

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

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A Preacher’s Delight

While serving Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church of Hillsborough County, Florida, this past meeting (every first Sunday) was especially rewarding for this old brother.

In my attempts to set forth some scriptural thoughts from God’s precious word, I was approached by a young lady, the daughter of a brother and sister who are members of the Church. She must be in her early thirties with a very sweet demeanor, and a virtuous character. She said, “Bro. Martin, your message this morning was a blessing to me. As you expressed that the gospel was Good News to those who are blessed to believe it, you spoke as one who genuinely believed what you were saying.” She continued by saying, “I have visited around here and there when we are not meeting here, and heard other preachers speak about the “good News”, but they spoke of it with a non-experiential dry expression. Yet, you delivered in your message a vast picture of what the “good news” encompasses expressing an Almighty God of the “Good News.”

I had shared with her my own experience of saving grace of which I encountered by God’s sovereign mercy thirty-six years ago at the sinful age of twenty-seven years old. How that God stopped this alien sinner in his mad pursuit of sin and wickedness and caused me to see the God of the Bible that hates sin and brought a deep felt sorrow upon my heart and granted remorse and repentance, at which time I dropped to my knees and wept as a child saying, “God if you are who the Bible say’s, please forgive me of my wrong doings and sinfulness which I am so guilty of. “I cried Oh! Dear God, give me a home in heaven if I was to die this day. Make me the husband that I should be, cause me to be the father that I ought to be, and make Jesus Christ real to me.”

From that very evening in May of 1971, this poor writer was never the same man as I was as a naturally-born depraved sinner. Old things had passed away and behold ALL things have become NEW as I was revealed the kingdom of God’s dear Son and the sweet fellowship of others of like faith as I sought a haven here below in a little Baptist

Church. Yes, as I entered that meeting house for the first time on a Sunday evening, I had folks approach me that I have never seen before, saying, "It is good see you brother; we welcome you here, my name is so-and-so."

And when the Pastor of that little Church began to pray and then open the scriptures to attempt to speak from them, I was in a heaven of my own hearing those spiritual things my heart longed to hear. Own what joy did flood my soul as the preacher told of Jesus love, it was as if I had just entered kindergarten for the first time and was hungry to learn some NEW THINGS. Oh! What NEW THINGS I was being revealed as in time I read that Holy Book and saw the greatness of this so great salvation so rich and free. And all the while was seeing how unworthy such a one as me would be called into the spiritual kingdom of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Then in God's divine timing, the revelation of the absolute sovereignty of the God of the Bible was a sweet breeze of spiritual wind that blew across my heart and soul. And Christ ALL sufficiency took on a whole NEW perspective, seeing that ALL the work of our God is predetermined and decreed to fulfill his divine purpose. Oh! How wonderful the soul soothing anointment of the revelation of sovereign, free, irresistible, and ever-ruling grace. ONLY, the experiential revelation of this divine truth will allow the child of God to worship their Saviour in the fullness of spiritual appreciation. For as long as man can feel that his will, his devotion, his obedience can enhance his relationship with God, they cannot worship with the full intensity of their heart, mind and soul. For if God appears to be limited in the mind of man in any manner, the man is limited in his abilities to know the FULNESS of that GOOD NEWS. And the miracle of the matter, is that this understanding can ONLY come by our sovereign God pulling back the scales of our natural eyes and revealing His Almighty character and attributes.

To God be the glory, praise and honor, for GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE towards undeserving sinners. Yes, dear brethren and Sisters, this preacher's delight is to have a little glimmer that God is using me in some way to "FEED HIS SHEEP", for as our beloved Lord had told Peter, "If you love me, FEED MY SHEEP." That's my heart's desire till our God call this mortal man to earth's cold grave to await that grand and glorious resurrection day.

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