonder at the moral deterioration of their children. It must not be too bad, for most teens are involved. Absolute obedience to the Word of God is not within the heart of their mother or father. This is the reason for no open Bible. Do we expect a different reaction to God's standards from their children? The real tragedy is that the failure of obedience to God indicates their destination. It is hell. Many churches and religious institutions no longer declare obedience to the Word, nor are the leaders godly examples, demonstrating His power within their lives. Back to the Bible is the desperate need of the hour!

Please Be Patient with Us

Due to the necessity of a change in volunteers, we have lost some time in our response for literature. We have relocated this department, which we believe will be a smoother operation. Do pray for us during this transition — a big one! This delay does not include our cassettes, CDs, Bible Study Course, or the bulk mailing of our monthly publication. We realize the importance of getting literature in the hands of those requesting such. Our motto is "the sooner the better." Thanks for your prayers about this important matter.

Our Prison Ministry

This outreach has been our largest for some time now. I smile when I am asked if we have a ministry for our literature outside the prisons. My pat answer is, We are reaching those who are in prison and those who ought to be there. The latter is probably the larger group. After my call to preach, my first message was in a prison in Benton, Tennessee back in 1944. My text was John 3:16.

In October an agency using the Internet reported, "In the U.S. there are nearly seven million men and women under correctional supervision, which includes incarceration, probation, or parole. Each year approximately 700,000 offenders are released back into society. Studies show that 67 percent of those will be rearrested and more than half will return to prison. Taxpayers spend an average of \$20,000 per year to incarcerate one person, regardless of the crime committed. The prison population (actually behind bars) across the nation is currently approximately 2.2 million, which makes it the largest prison system in the world and also one of the world's greatest mission fields.

We are in hundreds of prisons with this publication, CDs and cassettes, and thousands of printed messages (on the average of about 10,000 monthly). Most of our Bible Course lessons come from various prisons across the nation. The

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Personal Word (continued from page 3)

requests come from men and women who are in desperate condition. They tell me so in their sad letters. Interested in getting the gospel to unsaved people who are willing to admit their condition? Come and join us! By your prayers and purse you will be on the frontline of the battle right alongside of us.

What the Mormons Believe

Dr. Bruce Kinnery has made the most thorough study of Mormonism. Here are his conclusions concerning this false cult:

. . . The whole system is based upon a bogus book, rotten revelations, tricky translations, a profligate prophet, a counterfeit creed; it is being propagated today by a profiting president, abetting apostles, bigoted bishops and plundering priests.

I have made a most thorough study of Mormon teaching in all its branches from Sharon (VT), birthplace of Joseph Smith, to every place the Mormons have gone and I am lecturing on the subject all the time. Regardless of the denials some of them make about the teachings in the "Spirit of Truth" chart by Dr. Keith I. Brooks, I can bear witness that this sect which damns all churches believes the following false doctrine:

They believe that God is an exalted man, that Christ and the devil are brothers, that Christ was married, that the Holy Spirit is a substance of fluid, that salvation is by works, that there is salvation for the dead by proxy water baptism, baptismal regeneration, that there is no burning hell, in genealogical reach, plurality of wives, use of secret temples, in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, that people raise children after they leave the earth, in revelations beside the Bible, in the preexistence of man, and many other things that are contrary to the Bible.

I Wonder!

We sing and pray GOD BLESS AMERICA. I wonder how many blessings can we expect to receive from God when murdering our children by the millions? We totally ignore the millions murdered in Africa within the last few years. I totally agree with writer Ken Elliasberg, that America is in the most serious trouble of its entire existence. Radical Islam in on the trail toward world dominion and the rest of the Islam people say or do nothing. Internally, America is coming apart at the seams. We are in a war that some say cannot be won. Our president is being shamefully treated. Never in our history has political expediency taken over in such revealing action. There is a seething hatred within our country, which is removing us from a clear perception of our survival. The Muslim terrorists have already reached our shores by the way of New York City. Be assured they are still coming. In the meantime, the issue is being trivialized and minimized by those who want to regain power and leadership in this once great country. We are in a war that must be won. May God open our hearts and minds as to the grave danger facing America TODAY.

More Box 400



I have been reading all of your printed messages; and as I have finished each one, I sent it around the jail. I am getting some great feedback on your sermons. I consider it my duty to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. I want you to know that your messages are definitely helping me while here in jail; I am gaining ground every day. If possible, please

send me another complete package of your printed sermons, so I can let my other Christian brothers have more of the Word of God. I personally believe people need to hear more about the love and wrath of God. I like how you are very blunt about heaven or hell. You all are in my prayers. *— Florida*

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(USPS 557.980)

Dwight Porter, D.D., Editor

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**

WE DEPEND 100 PERCENT UPON the gifts received from those who receive spiritual benefit from our ministry. Make check or money orders payable to THE HOUR OF GRACE AND POWER.

OUR OPERATION

We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

~ WEB SITE ~

thehourofgraceandpower.org



"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



~ AVAILABLE ~

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