

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

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*“Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good;
for His mercy endureth forever.
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom He hath redeemed
from the hand of the enemy”*

(Psa. 107:1-2).

Dear beloved heirs of divine grace, called to be named among the inheritance of the Lord of the Holy scriptures. In my attempts to speak this past Lord’s Day, I was impressed with the thoughts of what a Witness is in relation to the concept set forth in the Word of God.

Jesus said, “ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall (not try to be) be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

In this context, it is unquestionably relating to those which shall be indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God as was prophesized by the Prophet Joel as Peter indicated in Acts 2:14-21. The promise of the Holy COMFORTER, the Spirit of the living God which (lest I be deceived) shall indwell every awakened, quickened, and born again believer in our Lord Jesus Christ, for this was the promise of Christ to ALL which have been ordained of God to believe in Christ by the operation of divine sovereign grace.

As I mediated upon this subject matter, I ask myself the question, “Why does a court of law in this time world call upon a certain person to give testimony and to give witness of a certain circumstance or situation”?

I concluded that the reasoning behind this judicial exercise is to have those which set in judgment of the one convicted of a matter would be informed of the observed action and or behavior of the one being judged.

A **Witness**: is: one who gives attestation of a fact or event; testimony; one who has a personal knowledge of something; to furnish proof of; to bear witness of religious convictions.

The scripture tell us that when the Holy Ghost, Comforter comes upon you, you **shall be witnesses unto me** (saith our Lord Jesus).

Unless I be mistaken and deceived in the matter, I am persuaded that the Holy Ghost indwells the born again believer in Jesus Christ. For this indwelling Spirit of the living God is the source by which we live the Christian life in these mortal frames as Christ **in you the hope of glory** causes the believer not only to **will** (want to) but to also **do** of His good pleasure.

It would appear rather ridiculous to summon a person to be a witness who had NEVER seen nor can attest to anything under consideration in the case at hand, but the court would seek one that has the most precise and descriptive observations of the event under consideration.

So it is with our God, He has chosen to call His elect, appointed, ordained, called, decreed and predestined heirs of divine grace to **be witnesses of what has occurred within the heart, mind and soul of His people.**

Is it possible that I could ask numerous professing Christian folks who attend a regular church assembly to give a **witness** of what has occurred within that gives you a **hope** that one is a child of God, and that they would not be able to give a valid and convincing testimony that would **convict them of such spiritual experience and/or belief?**

Yes, dear ones, God ONLY knows those who are His, yet in this time world He has chosen in His divine and decreed purpose to **have a witness of His grace, love, salvation, and power.** He SHALL NOT be left without a **witness** of His sovereign working among the children of men.

Should not the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ challenge those which testify of salvation by the operation of grace to give **witness** to this grand and glorious experience? Why have so many of the Old School Baptist shunned the concept of one giving a personal **witness** of being caused to believe in Christ Jesus as the only means of redemption and given a hope of life eternal? Is it because we have run so far in the opposite direction of “means and method” missionarism to allow such **witness or testimony** to be expressed in a public meeting, and ascribe it as vanity and pride?

If the Word of God admonishes the believer to **“Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.”** Where are they supposed to “SAY SO? In their closets? NO; Christ said that his people shall be **witnesses** in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of

the earth. In my humble opinion, this means at any place and any time that God shall CAUSE his people to share what Christ has done in them and what He means to them!!

I challenge any who give lip service to being an historical Old School Primitive Baptist to read the 1832 "Black Rock Baptist Address" and show me where those which are called to be "members in particular" of the visible Church of our Lord Jesus Christ are exempt from being admonished to **Preach the gospel** in season and out of season to anyone and everyone that would give us an ear.

God's church has not been called to **proselyte** the worldlings by human means and methods in an attempt to "build the Lords church", yet we that are blessed to believe have been promised to **be witnesses** and that by the works of God as it was in all the chosen vessels of Christ as revealed in the ACTS of the apostles.

Upon every occasion they were **sent** to preach "CHRIST, "not church-ism, not decisional-ism, nor attempting to MAKE disciples, but they were persuaded that ALL **which are ordained to eternal life shall BELIEVE** that glorious good news message of Christ sacrificial redemption.....and that it was personally applied to THEM as they were made New Creatures in Christ by the operation of spiritual quickening in a New Birth experience causing "old things to pass away, and behold ALL things become NEW" as they are translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son.

Oh! dear ones, there may be one that would say, "I fear I would not be a convincing **witness** if called upon to testify of what I have both experienced and or seen with faiths spiritual eye"? Dear friend, all I can say is, "**make your calling and election sure.**" I shall not attempt to give any man a false assure of salvation's mighty work, and I will not assume that because one has requested prayer from a local preacher upon their death bed, that gesture and desire is evidence that one is an elect heir of grace, of which some ministers have been guilty. I leave the redeeming work of Christ's blood and the eternal destination of the creature in the hands of the Almighty, For ONLY He knows his own, and I am persuaded that ALL that be His **shall hear the good shepherds voice in that determined and designated day, and follow HIM!!** For ONLY they shall be made **witnesses of Christ loving mercy and redeeming grace.**

If God gives you a mind to "witness" of what Christ has done in and for you to any and all that may give you an ear, may you be blessed to obey our Saviour's voice to say unto others, "the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" and "is in the heavens and doeth whatsoever He pleaseth".....and "whosoever believeth in HIM (Christ) shall not perish, but have everlasting life". For Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and NO MAN cometh unto the Father but by me" (Jn. 14:6)

Respectfully submitted with humble intent.