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Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor

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“Thine is the Glory”

by Edmond L. Budry

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)”

In the ancient world, no celebration was considered more glorious than the march of triumphant returning warriors through their capital city. Many visual depictions have been made of the victorious Roman soldiers in the early centuries, marching proudly through the streets and arches of Rome, leading captive slaves and hearing the boisterous approval of cheering admirers.

Christ our Savior fought the greatest battle of all time against the prince of this world and all of his legions. Our Lord returned triumphant to His Father, having conquered not only sin, death, and the grave, but Satan and hell also. Now He sits on the Father's right hand as the ruler of His kingdom and our personal advocate before God.

But the day of our celebration is just ahead. One can picture with imagination the procession that will occur in heaven when the Captain of Our Faith, Christ Himself, leads His bride, the Church, through the heavenly portals amidst the shouts and songs of praise and glory to the “risen, conquering Son.”

“Thine is the Glory” was originally written in 1884 in French – “A Toi la Gloire,” by Edmond L. Budry, a pastor in Vevey, Switzerland. Nearly forty years later, it was translated into English by Richard B. Hoyle and appeared in the *Cantate Domino Hymnal* used by the Christian Student Federation [Taken from *Amazing Grace* by Kenneth W. Osbeck]

*Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the vict'ry, Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment, rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.*

*Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.*

*No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of Life!
Life is naught without Thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.*

Chorus: Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

The Mystery of Being Faithful

Php 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

Php 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

The great mystery of being faithful as a Christian is two-sided. It is God's continual work in us combined with our working as well. This is not a 50-50 proposition; we meet God halfway and He meets us halfway. No, it is a mystery of 100% our work and 100% God's work.

1. Being faithful is 100% God's work. Paul teaches the Philippians that they had been faithful to Christ up to this point because God had begun a good work in them (1:6) and was continually working in them to will and to work for His good pleasure.

In the epistle, Paul commends them for their faithfulness to Christ. They were holding forth the gospel to others; they had remembered Paul in jail and sent help to him. They had experienced encouragement in Christ, the consolation of God's love, the fellowship of the Spirit, the affection and compassion of God in His grace (2:1-3).

As far as we can tell, the Philippians bore much fruit of the Spirit in their Christian faithfulness. We do not see Paul rebuking them for being dull of hearing the Word of God (Heb. 5:11), or skipping church meetings (Heb. 10:25). They had love for God and man (1:9), they were a praying people (1:19), they had struggled with Paul for the gospel preaching (4:3). They had much faithfulness to commend them.

However, Paul tells them that any positive virtues they had was 100% the work of God in them, willing and working for His good pleasure. It was God who had begun His good work in them (1:6). He is speaking here of the sovereign work of God to save them, while they were still in their sins.

As Peter said, they were "chosen, elected" by God to be saved and set apart by the Holy Spirit in the new birth in order to obey Jesus Christ and be cleansed by His blood and to have a living hope:

1Pe 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

In other words, their salvation was due 100% to God's work in them. They were all baptized in the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13) when they were saved.

And not only did God begin a good work in them, but He continually willed and worked in them to keep their faith alive and living for Christ (2:13). So, there was no room for pride in their original salvation nor in their continued faithfulness; no room for self-righteousness nor arrogance toward others. God alone receives the glory for their faithfulness.

Christians must remember that both their faith in Christ unto salvation as well as any faithful living is evidence of God's work in them. Every conviction of sin, every illumination to understand God's Word, every impulse to pray or to obey, every act of obedience is God's working in them to continually will and to work for His good pleasure.

This is very comforting and encouraging that God does not leave us to ourselves to be faithful. He brings to completion the work He has begun. Holiness is 100% the work of God in us. He will not quit.

2. Being faithful is 100% the work of man. That's right! Christian faithfulness is 100% the work of God and 100% the work of man. It is not 50-50. Nor is it quit trying and "let go and let God work through you". Nor is it that God has done all He can and now it is entirely up to you alone. These errors result either in irresponsibility or legalistic living.

No, God works and we work. We are to exert 100% effort and willpower to "work out our salvation in fear and trembling." We are to put on the whole armor of God and fight the good fight of faith (Eph. 6:10-20; 2 Tim. 4:7).

We do not relax and wait upon God to move us to faithfulness. We do not "gut it out" as if we are left to our own abilities alone. NO! We respond to the salvation God has worked in us with all our heart, 100%. If you don't feel like praying, pray till you feel like it. If you don't feel like reading God's Word, force yourself to read it till God blesses you. If you don't feel like going to church, go anyway to worship God and care more about others than yourself. If you are tempted to a sin, flee from the temptation as Joseph did (Gen. 39:12; Matt. 5:27-30).

According to Louis Berkhof (Sys. Theol., 534, 537), God has restored ability in the new birth to cooperate with God in our faithfulness. He has given us faith in Christ to exercise every day. Remembering His justification by faith alone, we flee to Him with 100% effort and "work out [our] salvation with fear and trembling." For we know from Scripture, God is continually working in us to will and to work for His good pleasure. He has not, and He will not, leave us alone. Faithfulness is 100% God's Work and 100% man's work. So...work out your salvation with faith.

Pastor Malone



From Spurgeon's Morning and Evening

"O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame?" --[Psalm 4:2](#)

An instructive writer has made a mournful list of the honors which the blinded people of Israel awarded to their long expected King.

1. They gave him a procession of honor, in which Roman legionaries, Jewish priests, men and women, took a part, he himself bearing his cross. This is the triumph which the world awards to him who comes to overthrow man's direst foes. Derisive shouts are his only acclamations, and cruel taunts his only paeans of praise.

2. They presented him with the wine of honor. Instead of a golden cup of generous wine they offered him the criminal's stupefying death draught, which he refused because he would preserve an uninjured taste wherewith to taste of death; and afterwards when he cried, "I thirst", they gave him vinegar mixed with gall, thrust to his mouth upon a sponge. Oh! wretched, detestable inhospitality to the King's Son.

3. He was provided with a guard of honor, who showed their esteem of him by gambling over his garments, which they had seized as their booty. Such was the bodyguard of the adored of heaven; a quaternion of brutal gamblers.

4. A throne of honor was found for him upon the bloody tree; no easier place of rest would rebel men yield to their liege Lord. The cross was, in fact, the full expression of the world's feeling towards him; "There", they seemed to say, "thou Son of God, this is the manner in which God himself should be treated, could we reach him."

5. The title of honor was nominally "King of the Jews", but that the blinded nation distinctly repudiated, and really called him "King of thieves", by preferring Barabbas, and by placing Jesus in the place of highest shame between two thieves. His glory was thus in all things turned into shame by the sons of men, but it shall yet gladden the eyes of saints and angels, world without end.



ARBCA Missionary Focus

Meet one of the missionary families we support through our offerings: The Vaughns – David, Nicky, Caroline, Jonathan & Michelle
FRANCE

David writes: Since I wrote you last, we have had a couple of special evangelistic services at which 15 or so invited unbelievers have come, one of them being at Christmas. Among those at our Christmas service was G--, an 8-year-old boy who had come to the Christmas service last year and has not been to church since. (Last year was probably his first service). This year, as he listened to the presentation of the gospel, he was literally on the edge of his seat and brimming with questions of the right kind. At one point when my wife Nicky showed the children a black piece of paper representing the sin of our hearts he asked, "Does that mean that my heart is as black as that sheet of paper?" Because Nicky came from a family that never went to church like this boy and as she was converted through the ministry of a Sunday School, her heart rejoiced to see this young lad touched by the gospel. Please pray for all those were present at these recent meetings.

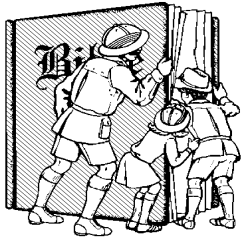
One of the men who has come to the last two or three evangelistic meetings that we have held has now started attending Sunday Services with his wife. They have been irregular in attendance until now, but he has just told me that they have arranged for his wife not to work on Sundays anymore so that they could both come to church. They have just gotten married, and Nicky and I are taking them through a course we usually use for preparing young couples for marriage. They are from a Catholic background and understand very little of Scriptural teaching, and even less of the heart of the gospel, but they are all ears.

We also have had the joy of welcoming into our fellowship a young couple that has moved from Quebec and was attending Eglise Baptiste Reformee de la Capitale, pastured by our friends Jacques Pelletier and Raymond Perron. The young man, Loic, was in fact baptized about three months ago in that church. His wife, Lucilene, is doing research for a doctoral degree at the University of Grenoble. She is Brazilian and Loic is French.

Just after Christmas we held our Winter Camp for university students. We had almost 50 students present and had to refuse five others due to lack of space. About a third of them were newcomers to the camp, with about 15 of them coming from Grenoble, many of them being students involved in a Christian ministry on the campus. Looking out over such a group of French-speaking university students who are hearing solid Reformed teaching was such a joy for us. Please pray that God would raise up a great crop of godly adults, gospel workers, and pastors from this group.

Our new Reformed Baptist Publishing House, "Les Editions Reperes" has just published its second book. It is the French translation of Stuart Olyott's book, *You Might Have Asked*. Its different chapters respond to common questions of non-Christians which are well chosen and arranged to communicate all the fundamental truths of the gospel: "Can we be sure that God exists?" "Can the Bible be trusted?" "Is there any purpose in man's existence?" "What has gone wrong with the world?" "Who is Jesus Christ?" "Was the cross really necessary?" "How long does it take to become a Christian?" "Does it really matter what I believe?" "Why do Christians have to be different?" "What happens when we die?" and "How can I be sure?"

David asks for prayer for a man with an advanced stage of cancer, a well-loved university professor, who has been given a copy of this newly translated book. "O please pray that God will open this man's eyes in a glorious way in these very days ahead."



Book Room Review

The Momentous Event – A Discussion of Scripture Teaching on the Second Coming
By W. J. Grier

From the back cover:

"This little book sets forth in orderly and eminently readable fashion what most Calvinistic teachers believe concerning 'the Second Advent and questions related thereto'. With orthodox Christians of every age, the author holds that our Lord's return will be personal, visible, sudden and unexpected, glorious and triumphant. Of three views styled respectively post-millennialism, pre-millennialism, and non-millennialism, he advocates the last named as scriptural and shows that it has been maintained by a large majority of the Fathers and Reformers of the Church. In two valuable chapters dealing with the interpretation of prophecy, he points out that the literalist view leads logically to absurdities and is not adopted by the writers of the New Testament, who specifically state that many of the Old Testament predictions have been fulfilled, albeit in a spiritual sense.

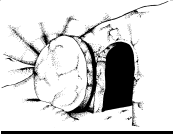
A general consideration of New Testament teaching on the subject is followed by a more detailed review of the doctrine of the Gospels, Epistles, and Apocalypse, with special attention being devoted to the significance of the "millennium" of Revelation chapter 20. Here is a book that will well repay study by those who seek to understand truth that is basic to Christian faith and hope."

[You may purchase this book from our Book Table for \$4.00]



"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22

Newsbytes and Announcements



"The resurrection of Christ, as the evidence of the sacrifice of his death being accepted, and of the validity of all his claims, is a much more decisive proof of the security of all who trust in Him than His death could be." – Charles Hodge

"The resurrection is a fact better attested than any event recorded in any history, whether ancient or modern." -- C.H. Spurgeon



Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

This is a little story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.



Censorship?

It's uncertain when, or if, the *Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization* will reach bookstore shelves, but the delayed release of the four-volume work fueled debate about possible suppression of Christian academics by secular publishers. Scholarly publisher Wiley-Blackwell's decision to withdraw the encyclopedia after it was printed and debuted at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature in November ignited controversy. Editor George T. Kurian e-mailed the encyclopedia's nearly 400 contributors in February and called the decision "probably the first instance of mass book-burning in the 21st century. According to Kurian, president of the Encyclopedia Society and editor of 60 reference works, the encyclopedia was delayed because four critics called it "too Christian, too orthodox, too anti-secular, and too anti-Muslim, and not politically correct enough for being used in universities." Kurian said changes requested by Wiley – including removal of terms such as B.C./A.D., Virgin Birth, and Resurrection – were "the most blatant form of censorship in the history of religious publishing." [Christianity Today, April 2009]



Planned Parenthood Losing Favor?

The Orange County Board of supervisors last month canceled a Planned Parenthood community health education contract, putting a \$300,000 dent in the California group's wallet. Since abortion is the group's major profit center, supervisors said, it is not likely to offer unbiased education. Planned Parenthood objected, saying the money was not used to fund or promote abortion. But Orange County board chairman John Moorlach disagreed: "When you contact a law firm that specializes in bankruptcies, they most likely will advise you to file for bankruptcy," Moorlach wrote in the email to constituents prior to the board's vote. "If you go to Planned Parenthood, they are most likely to recommend their specialized surgical solution, which they provide and are compensated for, which appears to be a conflict of interest." The vote follows similar moves elsewhere, such as Corpus Christi, TX and Sarasota, FL. "With the bad economic turn, a lot of these agencies are looking at their books more closely," said Tom McClusky, senior vice president of Family Research Council Action. "Maybe they're realizing that subsidizing an agency like Planned Parenthood isn't the best use of government funds. [World Magazine, April 11, 2009]

On the Lighter Side

Quotes

"We're going to turn this team around 360 degrees." Jason Kidd, upon his drafting by the Dallas Mavericks.

"Half this game is ninety percent mental." Philadelphia Phillies manager, Danny Ozark.

"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it." Al Gore, when Vice President.

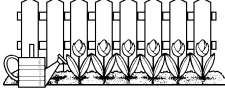
"I love California. I practically grew up in Phoenix." Dan Quayle.

"It's no exaggeration to say that the undecideds could go one way or another." George Bush, when President.

"If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure." Bill Clinton, when President.

"I'm not going to have some reporters pawing through our papers. We are the president." Hillary Clinton, commenting on the release of subpoenaed documents during President Clinton's term of office.

APRIL



2009

S	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (M. Vargo)	2 (B. Walker)	3 (F. Walker)	4 (G. Alexander)
5 LORD'S DAY S.S. – 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship Meal 1:30 Lord's Supper Service (no evening service) (B. Andrews)	6 (W. Andrews)	7 (C. Axsom)	8 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (M. Axsom)	9 (A. Barnett)	10 (N. Bennett)	11 (R. Boudreaux)
12 LORD'S DAY S.S. – 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45a.m. Fellowship Meal Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. (J. Carline)	13 (M. Carline)	14 (W. Carruth)	15 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (R. Clark)	16 (Rachel Clark)	17 (N. Covington)	18 (S. Creasy)
19 LORD'S DAY S.S. – 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45a.m. Fellowship Meal Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. (F. Daniel)	20 (C. Dighton)	21 (John Dighton)	22 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (J. Durham)	23 Ladies' Study 9:30 a.m. (M. Durham)	24 (J. Edwards)	25 (L. Efferson)
26 LORD'S DAY S.S. – 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship 10:45a.m. Fellowship Meal Men's Study 5:00 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. (S. Eschete)	27 (B. Fudge)	28 (B. Gardner)	29 (F. Hunt)	30 Deacon's Mtg. 6:30 pm (B. Hurst)		

Remember to pray for the families in parentheses each day!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

3 – Anna Schindler
9 – Chad Owens
10 – Sarah Smith
11 – Floyd Daniel
12 – Fred Malone

14 – Adelyne Owens
16 – Philip Johnstone
19 – Bobbie Walker
20 – Trish Schindler
25 – Elizabeth Schindler

29 – Jennifer Dighton
30 – Eleanore Hurst

Children's Corner

EASTER CARD

Many symbols remind us of Jesus' death and resurrection. This Easter, put some of those symbols on special cards. Then give the cards to other people to share the good news that Jesus is alive.


What you need:

- Craft foam
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Empty food can without label
- Paint and paintbrush
- Paper plate
- Paper (8 1/2" x 11")
- Markers or crayons



What you do:


1. Choose some simple Easter shapes to draw on the craft foam (cross, empty tomb, heart, etc.).
2. Cut out each shape.
3. With an adult's help, glue the shapes onto the can.
4. Pour a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate.
5. Roll the can in the paint and then roll the can onto the paper.
6. Try this several times using different colors.
7. When your paper is dry, fold it into a card.
8. Write "Happy Easter!" or a Bible verse on the front of the card. Then give it to someone.




OUR LIVING HOPE

Easter is a time to rejoice because of what God did for us in sending his Son. Jesus is our living hope. Read 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV) below. Then find the **bold** words in the crossword search.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you ..."





P	R	A	I	S	E
P	E	R	I	S	H
B	I	R	T	H	A
K	E	P	T	U	S
L	O	R	F	A	D
E	V	E	A	R	G



R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	J	E	S	U
H	E	A	V	E	N	I	N	H	A	D	L	I	V	I	N
I	G	S	P	O	I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N	C	E
C	H	R	I	S	T	L	O	R	D	P	R	A	I	S	W

H	O	P	N	S	E
H	O	P	E	P	L
L	I	V	V	O	I
J	E	S	E	I	V
E	V	E	R	L	I
S	U	F	F	E	N
U	T	A	S	I	G
S	O	D	O	E	T
A	M	E	R	C	Y





Let the little children come to Me..."