

# *The Gospel Herald*

---

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS  
by  
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

***“Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to  
put me unto the pool.”***

(John 5: 1-14)

*Dear beloved Brethren and Sisters in the common faith of Jesus Christ, I traveled this forth weekend to Brother Michael McInnis’s home to accompany him to Empire Church near Ray City, Georgia, in Lanier County, where they meet on the Saturday before the forth Sunday.*

*Brother McInnis and I have made this monthly journey numerous times over the past 5-6 years, as my former membership was in this assembly in 2006. We were greatly blessed to travel, once again, this past weekend to gather with the little flock where Pastor Clarke Lee of Hoboken, GA serves as their pastor, and Brother John Crowley, whom I count as a dear friend and Brother, is member.*

*The meeting was blessed (IMHO) with singing sweet gospel anthems, Christ-honoring hymns among the attendees. Brother Dale Hammons of Americus, GA had journeyed to be with us again on this particular occasion, as well. The brethren which were chosen to attempt the gospel ministry were Bro. Michael McInnis, myself and concluded by Pastor Clark Lee.*

*The Lord was gracious in (IMHO) “open the door of utterance” and cause “the gospel to have free course” among the attendees by the brethren who stood before the assembly. What a grand and worshipful experience I encountered among these folks who gave evidence of loving the Lord God of the Holy Writ.*

*After the journey, we returned to Bro. McInnis’s home for the evening. I spent the night to be with him and the assembly at Grace Chapel in O’Brien, Florida on Sunday. the evening was spent discussing the precious word of God and its glorious revelation of salvation by free and sovereign grace until 11:00 PM, when we retired for the night. Upon arising from a night of safe slumber in the comfortable provisions of the McInnis’s, we enjoyed the delightful breakfast fixin’s of Sister Lynda, as Michael*

*meandered about the kitchen like a pacing lion (trying to assist but merely gettin' in the way, per sister Lynda's comments).*

*We made the short journey to Grace Chapel meeting house and gathered for morning prayer session (as the custom of the assembly) in behalf of the meeting and other concerns of the brethren to be brought before our God.*

*Again, after the spiritual singing of the saints from the Gadsby historical song book, Brother Michael stood and shared from Proverbs 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." This was one of the most edifying observations that I have ever heard from such scripture reference. As Brother Michael began to dissect its content and bring out the divine picture our Lord Jesus Christ was a great delight to this poor sinner that sat under the message. Brother Michael brought an analogy of how gospel revelation is like a large puzzle with many pieces which must be put in their precise positions to complete the full observation of the true picture intended. Oh! What a joyous concept was set before the assembly in his preaching efforts.*

*Bro. Al Cloud followed Bro. Michael's ministering by sharing in context the scripture text of John 3:16 and some of its misconceptions taught by most evangelicals. Declaring that the "World" under consideration in the text was not the totality of ALL mankind, but the "World" of God's elect from every tongue, kindred and nation observing how scripture must interpret scripture lest Christ sacrificed himself as a "Universal atonement" for ALL mankind! This we know is a false assumption, for Christ "particular" redemption was determined for those ONLY chosen in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world, whose names are written in the "Lamb's Book of life." Bro. Al's effort appeared to be sweetly endorsed by those in attendance.*

*I was asked by Bro. Michael if I had a word to share. I had arisen from a night's rest with the "pool of Bethesda" on my mind. I asked Bro. Michael prior to our breakfast time his thoughts on the purpose of that "POOL," and we shared our thoughts.*

*Well, I was not able to escape the subject matter, and proceeded to read the text in John chapter five. (Note: I take the liberty to paraphrase for the sake of space and time, please feel free to read John 5:1-14).*

*I began to read about this "Pool" at the place called Bethesda where numerous folks with various physical infirmities were gather around and there was this "CERTAIN" man the scripture records that had a crippling issue for thirty-eight years! This man was unable to walk for at least thirty-eight years and lay on a bed near this so called "therapeutic pool" of Bethesda. Our Lord Jesus ask the poor man, "wilt thou be made whole"?? and the crippled man answered, "I have NO MAN to help me into the water when they become troubled (or stirred)" !! For you see, it was supposed that when the*

pool's water was "troubled" (or stirred) by an angel and those which were able to enter into the pool experienced some therapeutic and or healing experience.

(Note: It is an assumption that this pool was possibly some mineral or salty artisan pool that would occasionally be stirred by its "troubling movement" and those who would enter into the pool at this time would experience some comforting relief similar to a "mineral bath").

Therefore, the Jews had ascribed a mystical idol of this pool for the numerous maimed and afflicted folks. Yet this "CERTAIN" man did not have ANY MAN which would help him get into the pool at the determined time the waters appeared to be stirred. Jesus said unto the crippled man, "RISE, TAKE UP THY BED AND WALK!" and immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked.: and on the same day was the Sabbath" (John 5:9). Our Lord Jesus Christ DID NOT use that erroneous mystical pool of healing, for HE merely spoke "HEALING" to this "CERTAIN" mans body and he rose up and walked!

One of the marvelous things about this scriptural account is that our Lord Jesus was NOT EVEN KNOWN by this poor cripple man of thirty-eight years!! For possibly had not even heard of this one call Jesus of Nazareth for his whole life was being subject to that "POOL" of which he was persuaded was his only hope of physical deliverance. Yet notice where the "CERTAIN" man went when he was healed of his crippled body. He was found by Christ IN THE TEMPLE! He was not as the nine lepers that were healed of Christ in the scripture record that went their "ungrateful way", but this man was as the ONE leper who worship and praised his God for divine deliverance...For the Jews in the temple ask this "CERTAIN" man "What is that which said unto thee, take up thy bed and walk"? For he that was healed wast not who it was? (for Jesus had exited the place). "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple , and said unto him, behold thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee...The man departed, and told the Jews that is was JESUS , which had made him whole" (John 5:15)... Oh! beloved of God, the "CERTAIN" man knew now who it was that made him whole! Although in the time preceding he did NOT know who it was that said unto him, RISE, AND TAKE THY BED AND WALK, yet in time the "ONE "piece of the puzzle was given as Christ revealed unto this "CERTAIN" man who it was that brought deliverance.

Our God shall remove ALL our idols whether religious or secular from us in time and cause us to see that "it is JESUS" that does ALL things in behalf of Gods dear children, that He alone shall receive ALL the due praise, glory and honor. For without Christ loving mercy and divine free grace I know that there be NO MAN that can help get me in that "pool of redeeming blood that flowed from Christ's suffering wounds."

Respectfully submitted,  
February 28, 2011