

Praise God!

Gary C. Hampton

Peter said God is praised ("blessed") because of His great mercy, displayed in Christians being allowed to be born again (1 Peter 1:3; John 3:1-8; Romans 6:1-11; James 1:18). We are born into a life of hope because Jesus was raised from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:16-20; Ephesians 2:12-13). Our hope is alive because Christ is alive from the grave, showing God can also make us alive (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

Peter further described the Christian's living hope as an inheritance, which is for children born into a family (1 Peter 1:4; Acts 20:32; Romans 8:13-17). Earthly inheritances are temporary and perishable (Matthew 6:19-20). The Christian's inheritance is permanent, lasting and "undefiled" because no sin or impurity will be allowed in Heaven (Revelation 21:27). The apostle used the word *amarantos* to describe the unending nature of Heaven. "The amaranth was a fabled flower whose bloom was perpetual, and whose loveliness never failed" (Woods 27). "Reserved" depicts a military guard keeping watch over the inheritance which is in Heaven.

The Christian is guarded by God as surely as is his inheritance (1 Peter 1:5; Romans 8:28; Philippians 4:7). God guards the Christian through his faith. It is essential to realize, as Peter did, that one's faith can fail. Each should do all within his power to avoid such failing (Luke 22:31-32; 1 Timothy 1:19-20; Hebrews 3:12). We should desire to keep that faith constant until the last time, or day of judgment, when final, complete salvation will be revealed.

Praise God for the mercy displayed at Calvary. Praise God for the inheritance that belongs to each Christian. Praise God by remaining faithful until we go to our heavenly home!
- via *Gospel Gazette Online* -

Satan's Lies

Cecil May, Jr.

Jesus said of Satan, "He is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44 ESV). Even if his words have a grain of truth in them, his assertions will always be half-truths, designed to deceive. I sometimes preach a sermon to young people I call, "All Satan's Apples Have Worms."

Satan told Eve, "You will not surely die, For God knows that when you eat of it, you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5). Indeed, as the name of the tree suggested, when they ate, they knew good and evil, but not like God. They knew evil by disobeying God and thus participating in it. God never knew evil by doing evil. Satan lied again.

- via *Gospel Gazette Online* -

If Christians would praise God more, the world would doubt Him less.

News & Notes

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED: By request of our Elders, for **EVERYONE in ALL of our assemblies** regardless of where seated.

SYMPATHY: To the Scharlotte Jones and family at the recent passing of her sister, Marie Lott. May God comfort the family.

NEW ADDRESS: Dana Rine, P.O. Box 94, Mineral Wells, WV 26150. Cell: 304-374-7851. Dana will be living with his son and daughter-in-law, Pat & Bev Rine.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each **Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.**

PANTRY: Canned vegetables.

PICTURE GALLERY OF PAST MEMBERS: Submit pictures (black and white or color) to David Malcomson.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Linda Parkes (radiation treatments), **Lori Rowand** (John Sprout's niece), Stage 4 lung cancer. Her address: 305 Bentley Ave., Newell, WV 26050. **SICK & SHUT-IN: Weirton Medical: Tim Adkins, Mike West, George Cox** (husband of Nancy). **At Home:** Linda Wiersbicki, Terri Patterson - Covid, Barbara DeLong, David McCoy, Marlene Evans, Russell Martin, Claudette Miller, Jim & Linda Hall (members at Southern Hills).

WANTS vs. NEEDS

- ◆ I may **want** to accumulate all the physical things I possibly can -- I **need** to realize that my life does not consist of the amount of the things that I own (Luke 12:15).
- ◆ I may **want** to appear "sophisticated and wise" in my religious beliefs and practices -- I **need** to hear "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2), and to take my own cross (Matt. 16:24).
- ◆ I may **want** to spend all my time in leisure, "free from responsibility" -- I **need** to work and provide for my family (Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:8).
- ◆ I may **want** to hear all "positive preaching" -- I **need** to be reproved, rebuked, and exhorted (2 Tim. 4:2).
- ◆ I may **want** to treat my children as "small adults" and be their "best friend" -- I **need** to be their parent and properly discipline and train them before God (Eph. 6:4).
- ◆ I may **want** to keep my total independence even though married -- I **need** to remember the mutual dependence of husband and wife (1 Cor. 7:3; Col 3:18).
- ◆ I may become so accustomed to, and so enamored with this world that I **want** to live here forever -- I **need** to remember that my citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20).
- ◆ I may **want** to live a solitary Christian life -- I **need** the church (1 Cor. 12:27).
- ◆ I may **want** to assert my rights and privileges and live the way I **want** to -- I **need** to remember that no man lives to himself and that one day every one of us will give an account of himself to God (Rom. 14:8, 12).
- ◆ I may **want** to live my life without God -- I **need** God (Psa. 46:1).
- ◆ I may **want** to go to heaven under my terms -- I **need** to follow God's ways to get there (Matt. 7:13-14, 21-23).
- ◆ I may **want** to give up when the going gets tough -- I **need** to be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).
- ◆ I may **want** to please people -- I **need** to please God. (Gal. 1:10).

~ Lance Cordle, Bulletingold.com (via Dewey Avenue Church of Christ, St. Marys, WV) ~