

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

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News

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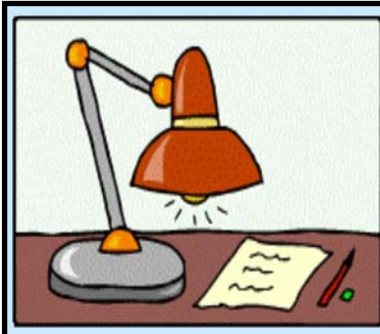
In

Michigan—Ohio—West Virginia

James T. Smith—Regional Overseer

Walter Lofton—Editor

www.tcog-glmr.org



From the desk of the Regional Overseer *James T. Smith*



Lest At Any Time We Should Let Them Slip

We have clear warning in the Scripture regarding the perilous times that we now have entered. *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come”* (2 Tim. 3:1). Satan is attacking from every direction: our doctrine, our faith (trust), our morals, everywhere on every side.

While Satan’s direct assaults are serious and deadly, perhaps the more prevalent (more likely) danger and risk is from those other not so obvious assaults, that can so easily sneak up on someone unaware. Both Paul in Galatians 2:4 as well as Jude in Jude 1:4 warn of those false brethren who would sneak in to our fellowship unawares.

Christ also warned us to be fully aware: *“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. (35) For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth” (Luke 21:34, 35).*

Sadly, many who once walked steadfastly in the faith have begun to waver in their faith, to doubt the faith. They were once so firmly grounded, but have little by little, bit by bit, been caught unaware of the changes occurring all around them. To simply “go with the flow” is not an option. We must remain rooted and grounded in the truth, the faith.

What then are we to do, if we are to not be caught unaware? The Lord then proceeded in the very next verse to tell us what we should do so that we not be caught unaware: *“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man”* (Luke 21:36).

Paul similarly has offered us many warnings, such as that given in *Hebrews 2:1* *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*

This particular warning stresses that we give earnest heed to what we have received from the Lord. If we are not careful, then what we once held to steadfastly can slip from us. The use of the word “slip” sounds like something accidental or unexpected, as when one “slips down” or something slips from our grasp, something that we thought we held securely only to find that we had not.

In fact, the word here rendered “slip” suggests something running out, as would happen with a leak in a container. Its contents is not lost all at once, but gradually,

could be a trickle. But the results are certain. If not corrected, this slip (or leak) will surely lead to the loss of all the contents.

Such is Satan's deceitfulness. He is quite satisfied to slowly bleed us of our life's blood, of our salvation, of our faith. A slow leak, little by little, bit by bit, is fine with him. We must take heed that we do not suffer such spiritual slips (leaks) in our lives.

In his final letter Paul gave this advice to Timothy: "*Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (14) Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. (15) Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. (16) Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:13-16).*

We cannot take such warnings as these lightly. We must be "on our guard." Not only are individuals subject to such "slipping." Even whole organizations of Christians are subject to this condition. As an example of such slipping, consider the recent article describing the cur-

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

From the book, MUSE WITH ME by R. O. Covey

In the Camp or in the Fight?

Being *in the camp* is not the same as being *on the battlefield*. All draftees and volunteers are considered in the war effort, but those in the heat of the fight know what war is!

"Every member a worker, and a special work for every one" has been a Church of God slogan for many years. Yet we usually feel fortunate if we can count on one-third of those *"in the camp"* really engaging *"in the fight."*

It really doesn't look very "patriotic" of the other two-thirds—now does it?

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." (1 Thess. 5:5-8)

Fanning the

Fires of



EVANGELISM

Evangelism is the lifeblood of the Church. Without it we will not grow and we will eventually wither and die. True evangelism is born of the Spirit rather than of some mechanical formula. It is spiritual in nature which means it can only come about through spiritual manifestations or outworkings. Though it involves natural and physical effort it cannot happen through the flesh only. Because we are flesh and blood we get weary and tired and experience difficulty in seeing it happen. That is why it requires that we earnestly seek God for the spiritual power and unction to see it materialize. True evangelism in turn results in Church growth.

Church growth encompasses several things which are entwined together and is the outworking of fulfilling the command of Jesus when He gave us (the Church) the GREAT COMMISSION. Simply put, Church growth is the winning of souls for the Kingdom of God and seeing them being added to The Church of God. Without these two elements there can be no Church growth.

You may increase church attendance which only makes your crowd larger and does nothing for the eternal benefit of the souls involved. Therefore congregation increase is not the same as Church growth. Although increasing our attendance is one of the basic tools used in Church growth and is usually the starting point for growth.

Other tools must also be used in conjunction with encouraging church attendance which include but is not limited to the following. Prayer, perhaps the most importance; fasting along with prayer; knowing the Word which enhances our witnessing, and being in tune with and sensitive to the leading of the Spirit. A proper balance of these basic elements will drive us into an evangelistic mind and heart-set. Without these, we will be ineffective and will see little if any Church growth.

Most of our local churches are small (very small) and our regions and districts are small indeed when viewed through the lens of what we used to have and what others around us may seem to have. When we compare this small number with the vast multitudes of lost souls throughout the world it should make our hearts bleed for their salvation and stir us to greater action.

We have tried to reach out into new fields this past year in our district with revival and visitation efforts which created some interest but so far, no growth. We should never give up but keep pressing onward and believing God for a spiritual harvest. We plan another district revival in March of this year but are not presently settled on a location. We have three areas in mind but will wait and see which door God opens for us.

I would like to encourage all our churches, no matter how small, to have revival and put forth an earnest effort in spiritual preparation and in promotion and aim

for some church growth this year. I will be promoting in more detail some of the aspects mentioned above with each issue of the paper as we move along. May God bless your church with real revival this year and may your hearts be gladdened with the joy of the Lord as you engage your hearts into this most important and urgent work.

PRAY FOR REVIVAL!

—Walter Lofton, Regional Evangelism Director



Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA Coordinator

**A Distinguishing Mark:
Small in Number**

Referencing **The Body of Christ**; A Searching Analysis in Lesson Form of the Divine Church as it is outlined in Holy Scripture.

"Many people are looking to the Church with the largest number of followers to be the true Church of God. This is not true. Scriptural types, over and over indicates that in comparison with the large man-made organizations, the true Church will appear small in number. The Church, in its present state, does not compare with the numbers of other religious movements. However, this does not mean that only a few are saved for many real Christians are found in other organizations at the present time. Yet when the fullness of the age is come, all saved people will be among its members."

"And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us.

And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us" (Luke 9:49, 50).

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

Though we are small in the world's eye today, let's be encouraged knowing the Lord is bringing all of His saved people into One Fold, The Church of God.

A man's Sunday self and week-day self are like two halves of a round-trip ticket—not good if detached.



Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

News From Page, WV

We had our annual Christmas dinner on December, 15th with 24 in attendance. There were five from the Fairmont church, seven from the Church at Seth, and thirteen from the Church at page in attendance. Brother Robin Bradford and Sister Glenna Nichols and Sister Melissa Moore from the Page Church and others from the other churches were a blessing in preparing food for the occasion. Our Regional Overseer and his wife were present with us and Brother Smith brought the morning message. Brother Lofton taught the Sunday School lesson.

News From Castalia, Ohio

Sister Chelsea Legg and Zac Stephens are officially engaged and he will be moving here from Tennessee soon. Brother Zac has already found a job and they are preparing for their upcoming wedding. We are so happy for the both of them.

For Christmas we presented our Pastor Ron and Family with gifts and cards. They are such a blessing to us and we appreciate them very much. God has been so good to us here in Castalia. He has been blessing our services, especially our Sunday morning services mightily. I pray that everyone in the region had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless you all !!

News From Seth, WV

We want to thank the Page Church for hosting our Region's annual Christmas dinner on December, 15th. Our Sunday School Superintendent has given the congregation a Bible reading assignment—to read the Bible through in one year, starting with the first Sunday of the new year, 2020. Sister Paula Sanner gives the reading guidelines to us each Sunday morning. What a great way to start off a new year—by reading God's Word.

In January we gave our pastor a surprise birthday/pizza party. Our church is truly blessed. We are gearing up for this year's work starting with bake/craft sales to raise mission and revival funds. Praise The Lord!

News From Fairmont, WV

The Church at Fairmont had a Christmas program and dinner on December 1st at our church. We had 38 in attendance.

News From Chillicothe, Ohio

Chillicothe is alive and praising God.

We had a blessed Christmas dinner with 10 in attendance. We thank God for one claiming salvation and two experiencing God's touch.

Prayer Request: Jane B and family, Lisa S and family, Jackie, Laurie, Ben, Priscilla & David, Blake, Desiree, Bill B, Eric & Jenni B, Chillicothe Church.

Chillicothe Church sends our condolence to Pastor Bentley and family. Our prayers are greatly with you.

Below are some pictures of our Christmas Dinner.



GLMR Birthday Calander

Dec. 1—Keith Lonz—Castalia, Ohio
Dec. 16—Rose Williams—Castalia, Ohio
Dec. 18—Linda Pugh—Castalia, Ohio
Jan. 8—Walter Lofton—Seth, WV
Jan. 11—Jason Bolyard—Castalia, Ohio
Jan. 14—Don Bolyard—Castalia, Ohio
Jan. 18—Carol Atha—Page, WV
Jan. 21—Lisa Smith—Chillicothe, Ohio
Feb. 6—Sheilah Green—Seth, WV
Feb. 10—Mary Perdue—Seth, WV
Feb. 20—Caleb Atha—Page, WV

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Sunday School Average Attendance

For Month of November, 2019

Castalia, OH—16
Chillicothe, OH—6
Niles, MI—10
Fairmont, WV—8
Page, WV—8
Seth, WV—8

For Month of December, 2019

Castalia, OH—20
Chillicothe, OH—7
Fairmont, WV—7
Page, WV—11
Seth, WV—9

Our entire Region sends our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Sister Gail Ann Bentley of Niles, MI who passed away on December 22, 2019. Our prayers are with you. May God bless each of you.

Photos From The Past

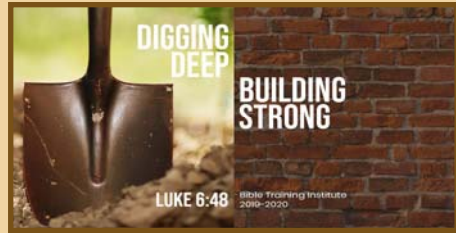


The above scene is of an Assembly parade which was common in A. J. Tomlinson's tenure in office. These parades usually went through downtown Cleveland to the Assembly Tabernacle on Central Avenue.

Marked—By Holiness!

Holiness is obtained by an act of grace and the power of the Holy Ghost in the application of the blood of Jesus. This is true, because it is said that Jesus suffered outside the gate that He might sanctify the seeker with His own precious blood. And this is what makes folks holy so they can be spoken of as holiness folks. And there must be something about this experience that marks people. I never did try to mark myself, but I must have been marked some way so others knew me. Even in my early experience I was walking on the sidewalk one day, and from the sidewalk on the other side of the street came the sound of voices and pointing me out and calling me Holiness. "There goes one of them Holiness," I heard distinctly. And I was in a strange town where I thought no one knew me. People would sometimes call me "holiness" and sometimes "sanky." But I did not mind it. In fact, I rather enjoyed it.

—A. J. Tomlinson, *WWM*, May 10, 1941



Don Bolyard

BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

**Theme: Digging Deep,
Building Strong**

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:2, 3). “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding” (Prov. 4:7). Principal Means: first, foremost, most important. Since all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in the Father and the Son, we must seek them through prayer and study of his word that we may be “Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith...” (Col. 2:7). The deeper the roots of a tree grow down into the earth, the harder it is to move that tree. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” (I Cor. 15:58). Remember this song in our church song book, “Deeper, Deeper?” Verse One: “Deeper, deeper in the love of Jesus Daily let me go; Higher, higher in the school of wisdom, More of grace to know.” Verse Three: “Deeper, deeper! tho’ it cost hard trials, Deeper let me go! Rooted in the holy love of Jesus, Let me fruitful grow.” Chorus: “O deeper yet, I pray, And higher every day, And wiser blessed Lord, In thy precious holy Word.” The school of wisdom is in Cleveland, Tennessee, May 31 through June 13, 2020.



Juanita Atha

Regional ABM Coordinator

It should not take Christmas for us to show love for each other. There are words and actions we can use to show love to those around us. We all lead very busy lives and sometimes that makes it really hard to get together. Sometimes a loving smile will do. But to those we see every day our life in Christ is the best gift we can give them and it does not cost us anything. If they don't read the Bible for themselves, we can show them by the love in our lives. Where would we be if we did not know Christ?



Watch your thoughts—they become words..
Watch your words—they become actions..
Watch your actions—they become habits..
Watch your habits—they become character.



Sue Hutton
WMB REGIONAL COORDINATOR
Power of His might

As the apostle Paul begins to close his letter to the Ephesian church, he makes this urgent request: *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might”* (Eph. 6:10). The word translated “be strong” here actually means “be strengthened.”

As we entered into another year let us remember as the Body of Christ, we can do nothing unless we are strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. As we are facing the events leading to the coming of our Lord, we need to “be strengthened” with the power of His might. One's own armor will not stand or withstand against the wiles of the devil, against principalities, against powers, against the rules of darkness of this world or against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Let us examine who's armor we have! The only armor that will stand is Gods!



Jenny Lonz,
Regional Sunday School Coordinator
A New Year to
"Learn of Me"

The year 2020 has just begun, 2019 is only a memory. We look back at all the Lord has done for us this past year. His mighty hand has led us through valleys and onto mountains. We have endured hardships and struggles and whatever the enemy has put in our path. We have not only endured, but overcome! Through all this, we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord!

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37-39).

We should be closer to the Lord than we have ever been! We have not walked alone! We have walked with the Father, the Son of God and the Holy Ghost! The Lord has kept us to fulfill the work He has for each of us in 2020. We must labor while there is time. Every day the Lord gives us is a special gift. We must not waste it but allow Him to use us in every way He deems necessary.

Make it a priority daily to spend time to pray and study the Bible. Soon our work will be finished and we will spend eternity with the One who gave His life for us! What a day, glorious day that will be!!!!

Friendly Obstacles

For every hill I've had to climb,
For every stone that bruised my feet,
For all the blood and sweat and grime,
For blinding storm and burning heat,
My heart sings but a grateful song—
These were the things that made me strong.

For all the heartaches and the tears,
For all the anguish and the pain,
For gloomy days and fruitless years,
And for the hopes that lived in vain,
I do give thanks; for now I know
These were the things that helped me grow.

'Tis not the softer things of life
Which stimulates man's will to strive,
But bleak adversity and strife
Do most to keep man's will alive.
O're rose-strewn paths the weaklings creep.
But brave hearts dare to climb the steep!

—*Author Unknown*

Divine Paradoxes

He who is the Bread of Life began His ministry by hungering.
He who is the Water of Life ended His ministry by thirsting.
He hungered as a man, and yet fed the hungry as God.
He thirsted as a man, and yet gives the Living Water of the Spirit.
He was weary as a man, and yet He is our rest.
He paid tribute as a man, and yet He is the King of kings.
He prayed to His Father as a man, and yet hears our prayers.
He wept as a man, and yet dries our tears.
He was sold for thirty pieces of silver, but yet gives us a priceless salvation.
He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and yet is our Good Shepherd.
He was mute like a sheep, and yet He is the everlasting Word.

Paraphrased from The Reaper

ORIGINAL MEANINGS

By Damous E. McGee

From: October 19, 1968 WWM

The Jewish Sects and Parties

These groups were known as the Essenes, Herodians, Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, Zealots and Sicarri.

The name "Essenes" means "saintly." This group numbered approximately 4,000. They originated about the second century B. C. The Essenes lived generally along the western side of the Dead Sea. They did not believe in marriage, and considered themselves the true remnant of God's people. They renounced all riches and luxuries and shared all things in common. Their beliefs were similar to those of the Pharisees.

The Herodians were mainly a political rather than a religious group. Their name was derived from the Herod family, whom they wanted to rule the Jewish people. In the Bible, the Herodians agreed with the Pharisees against Jesus. (Matt. 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17, and Mark 3:6)

"Pharisees" means the "separated ones." This group did not become a distinct party until the last half of the second century B. C. Strict observance of the Law was their main doctrine. They stressed the letter rather than the spirit of the Law. They avoided contact with what they termed "unbelievers," and were noted for their pride and self-righteousness. Their basic teachings were: Divine providence, angels and spirits, immortality of the soul, resurrection, future rewards and punishments, and a literal Messianic reign on earth. (Mark 7: 1-13; Luke 14: 1-6; Acts 23:6; 26:5, and Philippians 3:5)

"Sadducee" comes from a Hebrew word meaning "righteousness." It is believed that this party was named after the family of Zadok. They became a distinct party about the same time as the Pharisees. The Sadducees had little influence among the common Jews because their priests were from the wealthy and aristocratic families. They refuted all the major teachings of the Pharisees. This group believed that man's actions depend upon his own free will. (Mark 12:18-27; and Acts 23: 6-8)

The Scribes were primarily priests by profession, and in pre-exile times served as secretaries for the king. Later they began copying the Law and other sacred writings, and finally became scholars in religious thought. Eventually they separated themselves from the priests and became official interpreters of the Law ("doctors of the Law" and "rabbis"). (2 Sam. 8:17; Ezra 7:11; Matt. 23:7; Mark 12:28; Luke 5:17; 10:25; 20:39)

The Zealots became a party under Judas the Galilean about A. D. 6. Their name comes from a Hebrew word meaning "jealous." They were a radical group who favored armed rebellion against Rome. It appears from Luke 6:15 that "Simon called Zealotes" (the Zealot) was a member of this group before he became one of Jesus' disciples. (Matt. 10:4; Mark 3:18)

The "Sicarri" were known as the "dagger men." They attacked with daggers those whom they considered enemies of the Jewish nation. It appears that from this group came followers of an Egyptian who came to Jerusalem A. D. 54 claiming to be a prophet. According to Acts 21:38, the Apostle Paul was mistakenly thought to be their leader. This minor group was an extreme element from the Zealots. They were poorly organized.