

# The Gospel Herald

---

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

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by

Donald E. Martin, Sr.

## *Fear*

***Fear: False thoughts and assumptions, appearing real (natural fear).***

***(NOTE: The FEAR of the Lord is a reverence of his Holy character and the beginning of wisdom)***

*“Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up; It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice, saying, Shall mortal man be more just than God? Shall a man be more pure than his maker? Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly: How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth? They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it. Doth not their excellency which is in them go away? They die, even without wisdom” (Job 4:14-21).*

*Oh, the experience of Job and the divine revelation of God of the insignificance of the mortal creature. Mere walking “houses of clay” are we that are found walking the pilgrim way. How many have gone the way of DEATH as I type this text? How many vessels of clay have had their breathe withheld from their lungs and their hearts cease to beat? DEATH is a monster that the creature by nature FEARS with every fiber of their being.*

*“Not from the dust affliction grows, nor troubles rise by chance; Yet, we are born to cares and woes, a sad inheritance! As sparks break out from burning coals, and still are upwards borne, so grief is rooted in our souls, and man grows up to mourn. Yet, with my God I leave my case and trust his promised grace; He rules me by his well known laws of love and righteousness. Not all the pains that e’er I bore shall spoil my future peace; for DEATH and HELL can do no more than what my Father please” (Gadsby # 465 (Watts)).*

*“My soul this curious house of clay, thy present frail abode, must quickly fall to worms a prey, and thou return to God. Canst thou, by faith, survey with joy, the change before it come, and say, “Let DEATH this house destroy, I have a heavenly home”? The Saviour, whom I then shall see, with new admiring eyes, Already has prepared for me a Mansion in the skies. I feel this mud-walled cottage shake, and long to see it fall; that I my willing flight may take to HIM whose is my ALL. Burdened and groaning then no more, my rescued soul shall sing, as up the shining path I soar, DEATH thou hast lost thy sting! Dear Saviour, help us now to seek, and grant thy Spirit’s power; that we may all the language speak, before thy dying hour”*  
Gadsby #469 (Newton).

*Dear beloved heir of divine grace, I have some sweet and glorious good news! That ONLY the gospel can bring, that this devastating monster called DEATH hath no dominion over God’s adopted heirs. For the “EVIDENCE of things hoped for, and the SUBSTANCE of things not seen” has caused us to have a blessed HOPE that reaches far beyond this temporal realm. Oh! for the unmerited favor of our God divine that has made us partakers of eternal life in time, shall cause these mortal frames of dust and clay to be transformed and changed to be clothed with immortal robes of righteousness.*

*“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to FEAR; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, ABBA, FATHER” (Romans 8:15).*

*“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He (Christ) also himself likewise took part of the same; that through DEATH he might destroy him that hath the power of DEATH, that is , the devil; and deliver them who through FEAR of DEATH were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14-15). Man, by nature, is in BONDAGE to the fear of death!! The creature faithless and hopeless of life beyond the grave flees the thoughts of life’s mortal end. For their purpose and pleasure are built upon the foundation of sand and temporal materialism.*

*Solomon proclaimed with all his empire and vast wealth with the wisdom that surpassed any man in the natural realm, with beautiful botanical gardens, 10,000 prized horses, and 700 wives (which were to his mighty downfall) declared “ALL is vanity, vanity and vexation of spirit”. Yes, beloved of God, the Almighty granted him the desire of his heart, to have the WISDOM above any to judge Israel and construct to greatest Architectural and Engineered projects ever known to man of his day, yet he lacked the WISDOM and the POWER to obey the demands of his maker to be obedient to the commands of the Almighty. Being caught in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, his many Wife’s of pagan origin brought with them their God’s that drew Solomon away from his devotion to the God Jehovah of his Father. And we know the end thereof, ALL IS VANITY! Saith the preacher.  
No peace, no hope.*

*Beloved blessed with divine hope, we have the following divine promise, “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on*

*immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that it is written, DEATH is swallowed up in victory. O DEATH, where is the sting? O grave where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is NOT in vain in the Lord”*  
*(I Corin. 15: 54-58).*

*Press on dear Pilgrims, Sojourners and Strangers, who have been called, ordained, chosen, elected, and predestined by God the Almighty to be the heirs of sovereign and divine grace, for we have all these great and glorious promises given us through and by Christ Jesus who has sought us and bought us with his redeeming blood! For as we have been given to HIM of the Father that he would purchase us with his own life’s blood and redeem us unto himself a Peculiar people zealous of good works, and those good works are the result of Christ Spirit working in us CAUSING us to both WILL and to DO of his good pleasure. For HE which has promise shall also DO IT!*

*“On Christ the solid rock I stand , all other ground is sinking sand, I dare not trust the sweetest frame (of my clay tabernacle) but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.”*

*Lord’s Day  
March 15, 2009*