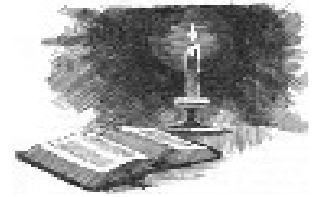


# The BEACON



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## God is Great God is Good

I do not remember when I was first taught these words but I presume that they were the first words of praise that I uttered. My mother and dad would listen to me recite these words in prayer at the table as I learned to be thankful and "say grace" for my food. The prayer went on to say, "by His hands we must be fed, give us Lord our daily bread, in Jesus name Amen." These are simple words but full of meaning and beauty whether uttered by a child or by an adult. God is truly great and good.

He is great and good in SENDING HIS SON TO DIE FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD. John 3:16-"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. What would you do without Jesus? We would be lost in sin with no hope of salvation (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). The prophet Isaiah tells us in chapter 53 that Jesus took the punishment that was due to us and he did it willingly and with the full knowledge of His Father. God is so GREAT in sending His Son Jesus to save us from sin.

God is great and good in THE ETERNAL PLAN OF SALVATION HE GAVE. Ephesians 1:3-14 tells us of that plan being an eternal one and God has ordained that all who comply with His terms of pardon will be saved eternally. It does not matter whether we are Jew or Greek, rich or poor healthy or sick. God has ordained that all who meet the conditions of pardon by being saved through the blood of His precious Son will be able to live in heaven one day. The plan is a simple one but so ignored by those in the world. We are to Hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17) then we must believe (Heb. 11:6) we must then repent of our sins (Acts 2:38) and then confess with our mouths that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 10:10) and finally we must be baptized in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21) and live a faithful life until death (Rev. 2:10). We must serve the Lord faithfully out of love for His amazing grace and mercy toward us. Our motives for serving Him cannot be less. What a wonderful and simple plan God has given to us.

God is great for HIS LONGSUFFERING. He could close this old world down any time he wants, but every second we live is a tribute to the longsuffering of God toward man.

God is great and good for THE WORD HE PRESERVED FOR US. 2 Timothy 3:16,17 says it is able to furnish us completely unto every good work. The Word is powerful (Rom. 1:16) and we are not to be ashamed of it. We are assured by God that no man has the right to alter it in any way (Gal. 1:6-8). We are also told in Hebrews 4:12 that it is sharper than any two-edged sword and discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart of man. God is truly great and good. Thank Him now for that. ---SWA---

# “THE LORD FORBID THAT I SHOULD STRETCH FORTH MY HAND AGAINST GOD’S ANOINTED”

(1 Samuel 26:11)

In this text David chastises Abishai for wanting to “stretch forth his hand against God’s anointed.” He tells Abishai that no one can do that and be “guiltless” (v. 10). Although David was being mistreated by Saul and might have been justified in the eyes of men to take the opportunity to do away with Saul, he was not going to interfere with God’s plan for a king. If Saul was to fall then it would be at the hands of someone other than David and those under his control.

David sets a standard here that continues in the New Testament. Although David did stretch forth his hand against God Himself, when he presumed to commit adultery with Bathsheba and murder Uriah, he was a man otherwise, of great conviction. What David refused to do with Saul, he did in another way when he sinned against God with Bathsheba and Uriah.

How can anyone stretch forth their hand against God’s anointed today? Jesus, our Savior is God’s Anointed. It is Jesus who reigns on David’s throne today over His spiritual kingdom, the church (Acts 2:25-36). Keeping that in mind, we must all have the same attitude toward our Savior that David had toward Saul. We dare not stretch forth our hand against Jesus. We do this when we sin against Him. This is an act of hate on our part. If we love Him we will do His commandments. However, many who claim to belong to the Lord and wear His name, behave in very disrespectful ways towards Him. As a sassy, spoiled child many dictate to the Lord their terms of obedience rather than submitting to His will. Some blatantly ignore what He has revealed to us regarding attendance, godly living and evangelism. When that is done, they have stretched forth their hand against God. As David observed, no one can do that and be guiltless.

Let us be careful how we observe the statutes of the Lord and make certain that we are not disrespecting God. It is not only necessary to obey the Lord’s commands, it is also urgent that we observe those laws with the right attitude. Just going through the motions of being a Christian will not please the Lord. We must love His law and meditate on it day and night (Ps. 1). We must desire to serve and please Him above all else (Mt. 6:33). We must care about the souls of the lost and do all we can to reach them before it is too late. We are to be sowing the seed of the kingdom. Many in the Lord’s church lament the lack of baptisms today, but we must ask ourselves if we are sowing the Seed the way it was done in times past?

When I was a child I remember going with my dad and mom to gospel meetings (10 day ones), where it was not uncommon to have one or more responses each night of the meeting. This was in a time when my dad and other preachers did not have any audio-visual aids. They preached from the text and convicted the hearts of men. On occasion, my dad and others I heard would use an acrostic lesson, or a bed sheet

chart that was full of scriptures. Brethren would invite their neighbors to the meeting and if the meeting was going well, the brethren would ask the preacher to extend (protract) the meeting. Hundreds of hardened hearts were melted by the Jerusalem gospel.

What has changed? We live in a time where we have more “time-saving” gizmos than ever before- yet we have less time. We are a leisure-mad society but seldom give up that leisure time for spiritual concerns. Has the gospel changed? No. Have the hearts of men changed? No. Have Christians changed in their devotion to the tasks God has charged us with? Yes, in many cases. We will contribute money to preach the gospel all over the world, but cannot find the time to take to our individual neighborhoods. We will gladly give money to help someone who is ailing or down on their luck, but we do not have the time to teach them or give them our time and ear to just listen to what they say. We will buy our children everything necessary for secular education and extracurricular activities, but many still lack Bibles. We can talk to our neighbors and friends about virtually anything, but cannot muster the courage to hand them a tract or invite them to a gospel meeting.

Imagine what it must have been like in the first century in Rome. Do you suppose the Jews and Romans had a life? Did they educate their children? Did they engage in entertainment? Did they have jobs? Did they have budgets to be met? Did it take any time to be a shepherd, farmer or merchant? Of course it did and they had these distractions as we do. They also lived in a world much more wicked and vile than the societies we live in. Still, in the midst of all of this, the gospel was spread throughout the world. Zeal was high and evangelism was a way of life. The thing that was different was the priority that was set for telling the Word to others. It was foremost in the minds of early Christians. They talked about the Lord to anyone who would give them the time. We often give up before we get started by assuming a person will not listen. The Lord brings the increase in baptisms, but no scriptural baptism ever happened without the Word being heard. Let us be careful not to stretch forth our hand against God’s Anointed by failing to teach others.---SWA--

**➤ Your soul is important to us ◀**

**If you would like to set up a study, or if we can help you in any way,  
please contact us.**

**We meet at 656 St. James Ch. Rd. in Newton,  
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Worship – 11:00 AM**

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# Can a Child of God Fall?

By Johnie Edwards, Bloomington, Indiana

If you have been taught that a child of God cannot so sin as to be eternally lost, just take a look at these scriptures and then decide what the Bible teaches.

(1) Why this warning? "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10:12.) Why would God tell a person to take heed lest he fall if he could not fall?

(2) If a person can become an unbeliever he can jail. John said "an unbeliever shall not see life." (John 3:36.) Now listen to the apostle as he wrote to the Hebrews, "Take heed brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God." (Heb. 3:12.)

(3) Man can jail from God's grace. "Lest there be any man that falleth short of the grace of God." (Heb. 12:15.) There is a fine example of some falling from grace in the person of the Galatians. Because they tried to justify themselves by the Law of Moses, Paul said, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law. ye are fallen from grace." (Gal. 5:4.)

(4) If men can be led away with error they can jail. "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness." (2 Pet. 3:17.) Many have given in to error!

(5) John said Christians could sin. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8.) The person who thinks that he lives above sin is just deceiving himself.

(6) To deny that all can sin is to make God a liar. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." (1 John 1:10.)

(7) We have Bible examples of some who did fall. Judas fell by his transgression. (Acts 1:25.) Simon committed sin of the heart. (Acts 8:13-22.) The Corinthians sinned. (1 Cor. 5:1-7.) Some made shipwreck of their faith. (1 Tim. 1:19.) Some even denied the faith. (1 Tim. 5:8.)

(8) Christians are told what to do when they jail by sin. Simon was told to repent and pray. (Acts 8:13-22.) He had already been baptized.

We must confess our sins as children of God, when we sin. (1 John 1:9.)

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