

# *The Gospel Herald*

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by  
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

***“By so much was Jesus made a surety  
of a better testament.”***

*Hebrews 7:22*

*Dear Brethren, after reading Hebrews chapter seven, verses nineteen through twenty-eight, we discover that the LAW made nothing perfect, although the law in itself is perfect and indicates the perfection required of God to them to whom it is written. With all its commandments, statues, and testimonies, whether the Ten commandments which were etched in stone, or ALL the commandments given to the children of Israel in the civil, dietary, and Tabernacle service aspect, they were ALL given to be obeyed and carried out in the ministrations of the Old Testament and Old Covenant.*

*As we in this dispensation of time look back to the giving of the law and the commandments, we find that in its operation of being a “Schoolmaster” until faith come, it taught (and continues to teach) that ALL of mankind is condemned and under the curse of disobedience. “For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory (perfection) of God” and imprisoned by a nature of depravity. I have heard the expression that the “absoluter’s “are those Old Baptist that believe we are “robots!” Have you ever heard an Arminian admit to being a “robot” to sin? If they were to agree to any “robotics” in the spiritual realm, they would most likely agree that man by nature is a “robot” to sin under depravity’s dominion.*

*Dear brethren; whether you like the term or not, man by nature, dead in trespasses and sin is a “robot” to sin’s dominion and CANNOT do anything less. Can the natural born man do anything but sin? Is there any righteousness in them whatsoever? Absolutely NOT! They are as dead men in the eyes of the Almighty.*

*Oh! but brethren, you make any indication that an elect heir of divine sovereign grace is having righteousness worked out in them as “robots,” that would be offensive to most. For the thought of such matter DESTROYS man’s freewill ability to choose to do good or evil. I have written numerous articles and make various attempts to preach on the subject of CHRIST OUR PERFORMER regarding Christ “working in us to both WILL*

an to DO of his good pleasure” and “He which has begun a GOOD WORK in you, SHALL (not try to) PERFORM IT until the day of Jesus Christ”, “Faithful is he that calleth you, who also WILL DO IT.” Be assured dear brethren, our Lord, who CANNOT LIE, but shall PERFORM ALL that he has promised to do.

Now, as God would permit, may I be allowed to move into the subject of mind this morning. CHRIST OUR “SURETY.”

*SURETY: A guarantee, A pledge and or document of promise from one who is obligated and responsible to assure a matter.*

*Brethren, if God permit, to allow us to see the depth of this “Surety” which Christ has been made in our behalf, it can do nothing less that cause us to praise his holy name. To think that there is ONE which has been made obligated and responsible for the building, oversight, and the witness of the Church of the first born of God Almighty is a glorious thought. I recall in the writings of Joseph Irons of times past, that in one of his articles he stated words similar to the following (not verbatim), “When I think upon my responsibility as a Christian, I am overwhelmed with the duty and obligations of which the laws puts me under, and the sulfurous odor of Mt. Sinai condemns my soul. But when I think of My Responsible Head that is given for our God’s great church bride, yes even Christ, I am at rest and peace.”*

*Dear ones, we have one who has been designated as the HEAD and OBLIGATED “SURETY” of his church bride. If it be not for Christ CAUSING us to be the witnesses of his grace and loving kindness in salvations glorious design, we would be without hope in being the people of God. I present unto you this very day my responsible and obligated “Surety” which the Almighty Father has ordained for my best interest and to ALL those blessed by free and sovereign grace to believe on his dear name...*

*The Arminian work-mongers continue to load on the backs of God’s little children duties and obligations to work out salvation to merits God’s blessings in time with a hope to gain crowns in glory. I’ve got GOOD NEWS for those laboring and that find themselves burdened down and heavy laden with duty, duty, duty. Christ shall give you REST for your weary and poor souls. For they which have entered into His rest have ceased from their own laborers. Many shall profess that God IS NOT obligated in any way to the creature!! Brethren, I have News for you!! God has obligated himself to the elect, appointed, ordained, called, chosen, predestined heirs of divine grace! He has given us a “SURETY” in his Son Jesus Christ, a GUARANTEE that HE has obligated his darling Son to be the RESPONSIBLE HEAD on our behalf.*

*The works and performance of the born-again child of God is the EVIDENCE of the “Surety” of God. We are BLESSED to perform the Christian life, not performing to be blessed! We have been ushered into this NEW and BETTER covenant based upon BETTER PROMISES have we not? We are NOT UNDER ANY LEGAL LAW, but under GRACE; the unmerited favor of God our Saviour. Jesus Christ has promised we which*

*are blessed to believe, Eternal life, and the evidence of this Life in time, shall BE WORKS brought about by He which liveth in us, yea, even Christ Jesus, the HOPE of glory.*

*Brethren, we have been promised these things in and by Jesus Christ, and there is NO shadow of turning from God's promises, as they are forever settled in heaven.*

*“That by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope that is set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both SURE and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the Vail” (Heb. 6:18-19).*

*May this weak and meager effort to express the glories of our Saviour's love for his Church, those of the human race which make up its lively stones be accepted with warm love from this dear writer.*

*Excerpts from my sermon set forth at Grace Chapel in O'Brien, Florida  
February 15, 2009*