

# The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

## A SEPARATED PEOPLE

All too often, those that claim to be God's children find the world alluring and try hard to fit in. But the Lord still calls us to holiness.

## FAITH IN CHRIST VS. UNBELIEF

Faith comes by hearing God's word, and God's messengers sometimes have to remind us to contend for that one true faith.

## BLESS THE LORD, OH MY SOUL

Bro. Joel McNabb opens his heart with thanksgiving to God for His many blessings.

# Faith in Christ vs. Unbelief

# The Bible Guys

## Volume XIV Number 3

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**The People of Truth**  
*A Holy Nation*

## A Separated People

by David M. McNabb

As the Bible prophesies of the climactic end of this age, a dire warning is given to the great enemy of God and His people, typified by a great whore called Mystery, Babylon the Great. "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

This is not the first time that God has given such a plea. Paul shared with us the mind of the Lord in 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

An eternal truth of which we must be ever mindful is found in the Word of the

Lord by the prophet Malachi, "I am the LORD, I change not" (Mal. 3:6). This, too, is confirmed by Paul in Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

It is a separated people that God has desired since the creation of man. From the very beginning, God made man different from all other creations. Unlike the animals, fish, birds and bugs, Adam was made in the image of God, after His likeness. Not only so, but he was made higher than the rest of God's creation, and was given dominion over it.

When Cain slew his brother Abel, God sent him away from his brethren. It was God's desire to separate unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works, and Cain had failed to meet that standard. To protect the rest of mankind from Cain's corruption, God divided mankind into two families: one He called 'the sons of God,' the other He called 'the daughters of men.' Jesus also described the latter, calling certain ones 'sons of the devil.' The 'sons of God' are shown in Seth, the son born to Adam and Eve after Abel's murder. As the Scripture says, Seth was born in the likeness of Adam, after his image, even as Adam was in the likeness and image of God. (See Luke 3:38; Gen. 6:1-8).

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# Faith in Christ vs. Unbelief

by C. Elden McNabb

Jude, successor to James as the anointed of God, wrote his epistle sometime after A.D. 70 “to them that are sanctified by God the Father” (Jude 1:1). As he was writing to them about “the common salvation,” he found it needful that he also exhort them that they should “Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” These are two distinct experiences, as is demonstrated in Acts 5:1-14.

Shortly after Peter had “Confirmed the covenant with many” for seven years (Dan. 9:27), and brought the Church to perfection (Eph. 4:9-15), two members of the Church, Ananias and Sapphira, laid an unholy offering at the feet of “The Twelve” and fell dead almost immediately. “And great fear fell upon all the Church, and upon as many as heard these things.” “And of the rest no man dared join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both men and women.” The people of God’s Church must make a covenant in fulfillment of 2 Kings 11:17-19, wherein Jehoiada the Priest made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people; that they should be the Lord’s people. To be born again did not have that requirement. Yet any person who asks God to redeem them essentially makes a personal covenant with Him.

Jude was greatly troubled concerning the men who had “crept in unawares, ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” And in Hebrews 3:12, Paul also warned us saying, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”

Unrighteousness had gradually infiltrated Christianity, and the light of the Church of God, the Faith of God’s Elect,

had been lost and would not be restored until the twentieth century AD. To be a Christian is to have what Jude calls here “the common salvation,” but they had lost the greater faith that had once been delivered unto the Church by the Apostles and Prophets. It is “the Church” that is called “the Elect of God” (Matt. 24:31; Rom. 11:7). It is they who will receive the greater prize, and become “the Bride, the Lamb’s wife.” But there will be Christians of all kinds as guests at the wedding (Matt. 22:1-10).

In 1903, God restored that faith to us through a man named A. J. Tomlinson, and anointed him to raise up the Church. In his forty years as the Anointed of God, he accomplished that, to a degree, although the Church was never brought to perfection. The Church did survive at different levels of righteousness until late 1980, and it will soon be raised up again, and perfected as “the Bride, the Lamb’s wife,” the Tabernacle of David (Acts 15:15-18). We are now about two months into the seventh millennium, and have not yet seen such a wonder. However, the plan of God will unfold, and the Kingdom of God shall be established here on Earth very soon, according to prophecy (Amos 3:6-8).

Again, Jude said, let me remind you, “how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.” In so doing, Jude prophesied that a similar experience would ultimately ensnare the people who had found life in Christ Jesus, but had corrupted His way, because of their unbelief in His Word.

The children of Abraham worshipped God, but their worship was mixed with idolatry. So, again and again, God punished Israel and Judah, leading them in and out of captivity. He finally destroyed the nation of Israel more than 600 years

BC. Then in about 454 BC, after Judah had spent 70 years in captivity, Ezra and Nehemiah were allowed to return to Jerusalem and begin to restore the way of worship which God had given them by Moses.

At the beginning of the fifth millennium from Adam, God sent His only begotten Son unto the Jews, that they might be Born Again and reap the fulness of His promise to Abraham. But they did not even make it through that century. Jesus Christ came, and those who believed Him became new creatures in Christ Jesus and recipients of God’s promises to Abraham. Some of them became heirs to the “Exceeding great and precious promises” of the Lord (2 Pet. 1:4). They who followed the Apostles of Jesus were formed into the Church of God, God’s Elect.

From the beginning of Jesus’ ministry to 70 AD, the light of the Gospel had gotten brighter and brighter, as the hearts of the unbelieving Jews became harder and harder. By 70 AD, the season of reckoning had come, and God brought total destruction upon Israel, including Jerusalem and the Sanctuary, according to Ezekiel 5:1-2, together with the historical record. The time came, and the work was done, and there was never a nation of Israel again until 1948. However, the rest of that prophecy shows that the Jewish Church was hidden from that holocaust (Luke 21:20-21), and later became martyrs, according to Ezekiel 5:3-4.

The believers of the Grace Age are now facing the same fate as those who came out of Egypt, because they, too, do not believe the promises of God. Oh, they might say, “But we do believe!” Yes, but I am talking about true faith. “(The) faith (which) cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God,” rightly divided (Rom. 10:17). However, not very much of the

Word of God is preached in our churches today, to say nothing of “rightly divided.” They simply survive on the milk of the Gospel, and “Simplicity” is the hue and cry. And if anyone comes around them, who might have a broader knowledge of the Word, they are simply not allowed to speak, thereby denying their congregation any depth of understanding. They boldly ignore the admonition to “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Heb. 13:2).

Did not Abraham believe God, and “It was counted to him for righteousness”? And did not Mary go to visit Elisabeth, when they were both pregnant? And did not Elisabeth, being “Filled with the Holy Ghost, [speak] out with a loud voice, and say, Blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord” (Luke 1:39-45)?

Remember John 1:1-2, “In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” Therefore, those who can not, or will not believe the words which are spoken by God in the Holy Scriptures, will be punished in the soon coming “Day of The Lord,” although they are His children (Heb. 11; Amos 5:14-20).

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men’s persons in admiration because of advantage. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; how that they told you there

should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen” (Jude 1:14-21, 25).

By AD 40, Peter had built the Church and brought it to perfection, fulfilling the 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27). Almost immediately thereafter, Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus, and commissioned him to establish the gospel among the Gentiles. Perhaps as much as five to ten years later, the effect of Paul’s outreach had flourished, and was causing great controversy because of the law of circumcision.

A general conference of the ministry was called, and James gave us a very informative, and prophetic dissertation, saying, “Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon (Peter) hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for His name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the Tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world.”

God gave His promise to Abraham, with two thousand years to “get it right,” during which, under Moses, God gave them His Sanctuary without the Holy Spirit baptism. Then, in Christ, God gave them a new sanctuary with the Holy Spirit. In AD 70, immediately before the destruction of Jerusalem, the Church fled as Jesus had told them to (Luke 21:20-21), and escaped

the destruction. Sometime after AD 70 the redeemed of the natural seed of Abraham finished their part of the plan of God, and the Tabernacle of David, where the Throne of David was, fell down (Isa. 16:1-5).

Before the Jewish Church was through, Jesus had already appeared to Saul and launched the work of God among Gentiles so that when the martyrdom of the Jewish believers had come to pass, the Gentile work was strong enough to survive. And soon now, we will see the fulfillment of the words of James, as he quoted the words of the prophets, “After this I will return, and build again the Tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof and set it up: that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things” (Acts 15:15-17).

Solomon also said, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Eccl. 3:1). And again, “The Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets. The Lord hath spoken, who can but prophesy” (Amos 3:6-8). We have now come to a very important change in the times. The seventh millennium began at about the time of the Autumnal Equinox last September. The Church, the Bride, the Lamb’s wife, Jews and Gentiles, will soon come to its fulness and reign with Christ, for a thousand years. The unbelieving will refuse to answer His knock, His call, and will have to face that fierce persecution which will follow His call.

Remember the words of Jesus, “As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. They knew not until the flood came, and took them all away.” They should have known, but they just did not believe what was being preached, and what was going on before their eyes. “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29).



## **SEPARATED *Cont. from page 2***

After man began to multiply on the face of the earth, “the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all which they chose.” The children of Adam that were sheltered by Cain’s exile rebelled against God’s will and mingled themselves with the children of Cain. Because this defiled the separated people of God, God was angry and decided to destroy mankind. But one man – Noah – commended himself to God by being different. The Scripture says that he was “a just man and perfect in his generations” (Gen. 6:9). God’s quest for a separated people was realized in this man who apparently did not follow the current fad to take a wife of the exiles, nor to take such for his sons. This obedience to God’s word saved the house of Noah, and everything that went in with him into the ark. All creatures that have the breath of life today owe their existence to the mercy of God and the actions of this one peculiar man.

After the flood, mankind decided to disobey God’s commandment to multiply himself throughout the whole earth, choosing instead to build a city and remain together. This new city of Babylon was the very essence of rebellion against God, and has become symbolic of that rebellion until the end. After God confused the languages, the people did spread abroad throughout the lands. It was then that God began again to call out a special people for His name.

It is important to note that ‘holiness’ and ‘sanctified’ – terms that we hear and use often as believers – do not mean that someone has a halo or an intensely pious countenance, but rather essentially mean ‘separated.’ God hallows or sanctifies things and people, separating them from all others for His purposes.

And so God called Abram, and said, “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy

kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee” (Gen. 12:1).

In Genesis 17, God changed Abram’s name to Abraham, and further separated him and his household by covenant of circumcision. God had, once again, divided the world of men into two families: circumcised and uncircumcised, like He had done in the days of Cain’s sin.

While no specific prohibition against intermarrying with the uncircumcised peoples is seen in Gen. 17, it was apparently implied or at least understood, as we see in Isaac’s displeasure with Esau’s Hittite wives (Gen. 26:34-35); and Jacob’s sons’ anger and protest against letting their sister marry Shechem the Hivite, even if he and his people agreed to be circumcised (Gen. 34:1-31).

Abraham and Isaac both commanded for their sons to have wives from their own kindred, and not from among the people of Canaan. This prohibition was included in God’s law given to Moses (Ex. 34:11-16; Deut. 7:1-4). The reason for forbidding the mingling with the inhabitants of the land was to prevent their idolatry and customs from spreading and contaminating the separated, holy People of God.

This was the ultimate will of the Lord for Israel, that they would be a nation set apart from all the nations of the earth, to be the Lord’s people. He told them, “For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth” (Deut. 14:2). David reminded the people of this calling in Psalm 135:4, “For the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.”

Still, having seen the hand of God among them throughout the Holy Scripture, the holy people of Israel could not resist the temptation to mingle themselves with the cultures of the people that surrounded them. So many times,

they adopted the customs and religious cults of their neighbors.

You see, being called out by God for a special purpose or existence is wonderful. To realize that the Creator of heaven and earth has chosen you is thrilling. That thrilling feeling, at least to the carnal man, appears to fade quickly, as you soon find yourself with fewer friends and even rejected by your family and loved ones.

Man was created to be social. God said from the beginning that it was not good for man to be alone. So we see the pull on man to be a part of something bigger than himself: to be part of a larger group – to be in the mainstream. Whether individually, or as a community, mankind does not like to be set apart.

So, Israel was an oddity among the surrounding nations, both politically and religiously. They alone had no visible gods of wood, stone, gold or some other material. They had no king, being led rather by God Himself by way of the judges: His prophets and/or military champions whom God raised up among them.

This uniqueness weighed heavily on the Children of Israel, and they raised up to themselves idolatrous images, to better fit in with their neighbors. They also desired a king “like all the nations.” God had every intention of giving Israel a king in His own time, but the desire of Israel for a king arose of improper motives. They were not seeking the will of the Almighty; they wanted to fit in with the rest of the world.

Peer pressure has caused many a child of God to do things that they know are wrong. The same is true for the born-again believers. Jesus and the other writers of the New Testament scriptures affirmed God’s will for us to be a separated, holy, peculiar people. Paul told Titus that Jesus “gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Tit. 2:14). Peter

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## SEPARATED *Cont. from page 5*

also said, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). And Jesus taught us, saying, “Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets... Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets” (Luke 6:22-26).

But the Lord Jesus also knew that the calling to be separate would prove too great for many, and that they would again mingle with the world, especially in the last days. He said, “And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them

all” (Luke 17:26-27). This phrase, “they married wives, they were given in marriage” does not simply mean that life will go on as usual, but serves as a direct reference to the iniquity for which the flood came in Noah’s days: the mixing of the separated children of God with the exiled, wicked children of perdition.

Today, modern Christianity has embraced the world in a huge way. The pagan holidays have been adopted and ‘christianized’, while pop culture thrives among many professing believers. Many Christians become part of, and promote, the political system. And many Christian leaders are indiscernible from self-help and get-rich gurus. Whether in the form of full-blown or mild idolatry, or the teaching of the Word with carnal motivation and self-promotion, Christianity has – to a large degree – blended with the world.


In 1969, the Gospel Music Association established the Dove awards. Obviously, the Christian performers found themselves envying the world’s system of recognition seen in these types of awards. As our Lord said, “Verily, they have their reward.” So out-of-sync with God’s word is this system, that in 1994, a Dove was awarded to a band called Evanescence. The problem with this (apart from the fundamental problem with the system in the first place) was that Evanescence is NOT a Christian band and the GMA did not even know it! The band openly rejected the idea that they were Christian, and exposed that the condition of contemporary Christianity fits precisely with Jesus’ words in Matthew 13:15, “For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed.” They have made no difference between the holy and the profane, and can no longer try the spirits and discern whether they are of God.

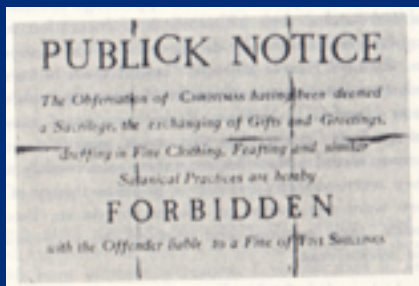
In an intense effort to be accepted by the world at large, believers have lost the plot: that the world will – and should – hate us, because we are not of the world.

God is seeking men and women who follow the example of Moses, who, by faith, “refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward” (Hebrews 11:24-26).

We may find ourselves small in number, and outcast among our neighbors and family, but God is looking for just such a people. Are you willing to suffer persecution and isolation for His name? Are you willing to separate yourself and be holy for Him? Will you resolve not only to embrace Him with enthusiasm today, but trudge through the difficult days when Satan tries to convince you that it is not worth giving up the pleasures of this life for the “pipe dream” of God’s divine promise?

“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 ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” (1 Pet. 4:12-16).

“For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee” (Psalms 84:10-12). 



**The Puritans** desired to be a separated people, and were willing to sacrifice all to do so. They had left their earthly homeland to pursue a holy life before God in the New World. Because of the pagan traditions that had shaped the celebration of Christmas, the Puritans outlawed it. Here is a picture of a notice which announced the prohibition of the observance, including “the exchanging of Gifts and Greetings, dressing in Fine Clothing, Feasting and similar Satanical Practices,” punishable by a Five Shilling fine.

# Bless the Lord, Oh my Soul

by Joel McNabb

My heart is grateful to be able once again to participate in this season of Thanksgiving. First I would like to give honour to our Creator, Father God, who has blessed me all the days of my life, and to His Son Jesus Christ, who came to earth in the will of the Father and gave His life for whosoever would believe.

As I thought of what to write, the words of David came to my heart, "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Oh the benefits that are ours when we acknowledge God as our Maker and keep His word. With every fiber of my being, I will bestow praise and glory for all He has done in my life. He alone is Holy, Just and True, and woe are we if we forget that it is He that has made us and all that is in the earth. The universe and its vastness is His domain. He owns it all, and everything we have is His gift to us.

The greatest gift He has given was His Son, that we, believing on him, might have eternal life, our debt of sin being nailed to that old rugged cross two thousand years ago. How can we ever thank our beloved Father enough? The healing in His wings has touched each one of those that believe, and I have seen it many times in my lifetime: in my body, and in my family, He has been ever faithful.

I thank Him for being with us even when we are going through the valleys: the dry seasons when we feel like we are

alone. I thank the Father for His word, that lets us realize He has not left us. He is testing our faith to see if we will continue to believe even when it seems all hope is lost. I thank Him for His chastisement, for we know whom He loveth He chastens, and it keeps us going in the right direction.

I give thanks for all He has given me, and for my family. My daughters, and grand-babies, who give me joy and hope; my Mother and Dad, who pray for me and showed me the Way of God. My brothers are there for me, even when we are separated by miles, and their love is always there. My brothers and sisters in Christ strengthen me with their love for God, and those that I call friends are always there to lend an ear.

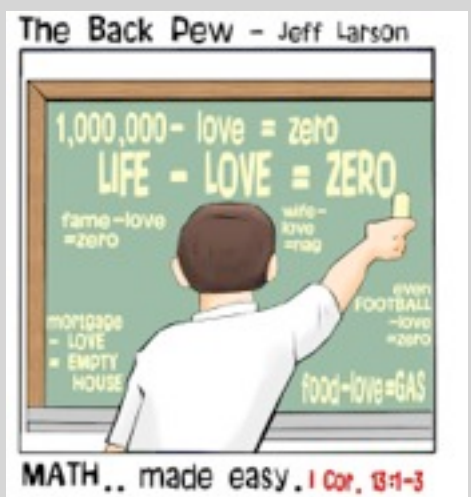
This year I am particularly blessed and thankful that the Father brought to me a loving and beautiful woman and allowed her to be my wife. Angel has filled the void and loss, and brought a joy to my life and made my house a home again. It brings tears of joy knowing God loves me so much to replace the emptiness that was in my heart with so great a love, that I could never say thank you enough to Him or to Angel for accepting me as her husband. Bless the Lord O my soul!!

He has renewed His Spirit in me, and although I never gave up, and knew I was in His will, I felt like something was missing. I was in a deep valley, but could always see the top of the mountain. I thank God for letting me feel His power, and giving me confidence once more. It was always there, but now through faith in His word I stand firm on the foundation, unshakeable, unmovable. With His word to guide me, I shall go where eagles dare to fly. Bless the

Lord O my soul, and all that is in me, bless His holy name. Thank you Jesus!!

We give thanks today and everyday for the Father's lovingkindness and mercies. How tender a loving Father we have! My heart rejoices with gladness! May you all feel His presence and mercy, and know that you are in my prayers and have my love. I close with this prayer and may the Lord keep you in the shadow of His wings.

Dear Father in Heaven, please lend me Your ear, 'Cause I've got a prayer You'll be happy to hear. Lord, there's no request list this time when I pray, I just want to give thanks this Thanksgiving Day. First, I want to thank You for gifts from above: Your unending mercy, Your undeserved love. And thank You for sending Your Son down to earth, for now those in Jesus can have the second birth. Lord, thank You for saving Your children from Hell, And giving Your Spirit who comes to indwell. And thank You for choosing me to be Your own, For now that You're in me, I'm never alone. Lord, thanks for forgiving me when I'm untrue, And last, but not least, Father, Thank You for You! In Jesus name I pray, Amen.





## Thy Kingdom Come, and Stay

by C. Elden McNabb

There are many wonderful, and enlightening, passages in the Holy Scriptures. Probably one of the most well known is the list of blessings in Matthew 5:3-12. Unfortunately, not all of us Christians believe the content of all of them, for instance, verse 5. Jesus simply said, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

Luke told us, "Behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted Him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And He said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor" (Luke 10:24-29)?

That man had no trouble with quoting what was written, but he tried, deftly, to sidestep its true meaning. Oh how important it is that we make every effort to understand the true intent of what God has spoken and His messengers have written.

As Jesus spoke to His disciples during His "Sermon on the mount," one of His disciples asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

And Jesus said, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever."

Thereby we know that Jesus believes that God intends for Him to set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and that kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4; Dan. 2:44). "The Heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the Earth hath He given to the children of men." (Psalm 115:16).

Why, then, would God expect us to believe that all of Christianity will go to Heaven immediately with Jesus when He comes? "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

What does the scripture say (Gal. 4:30)? How do you read (Luke 10:24-29)?



### "QUOTABLE"

"Jesus is now the Lord; He is enthroned at the right hand of God; He is reigning in His kingdom. But this is a Lordship and a kingly reign which is known only to believers. It must be confessed by faith. His Second Coming will mean nothing less than the Lordship which is His now will be visible to all the world. When we pray, 'Thy kingdom come,' this is what we are praying for: the effectual and universal rule of Christ in all the world, not only over believers."

*George Eldon Ladd*

"The person who does not seek the kingdom first does not seek it at all, regardless of how worthy the idolatry that he or she has substituted for it."

*Richard J. Foster*

"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth."

*John Wesley*

"And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God."

*Luke 6:20*