

The Gospel Herald

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
Donald E. Martin, Sr.

My Ebenezer

***“Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me
some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount!
O fix me on it! Mount of God’s unchanging love.”***

***“Here is raise my EBENEZER; hither by they help I’m come; and I hope, by
thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a
stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He, to save my soul from danger,
interposed his precious blood.” (From the song “Come thou fount”).***

***The following is a condensed portion of a message preached by
Bro. Donald E. Martin, Sr., Pastor of Fellowship Primitive Baptist Church
of Hillsborough County Florida on February 1, 2009.***

Beloved , it has been a number of years since I looked at the word “Ebenezer” in a definitive manner. Yet, we sing the song often with the word in its text. Notwithstanding the majority of the songsters do not know what the word means. If God be pleased to give us a little season of clarity of mind my I attempt to express the definition and use of this unique scriptural term.

I invite your attention to writings of the Old Testament, I Samuel 7:12. “Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it “EBENEZER”, saying, “Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”

Beloved, I have sung that aforementioned song for years and never knew what the word Ebenezer meant. While traveling this day I was conversing with Bro. McInnis about the term, and as I drove he looked it up in the scripture text, reading it to me as we journeyed along. I was under the impression the term meant “a banner that was raised among Israel declaring the Lord God Jehovah, but, that was not a correct

assumption. For it is a memorial stone that Samuel had placed in remembrance saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Oh! that truly our God has HELPED us, in a time when this poor and needy sinner was in a state of helplessness and hopelessness, God came with divine grace to rescue and deliver this wretched sinner. Is this not your experience? Did you not find yourself meandering around in a state of depravity beyond what you could by human effort change, for our depraved natures had absolute domination over us that we were self serving infidels without no need for the God of the Holy Writ. But, O for divine free and sovereign love that come to rescue God's chosen sheep from the snare sin's degradation and bondage.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not ALL his benefits" (Psa.103:2).

"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah" (Psa.68:19).

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me" (Psa. 116:12).

Oh! the BENEFITS and BLESSINGS the Lord hath bestowed upon his elect Bride, causing JOY unspeakable and PEACE past understanding to be ours in the midst of the most difficult trials. Just to meditate upon the ways and means the Lord "hath helped us," by Christ becoming our following:

<i>Saviour</i>	<i>Lamb of God</i>	<i>Righteousness</i>
<i>Mediator</i>	<i>Sin-bearer</i>	<i>Wisdom</i>
<i>Intercessor</i>	<i>Deliverer</i>	<i>Sanctification</i>
<i>Redeemer</i>	<i>Life</i>	<i>Door</i>
<i>Advocate</i>	<i>Resurrection</i>	<i>High Priest</i>
<i>Surety</i>	<i>Counselor</i>	<i>Image of God</i>

This is just to mention a few of the titles and positions our beloved saviour has become for OUR sake as "the God that hath helped us."

May our minds be brought to remember the meaning of "Ebenezer" as we are blessed to sing with understanding, "Come thou fount of every blessing."

*Respectfully submitted,
DEM*