

August 2013 Address all mail: Ed Bousman Evangelistic Assoc., P.O. Box 511, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142-0511 Issue 8

## POINTS TO PONDER

From Archives of Ed Bousman

## A Little of This and A Little of That

There was a time when Christians went into the arena and fought lions. Most Christians today could never win a victory over a lion. How could they when they can't even win a victory over Camels.

We have been bought at a great price. Peter says we were redeemed not with silver and gold, but by the blood of a Lamb without spot and without blemish. When the Lord Jesus bought you, how much did He buy? In most cases all He got was one hour of your time on Sunday morning, and in some places it was one hour on Saturday night.

We forgot to mention last month that we started the thirty-sixth year (1997) of broadcasting on the third Sunday of November. The thirty-fifth year the output of the gospel message was increased to two shortwave programs now heard in Europe, Asia, and starting the first of November also in Africa. The European broadcast has drawn mail from India, Iran, England and Austria. Those who have written are being sent tapes of the broadcast, also tapes from the Hillsboro Family Camp and a Bible course. (In our 51st year we have five shortwave programs and added two 50,000 stations covering all the US).

Saw a man in the post office. He said he went to the state of Indiana and in talking to someone mentioned that he was from Lynchburg, Ohio. He was asked if that was the place where that crazy guy lives? The man said he told him; "0 no that is Ed Bousman, he is alright, he is not crazy." I did not think about it until I left the post office. Lynchburg only has about a thousand people. How did that man know he was talking about me when he said that there was a crazy guy in Lynchburg? How come he picked me out of the other nine hundred and ninety-nine as the one who is crazy?

Several times in my sojourn on planet earth I have been in the area of a hurricane. A hurricane is a cameo of life itself. Think of the great power of these storms, the wind, the waves of the sea, the downpour of water. Think of the homes destroyed the millions of dollars in damage, the loss of lives. Yet in the center of the hurricane there is a small area called the EYE. In the EYE of the hurricane there is a great calm. In the overpowering storms of life, the Christian is at peace in the EYE of the hurricane. That is where you find the Church of Christ. The Christian knows the meaning of the words of Paul—And the peace of which passeth all understanding shall guard your thoughts and your hearts in Christ Jesus.

Jeffery, an evangelist in Africa, says that when he came back to America on furlough that he felt like he was coming to Disneyland. He said America is a great place to visit, but I surely would not want to live there. In commenting on our life style, he also said, that he would be afraid he would lose his soul if he lived in America.

Paul said in Hebrews chapter two, "Give heed unto the things which were heard lest happily you drift away from them." People may not know they are drifting in a river until they notice the changing shore line. Look back over your life to where you were five or ten years ago. Are you reading the word as much as then? Are you praying as much as then? Are your theological views the same as they were before you were trapped in the "Big is Better" syndrome. Remember you never drift up, you drift down. You never drift toward God, you drift toward the Devil. You never drift toward Heaven, you drift toward Hell.

#### WHAT STATE IS THE BEST?

If you could choose where to live, what state would it

be? Some would choose a state with warm weather, perhaps Hawaii; some might like the state of their birth, or a state that provided the best opportunity for work in their particular field. But whatever state you would choose, the best state to live in according to the Apostle Paul would be the *State of Contentment*. In Philippians 4:11 He said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am there with to be content."

The two people who should have lived in the *State of Contentment* more easily than anyone else would have been Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They had everything perfect and were not satisfied.

How about the Devil? He lived in heaven as one of Almighty God's leading officers? He had every reason to be content. He had power, position, influence and everything any created being could desire and he was not satisfied. He wanted to have God's job. If Adam and Eve couldn't do it, if the Devil couldn't do it, how come Paul could do it? In the next verse Paul tells us he had learned the secret of contentment. He said, "I have learned how to be content whether I am abased and when I abound." He said, "I have learned how to be content when I am hungry and when I am filled." Then too, remember these words were written during his first imprisonment at Rome. The book of Acts closes with Paul living at Rome in his own hired house with the soldier that guarded him receiving all that came unto him preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness none forbidding him. Then consider how God supplied all his needs in the prison. It was while here that he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. One also wonders how many of the guards in that two-year period became a Christian. He was content because even as a prisoner he was used of God in a marvelous way. How can anyone live in the State of Contentment that is not a Christian? Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God? On the basis of that faith, I repeat without comment the words of Peter the day the church began, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." I say those words without comment lest some say, I said it. If you are being deceived by those words, don't blame me, blame Peter, he is the one that said it.

Are you living in the State of Contentment? I had a brother-in-law who went through the Northern African campaign during World War II. He went through Sicily, then Italy. Most of the men he originally served with were killed. His life was spared. When he came home he got off the train in Cincinnati at Union Terminal and got into a taxi. He told the driver to drive him to the East end of the city to a house about eleven miles away and to drive no faster than thirty-five miles an hour all the way. Don't go any faster than that. If you drive any faster, I will stop you. He told the driver that he had come through four years of battle and he wasn't coming home to be killed just eleven miles from home by a taxi driver. When he arrived home he got out of the cab, kneeled down and kissed the ground that he thought he would never see again. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are all just a few miles from home. Are you content as to your destination in eternity?

# Two Communion Meditations From the Archives of Ed Bousman WHERE IS THOMAS?

Where is Thomas? Acts 20:7, "And upon the first day of the week, we were gathered together to break bread..." First Corinthians 11:25, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup ye proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." Luke 22:19, "This do in remembrance of Me."

In the New Testament the celebration of the resurrection was not a one Sunday of the year occurrence on a day called Easter. Nor was there such a thing as a resurrection Sunday that occurred once a year. The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus was an every Sunday event.

On the Sunday that Jesus arose from the dead He appeared in person to the Apostles and Thomas was absent. John 20:21, "But Thomas was not with them when Jesus came." Suppose you had been present when the Apostles met on that Resurrection Day? You look around and you see that someone is missing. You say, "Where is Thomas?" Someone says, "Thomas is sick." "What is the matter with him? Heart attack?" "Oh, no, he is just feeling a little under the weather. He will be able to go to work tomorrow, but he is just a little too sick to be in services." Think of what Thomas missed, Jesus came.

Suppose again that you had met with the Apostles on that memorable day. You look around and see that someone is missing and you say, "Where is Thomas?" Someone says, "Oh, he intended to come, but he had to go to the game. He will be here next week, if there is, no game." Think of what Thomas missed, Jesus came.

Then again suppose you had been present the day of the Resurrection and noticed that one of the Apostles was missing and you said, "Where is Thomas?" "Oh, he said he did not want to come and associate with a hypocrite like Peter. It is common knowledge that he cursed and denied the Lord. He may never come back again." Think of what Thomas missed, Jesus came.

Then think of all those people with a Thomas complex today when the Church assembles on the Lord's Day. Think of all those people who miss the assembly because of a headache, or to go to the game or because of the hypocrites. Think of what they will miss on that day if it be said, "JESUS CAME"!

## SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS "FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT

WHAT THEY DO"

When they crucified Jesus He said, "Father forgive them they know not what they do." Who was the "they" He was referring to? Paul tells us Christ died for our sins. Jesus was thinking of me at that moment. My sins are what nailed Him to the cross. His prayer was answered when I obeyed the terms of pardon.

#### "TODAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE"

"Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise," was spoken to a man who had been on death row. This statement indicates that even the worst of sinners can be a companion of the Lord Jesus in heaven.

#### "BEHOLD THY MOTHER BEHOLD THY SON"

"Behold thy mother, behold thy son," was spoken during the greatest agony ever suffered. He was thinking of the welfare of others at that time.

#### "MY GOD! MY GOD! WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"

"My God! My God! Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Jesus was our scapegoat for all of our sins and at that moment even the Father forsook Him. Sin always separates. It separated Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sin will separate the unredeemed on the Day of Judgment. When Jesus says, "Depart from Me, ye cursed into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels." Many will realize part of the suffering of hell is separation from God unto eternal association with the Devil and with all the demons and the worst of damned humanity.

#### "I THIRST"

"I Thirst," are the words that put emphasis on the humanity of Jesus. He was thirsty. As far as we can tell the last drink that moistened His lips was the fruit of the vine when He instituted the Lord's Supper the night before. His thirst was not only the natural thirst of humanity, but also an indication of the eternal thirst of the damned. The rich man, in one of the incidents Jesus told, suffered from thirst. To have such intense thirst for all of eternity and no one to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool his tongue is one of the tortures of the lost.

#### "IT IS FINISHED"

"It is finished." This is the moment that the Lord Jesus had waited for from the moment of Genesis 3:15. "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel." At last it was done. The Son of the woman had smashed the head of the serpent. Paul told the Roman Church of Christ, "The Lord will bruise Satan under your feet shortly." As members of the Body of Christ we can put our foot on the Devil's neck too.

#### "INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT"

"Into Thy hands I commend My Spirit." Jesus commended His Spirit into the hands of the Father. That is an interesting statement in view of the tenth chapter of Hebrews. There is the statement about those that have trodden underfoot the Son of God and counted the blood of the covenant an unholy thing and have done despite to the spirit of grace. For we know Him that said, "Vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will ye recompense saith the Lord." And again the Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. When we leave this world all will fall into the hands of God.

Think of these statements of Jesus as He died on the cross; as you eat of the bread and drink of the fruit of the vine that so fitly represents His blood that was shed for our salvation.

## **LETTERS**

Hi Naomi,

I had a yard sale last week and your share is enclosed.

I didn't sell everything I had out, but sold enough to help out the Christian ministries I support each month. The Bible says, "to sell your possessions and give to the poor and you'll have treasure in heaven and come follow me." So that is what I did, I sold some of my possessions and am giving funds to ministries to give to the poor. Keep up the good deeds, God is always with you.

Mike from Madison, IN

This completes my first 30 Bible Study lessons. I thank you for your time and assistance with these study lessons. I would like to continue my studies with the next session of lessons. I am currently incarcerated at the Northeast Arkansas Community Correction Center in Osceola.

Thank you and God bless. Doug

I would like to order 5 of your Bible Study courses so my whole family can get to know the Bible better. This course was recommended by my husband who is in prison here in Arkansas.

Sincerely, Mrs. Vivian from Alma, AR. (These were sent and she and her family are doing the lessons)

Dear Naomi,

Just heard your radio broadcast this morning KAAY—1090 from Little Rock, AR. I have been incarcerated since 6/29/85 and studying with Jehovah's Witnesses. I found myself questioning my faith and teachings especially after hearing your broadcast. I know we are no longer under The Law, and I believe the gift of the Holy Spirit. The truth is all I seek; and to do His will. Any information along with a Bible will be greatly appreciated.

Johnny from Tucker, AR. (He was sent a Large print Bible, along with the first 5 lessons of our Bible Study, and information on Jehovah's Witnesses VS The Truth according to God's word. He continues to study with us)

Fellow inmates and brothers in Christ incarcerated around the world: I encourage you to maintain your faith and overcome sin and temptation. We are free through Christ our Savior no matter where we are. Be diligent in your daily Bible studies and be thankful for all that we have been given and never forget you are never alone, "God Is Just A Prayer Away".

William from Dermott, AR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Your program "God Is Just A Prayer Away" is one of the few that stay true to the word of God. Thank you for your preaching and being there for us in need.

Stan from Rockford, IL

#### To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Karol. I think what the Ed Bousman Evangelistic Organization is doing is great! It is so inspiring to see such powerful faith in action. It is like a living miracle, it really is. I would like a Bible. My grandson has been studying away ever since he received his copy last week. I've never seen any of my young ones just so interested in scriptures. The Bible is just so pleasant to look at and hold. I think it to be so incredible that a group of peo-

ple are this generous in the name of the Lord. I will keep you all in my prayers. Thank you for the Bible. Baytown, TX. (Her son is in prison, and when he received his Bible he asked if we would send one to his son that is living with Grandma).

Hi Madame Naomi! Thanks so much for replying back. I have some premonition that you were ill, & this has given me some worry for you. So glad that seems things are working well for you now. We keep on praying for you on your swift recovery. We will pray for brother Ofori also. We understand this would be some delays of his work too. Madame, appreciate too for the three boxes of Bibles & clothes. We will let you know when we have got them in the mail. OK Madame, take care always. We love you. Our children in our local churches send their regards too to all of you at GIJAPA. I am heading south today for a Bible study with a family of three. God Bless Us Always!

Ed Domingo, Sunset Beach Church of Christ in Philippines

#### Dear Sister Naomi,

Thanks so much beloved sister. I am getting better in Ghana and hope to be in The Gambia soon through His grace. Please keep on praying for me. I feel okay now but since I come from far, the doctor wants me to be here for some few weeks to make sure I am fully OK. Thanks for the posting of Bibles and boxes of clothes. If even I am not there before the Bibles arrive, one of the brothers will receive and I will keep you informed. We are very grateful for your help to us, beloved sister Naomi. You are very helpful to the work there. I also thank you for your prayers, I am also, and the brethren here praying for you and the GIJAPA work. Thanks so much in the Lord, sister.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of The Most High God in the London Corner Church of Christ, The Gambia

#### My Dear Sister Naomi,

Thank you for sending us Bibles and clothes, especially praying for us, our ministries and our brother Ofori

Alexander in Ghana, for quick recovery. I also pray for him all the time. We pray for you my sister too, and the GIJAPA work you are carrying on.

My children this week has been sent off from school again and again. The program to teach the baptized members for four months. Naomi is crying to go to school. We have applied for land to the municipal council to have our own land to build the Church in future. Land is very, very difficult to get in Zambia. Please pray for us and the Church to get the land. Thank you my sister. God continue to bless you and bless the work we are doing together.

Your brother and fellow servant of Christ, John Maseka, Evangelist†in the Messenger Church of Christ in Zambia

### THANK YOU! MANY TIMES OVER

After reading the above letters, you can see how important your individual and Church contributions are to GIJAPA and ALL we do each month! The para-ministries reaching beyond the "God Is Just A Prayer Away" radio broadcast include shipping Bibles (hard back pew Bibles) and nearly new clothing to sister churches in other parts of the world listening to GIJAPA, as well as shipping Bibles to prisoners within the U.S. along with the first five lessons of a correspondence Bible Study course. With increases in postage it now costs \$77.95 to send a large flat rate box of clothes or (13) Bibles out of the U.S. compared to \$60.95 last year. We shipped 202 boxes of Bibles and clothes out of the U.S. last six month and 465 large print Bibles to over 1,700 prisoners. One large print Bible cost, \$10 each plus \$3.43 to ship to a prisoner which includes ten Bible Studies and a pre-stamped return envelope (they have no money for postage). These para-ministries do not generate any funds, but because of your generosity we are able to carry on. This gives you a glimpse of what GIJAPA does beyond broadcasting the GOOD NEWS each week to millions throughout the world. THANK YOU SO MUCH! Now when I say that I can't do it without you, you know WHY!



Return Service Requested

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**ED BOUSMAN**