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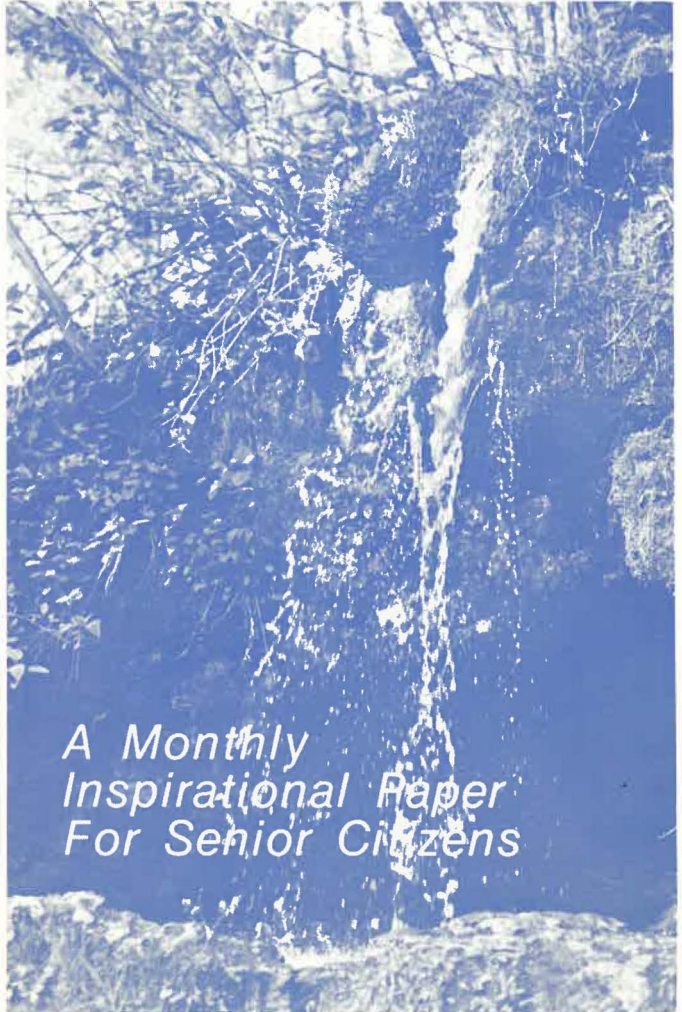
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*A Monthly
Inspirational Paper
For Senior Citizens*

JULY 1979

THERE IS A MAN IN YOUR FUTURE

by
Dr. Lehman Strauss

Part III

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "His name shall be called Wonderful" (Isaiah 9:6). The same word translated as "Wonderful" is translated as "Secret" in Judges 13:18. That word "Wonderful" in Isaiah 9:6 is a proper noun; however, I will borrow it to use as an adjective to describe the Man in your future (Jesus Christ).

6. *He is wonderful in His valuable intercession.*

Not long ago a man challenged me with the question, "If Jesus Christ is alive, where is He and what is He doing?" I was delighted to tell him that the story of Jesus did not end with His Resurrection. The ascension of Jesus to Heaven was the next step in His great work. It is not difficult to follow Him after His Resurrection. There are no fewer than ten appearances of Christ following His rising from the grave. These appearances were not to one person, nor to one group of persons, but to different persons at different times. Christ's final appearance was to His apostles. He had just given to them His final commission: "And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:8,9). Mark says, "He was received up into heaven and sat on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19). Luke wrote, "He was parted from them, and carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:51). The Man in your future is alive in Heaven functioning as the *Church's Head* (Ephesians 1:22,23), the *Christian's help* (Ephesians 4:8,11,12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25), and the *Church's hope* (Titus 2:13).

7. *He is wonderful in His visible return.*

The Man in your future must return to earth. He said, "If I go...I will come again" (John 14:3). "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). When He comes back, He will settle some unfinished business between Himself and you. Every person will face Him. The meeting is unavoidable, incapable of being shunned. Right

now you have either received or rejected Him, but your attitude toward Him in this life will not prevent your meeting with Him when He returns. You may be very sure that He is in your future. There is no escaping that inevitable meeting.

The coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only article in the Apostles' Creed which has reason attached to it. "He shall come to judge the quick and the Dead." His first coming was to save; at His second coming He will judge. At His first coming He humbled Himself; at His second coming He will be honored. Scoffers and rejectors of the truth have no faith in the personal and visible return of Christ. But He is in their future nevertheless. I will not discuss here the weaknesses and strengths in those three positions known as Pre-millennial, Post-millennial, and Amillennial. The great danger is not the divergence of views regarding the *time* of His coming, but the unbelief which refuses to face the fact of His coming altogether.

Has our world ever been in greater need of a good and wise Judge? Jesus Christ is that Judge. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son (John 5:22).

Peter said, "and He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the judge of the quick (i.e. living) and dead" (Acts 10:42). Paul said that God "appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by *that man* whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto *all men*, in that He hath raised Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). "That man" is the Man in your future, and when He comes, "God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ" (Romans 2:16).

He is in the future of every Christian. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10). Yes, beloved in Christ, we have this also in prospect, when our Lord inquires of us as to our works for Him. The Man in our future will judge us as to our salvation. We have received and trusted Him. He knows His sheep. But how have we worked for Him? And what have been our motives when we were busy for Him? Have we heaped a pile of wood, hay and stubble? Or have we built upon the foundation of gold, silver and precious stones?

REFLECTIONS of FAITH

Edited by
Pat Farmwald

Grace

Grace is God's unmerited favor,
That upon us He does bestow.
This is what we do receive,
When the Lord Jesus we do know.

Good works won't save us,
No matter how hard we try.
Salvation is a free gift.
It's something you can not buy.

Jesus paid the ransom;
His death was the penalty,
When He shed His blood
Upon the cross of Calvary.

Evelyn Nitso

Gratitude

Tonight I sat and thought awhile
'Bout how the Lord will bless,
And fill a life that He can claim
With untold happiness.
And while my mind would wander far
And shatter distance's coldness,
My reminiscence turned to prayer;
I looked to God with boldness.
I thanked Him first for every grace,
For patience undeserving,
For home and comfort here on earth
And Heaven's home reserving.
Words fail when we ponder long
Upon the joys He sends.
And one of these I treasure most
Is that of Christian friends.
Dear friend of mine, He's used your life
Younger lives to mold.
To challenge them in service kind
To greater heights untold.
There's much to thank Him for tonight,
He's been so good, 'tis true.
But now I thank Him that He gave
The joy of knowing you!

Garrison Rice



In God Who Trusts?

by
Mark J. Highman

In March of 1865 a three-cent copper nickel coin was introduced in the United States which was imprinted with the motto: "IN GOD WE TRUST." According to one historian, it was the distress of the war that made way for this motto to be placed on coins. About a hundred years later Congress passed a law requiring that all U.S. currency carry this motto, which in turn would be "emphasizing the religious trend in the American public life." Today the currency still bears this motto, but nobody notices.

My question is this: who really trusts God? Does America trust God? Do you trust God? How about me, do I trust God? Let's notice together what constitutes trusting in God and how we can know who is trusting Him.

Hebrews 11:1 gives the definition God places on faith: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The Bible reads: Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith does not stop at salvation. Even Paul states that in Phillipians 2:12b - "(keep building on top of your *salvation with fear and trembling*" (paraphrase is mine). Why do we need faith? The spiritual realm is invisible to human eyes. We live our spiritual lives by faith, not sight, because we depend totally (or trust) on God.

Here is a test for true faith (or trust) in God.

ONE-WALKING WORTHY. Ephesians 4:2 challenges the believer to walk worthy. We as believers are saved by the grace of God and become Christ - ians. In other words, we are image bearers of Jesus Christ. It is your and my responsibility to portray the character of Jesus

Christ. It takes faith to walk worthy, because you have to walk in the opposite direction of the world.

TWO-GOD CONSCIOUSNESS. I Timothy 1:19 tells us to hold "*faith, and a good conscience*". The verse states that those who put faith away have resulted in shipwrecked lives. We are to have our minds on the things of God consistently. Do you? Do you read His word daily? Pray daily? Do you bear the burdens of the cross daily (witness and disciple)? We should be able to say with David in Psalm 1:2, "(The believer's) delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night".

THREE - ENDURANCE. II Thessalonians 1:4 describes a beautiful scene which was characteristic of the Thessalonian believers: "...Patience and faith in all (their) persecutions and tribulations that [they] endured". God promises in James 1:12 that the person who endures problem situations shall be happy and shall grow spiritually (as we see in earlier verses of that chapter). Can you claim spiritual victory in problem situations? Are you happy? or do you crumble under every trial and tribulation? How about your spiritual life—are you growing? These are all evidences of how much you really trust in God.

How about America? It doesn't look like she lives up to her motto. How about you? Do you live as if you were trusting in God? If not, why not start today? It's never too late to start for Christ. Don't allow your life to stay shipwrecked. Push back into the waters of faith and get on the move for God. He will bless you more for it, and you will be able to truthfully acclaim with all spiritual believers—IN GOD WE TRUST!

Daily Walk Through God's Word

July	Morning	Evening
1	II Chronicles 33,34	Colossians 4
2	35,36 Ezra	I Thessalonians 1
3	1,2	2
4	3,4	3
5	5,6	4
6	7,8	5
7	9,10 Nehemiah	II Thessa. 1
8	1,2,3	2
9	4,5	3
10	6,7	I Timothy 1
11	8,9	2
12	10,11	3
13	12,13 Esther	4
14	1,2	5
15	3,4,5	6
16	6,7,8	II Timothy 1
17	9,10 Job	2
18	1,2,3	3
19	4,5	4
20	6,7	Titus 1
21	8,9	2
22	10,11	3
23	12,13	Philemon 1
24	14,15	Hebrews 1
25	16,17,18	2
26	19,20	3
27	21,22	4
28	23,24,25	5
29	26,27,28	6
30	29,30	7
31	31,32	8

by LoAnna

Mr. Earl Conaway has been serving the Lord with his voice for the past fifty years. With his strong voice he sings praises to his God in church services, special gatherings, and at Golden Agers, which is a time of fellowship for those over fifty in his church.

Mr. Conaway, who is seventy-three, is a member of Clintonville Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. Just recently he has been elected to the deacon board of that church. What a testimony of his fine Christian example to other believers! Many times as people grow older and reach retirement age, they feel their time of service is over and that God can no longer use them. Here is a man who still sings to bring honor and glory to God and who will be able to give of his wisdom and experience as a deacon in his local church.

Mr. Conaway also serves the Lord through his warmth and friendliness. He always has a word of cheer or a compliment for visitors and other members of his church. His wife, Blanche, graciously helps in this ministry as she, too, has a kind word for everyone. It is friendliness like theirs that helps encourage people to continue coming to church.

God is very real to Mr. Conaway. Seven years ago Mr. Conaway was in the hospital with only one hour to live but, as he explained, the Lord

Verse For 1

*"For our conversation
whence also we look for
Jesus Christ: Who shall
that it may be fashioned
body, according to the
able even to subdue a*

Servants

Hamilton

spared him and has allowed him to continue singing for Him. At a gathering of the college age and middle age and over of his church, Mr. Conaway and a younger member sang "How Great Thou Art." He told the folks present that he sang that song from the bottom of his heart because of what God did for him sparing his life.

Mr. Conaway is an example of some of the ways God can use His children to glorify Himself and to encourage other believers. By singing, a child of God can express his gratitude and awe toward God, and with a kind word he can brighten another person's day. Mr. Conaway is an example of a believer who practices Hebrews 10:24-25:

And let us consider one another to provoke one another unto love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

What a challenge to anyone to continue in the work of the Lord, for a large part of being a servant of God is ministering to His saints. Let this be an encouragement to you, no matter what your age or circumstance, to be in the work of the Lord, provoking one another "unto love and good works."

Thought For The Month:

...is in heaven; from the Saviour, the Lord change our vile body, like unto his glorious working whereby he is things unto himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Note Worthy

*Edited by
Cathi Finnemore*

*O Beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

This hymn, written by Katherine Lee Bates, had its beginning in a number of personal experiences of the author. On a trip with a number of fellow teachers during the summer of 1893, Miss Bates was impressed with the greatness and bounty of our country. She then remarked to the group, "Greatness and goodness are not necessarily synonymous. Rome was great, but she was not good, and for that reason the Roman Empire fell before the assaults of the invader...Unless we are willing to crown our greatness with goodness, and our bounty with brotherhood, our blessed America may go the same way."

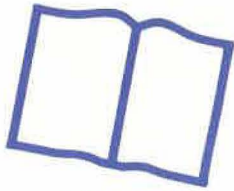
That night the 34-year-old teacher could not sleep. She arose, and wrote verse after verse of that immortal hymn - *America the Beautiful*. After two years of remaining unseen in her private notebook, the hymn was finally published in 1895 and became a great national hymn.

*O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.*

Thought For The Month

A man without a country is an exile in this world; a man without God is an orphan in eternity.

Light for Living



by Dr. James T. Jeremiah

A LOOK AT
THE BOOK

Mario Turra, a native of Italy, came to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1953. As a youth, he served in the Italian underground, assisting in the escape of a number of American servicemen. Turra, whose dedicated patriotism to America inspired him to write the following tribute, placed a copy of it in the window of his florist shop in East Point, where it attracted widespread attention and countless commendations.

“America, you are so beautiful! You are beautiful because when I came to this country, you told me I could worship the God of my choice. You are beautiful because you told me I could vote for my candidate and belong to the party that I believed in. You are beautiful because you told me that if I only tried to do my part, you would give me the satisfactions of life. As I believed in you and your greatness, I was ready to respond to your call, and I was and am ready to die for you because, you see, you are my mother country. As I traveled many parts of the world, I was your goodwill ambassador and preached the difference between Fascism, Communism, and the American Way. Yes, I preached the truth of this democratic land, especially about freedom of choice. Now my beloved and beautiful America, some of your own people are trying to confuse me. They are telling me that I don’t have to respond to your call to defend your greatness. They are telling me that my children cannot worship their God aloud in school. They are telling me that I cannot send my children to the school of my choice. They are even telling me that some day the dollar bill will no longer say, “In God We Trust.” Help me, America! Tell me what I can say during my future travels abroad when the question is asked, “What happened to your freedom—your freedom of choice?” (Mario Turra, 3006 Golden Dr., East Point, GA 30344).

Any citizen of the United States who is unhappy with America ought to visit some less fortunate countries. If such individuals could not come back loving America, they should stay in the country whose freedom does not “ring.” They would soon see what happens when they *think* they have liberty to criticize.

Some of us still insist that the major reason why America is great is because of its principle of freedom to worship. This involves not only our freedom to follow what we believe God’s word teaches, but to propagate it as well.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).

“Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons” (Deut. 4:5-9).

“He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein” (Psa. 107:33,34).

Yes, I know these promises apply to the people of Israel who lived in the land long ago. But it is as true today that “righteousness exalts a nation.” Watch that land deteriorate when righteousness is gradually forsaken.

Let’s Chatter

by **About a Matter**
Mark Highman

A matter that will be fun to chatter about is a survey I took at First Baptist Church in Blanchester, Ohio, where I presently serve as youth pastor. We went down into the primary classes to receive the kids’ response to the question: What does America mean to you? These are a few of the responses:

FIRST GRADE:

America means we have life.

America means to me that we have a home.

America means I have friends.

SECOND GRADE:

America means we can worship God freely!

America is a nice place to live in!

America means I can have a home, clothes, and be free!

THIRD GRADE:

America means freedom from being a slave.

American means freedom to go where we want, and do what we want.

America means love.

America is great!

These answers are simple, but some are very potent. What would your answer be?

Quizzle by Bob King

To work: Fill in the blanks in each quote and then put each numbered letter in each corresponding blank in the major quote.

1. "... is the nation whose God is the Lord"
1 13 36 49
2. "But ye are a chosen ... , a royal priesthood, an ... nation, a ... people"
45 3 21 15 19 14 33 24 22 34
3. "That ye may be blameless and harmless...in the midst of a ... and ... nation"
51 48 32 5 17
4. "Being high priest that year, he ... that Jesus should ... for that nation"
2 44 40 31 47
5. "And he will ... up an ... to the nations from far"
23 4 39 30 55
6. "Behold, the nations are like a drop of a

- ... and are ... as the
28 11 41 27 42
small dust of the balance"
7. "I ... thee, and I
38 6 42
 - ... thee a prophet unto the
12 10 25
nations"
 8. "And the leaves of the ... of life were for the
18 26
of the nations"
 9. "The Lord is ... all nations"
(2 words) 46 7 37 43 52
 10. "And in thy ... shall all the nations of the
8 50
earth be ..."
53 20
- Major Quote:
- X
- 12 47 37 46 21 40 48 28 36 45 53 38 20 11 35 22 41 50
29 19 10 9 34 42 23 44 30 1 24 18 8 31 25 7 17 6
5 49 33 26 52 43 51 16 4 15 3 55 14 2 39 27 32 54
..." Proverbs 14:34
13.

Looking At God's Creation

by
LoAnna Hamilton

One of the main problems concerning nature today is air pollution. Air pollution is basically caused by industries and automobiles. The combustion processes used by industries and automobiles release poisonous fumes such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and nitric oxide into the air.

The harmful effects of these gases are many. People's lungs become damaged, crops are destroyed and buildings deteriorate. Even the atmosphere is becoming less transparent; in Washington, D.C., it is estimated that about sixteen percent less sunlight is reaching the ground than did a half century ago. Another result of air pollution is the breaking down of the ozone layer which protects the earth from the sun's damaging ultraviolet radiation.

Like air pollution, unconfessed sin in a Christian's life will have harmful effects. Just as air pollution blocks the sun, so sin will block the Father from our view. Because we are not



walking in harmony with God we will not look upon Him and we will become weak and defenseless without His strength. Also, as air pollution breaks down the protective ozone layer, so sin will break down our protective shield. Satan will be able to freely attack us with temptation to sin more; he will cause us to envy, worry, and doubt. We will develop such diseases as lying, irritability, hostility and pride. The old nature will choke the new and hide it until it is barely visible.

To rid our lives of the pollution of sin we need to confess it. God will faithfully forgive us as I John 1:9 tells us. We must pray as David did in Psalm 51 and admit our sin as sin against God and ask Him to cleanse us. Oh, let us not have a blanket of sin in our lives, making it difficult to look upon God. Let us confess our sins and keep a clean heart so we can see and know God's shield of strength in our lives and use it to be victorious over Satan.

Psalm 51:3 "For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me."

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But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:14

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Answers:

1. Blessed; 2. Generation, Holy, Peculiar; 3. Crooked, Perverse; 4. Prophesied, Die; 5. Lift, Ensign; 6. Bucket, Counted; 7. Sanctified, Ordained; 8. Tree, Healing; 9. High, Above; 10. Seed, Blessed; Major quote: "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."