

Church News

WORDS OF HOPE

By Charles W. Godfrey,
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We all have regrets. We all have not just one skeleton but several in the closet. On reading the verse "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing," (Ecclesiastes 12:14) the respected rabbi who wept was not so different from the members of his flock. After all, who enjoys going to court as the star figure?

Then we have another disquieting intuitive conviction—that life is limited and death is certain. Here, again we differ from animals. A dog may steal a string of sausages from the meat counter, but no thought of judgment prompts it to ever return the stolen goods. Neither do we have evidence that any creature other than man has its enjoyment of day or night lessened in the slightest by the fear of inevitable death. But for us, every question we have ever asked about life is multiplied by the fact of unrelenting death, despite the paradox that simultaneously man believes that he was not made to die.

There is, of course, a way of escape which the majority of men have embraced. Like Nelson who placed the telescope to his blind eye in order not to see the signal to retreat at the battle of Copenhagen, we too can refuse to acknowledge every signal from within or without regarding ultimate reality. The experts in cosmetics are now doing their best

for their toughest customer until the gullible almost come to believe that death is a passing through a door in an ivy wall separating one garden from another.

But facts are facts nevertheless. Life is short and death is certain. And what then? "We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." II Corinthians 5:10.

The Crucified One is to be the Judge of sinners. Good News indeed! This is where the judgement differs from the tribunals of our day. It is not to be just an indictment of sins committed. In fact, the real issue is not the sin question primarily but the Son question. The Judge Himself has declared: "He that believeth on Him (Christ) is not condemned; but he that believed not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." John 3:18.

What right has the Creator of a moral universe to act so? On what grounds can He pass over the sins of men and give eternal life to the guilty?

The answer is the very heart of the gospel. God's judgment on sin. His wrath against it, has already taken place! Christ, "who knew

no sin," has been made to be sin for us "that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:21. "One has died for all; therefore all have died." II Corinthians 5:14, RSV.

God's law, being a description of His own character, could neither be flouted or revoked. Its penalty had to be paid. But who would have thought that God Himself would pay it? This is the essence of those glad tidings which William Tyndale declared should made every believer sing and dance for joy.

We were all ruined by Adam. But Christ came as the second Adam, the second representative of the human race, and He redeemed us all. Legally it is so. Personally it becomes so as I believe it. Charles Wesley wrote this song: "Believe, believe the record

true, / Ye all are bought with Jesus' blood; Pardon for all flows from Jesus' side; / My Lord, my love, is crucified."

This explains those mysterious sections of the Gospel narrative which tell us of the intensity of Christ's mental anguish when He sweat great drops of blood and later cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Fear of death does not explain Christ's agony. It was the awareness that He was suffering for the sins of the human race. He was forsaken by God, or so it seemed, that we might not be. He cried "Why?" in order that we might never need to cry it.

Don't forget to listen to "Springs of Living Water" weekdays at 7 p.m. on WSTS-FM, 96.5 on the dial with your host, Pastor Godfrey!

A Chariot of Fire II Kings 2:1-14

by Jayne Oxendine

John: May I tell the story Teacher? (Teacher nods) Elijah had anointed Elisha some time before to be a prophet in his stead. Elisha was almost as close as Elijah's shadow.

Joel: He was closer than his shadow on cloudy days.

John: One day Elijah told Elisha to stay in Gilgal for he had to go to Bethel. Elisha said, "As the Lord liveth, I will not leave thee." They went on to Bethel. The sons of the prophets asked Elisha if he knew that Elijah would be taken away that day. Elisha told them that he knew it.

Elijah told Elisha to stay in Bethel for the Lord had told Elijah to go to Jericho. Elisha told him that he would not leave him. When they got to Jericho, the sons of the prophets there asked Elisha if he knew that Elijah would be taken away from him that day. Elisha said, "Yea, I know. Hold your peace." They went on to Jordan.

Fifty of the sons of the prophets went and stood to watch what would happen far off. Elijah and Elisha stood by Jordan. Elijah took his mantle, wrapped it together and smote the waters with it. The waters divided and

they went over. After they went over, Elijah asked Elisha if there was anything that he would ask of him before he would be taken away. Elisha said, "Let a double portion of thy Spirit be upon me." Elijah said, "It is a hard thing, but if you see me when I am taken from you it shall be so."

Joel: I would have grabbed his arm or something.

John: As they walked along and talked there came a chariot of fire and horses of fire and parted them, taking Elijah up. Elisha cried, "Father, my Father." Elisha then rent his clothes in two pieces.

Joel: How could he rent his clothes out there by himself? I mean who would he rent them from?

Teacher: It does not mean the same thing that we would mean. When we rent something, we pay money for it. When it was used here, it meant that he tore his clothes in 2 pieces.

John: He then picked up the mantle that Elijah dropped, as he was taken up. He walked back to the Jordan, folded it and smote the waters. The water separated as it had done for Elijah. Elisha was sure then that he had the double portion of Elijah's Spirit.

Crowned Overall Royalty Winner In Palmento Pageant



Shelly Denysle Scott, age 6, of Lumberton, competed in the Miss Palmento Princess Pageant Nov. 14, 1986. The pageant was held in Charleston, SC. Shelly was crowned the Overall Royalty Winner. She had the highest scores in the pageant from ages 3-22. There were 52 contestants competing for this title. Shelly won the beauty division in her age group, talent, sports wear modeling, and most photogenic. She was also crowned Personality Queen. Shelly received six trophies, five crowns, a robe, scepter, banner, plaque, watch and a \$50 savings bond. She will enter the state pageant in May 1987.

Shelly is the daughter of Randy and Sandra Scott. She attends Deep Branch Elementary School where she is in the first grade.

On November 8th Shelly competed in the USA American Miss Pageant. The pageant was held in Hartselle, SC. Shelly placed first in the Beauty Division and was crowned Talent Queen and Sports/Wear Modeling Queen. She received the Best Personality Award, Prettiest Dress Award, Best Talent, Best Model and Best Costume. She received seven trophies and two crowns. Shelly had the second highest scores in the entire pageant. She will compete for the state title next spring.

Shelly was sponsored in this pageant by Stallion Paint Company of Lumberton.

***** A Social Note *****



Mr. and Mrs. Russell Locklear, to Teddy McClaurin Jacobs, announce the engagement of their daughter, Teresa Locklear, to Teddy McClaurin Jacobs.

Miss Locklear graduated from Pembroke Senior High School in 1981 and is employed by International Jensen.

Her fiance is the son of the late Edward Lee Jacobs and Iona and Rodney Ransom. He graduated from St. Pauls High School in 1979 and is employed by Leggett and Platt.

The wedding is planned for December 20 at Galilee Baptist Church at 3 p.m. No invitations will be sent but friends and relatives are invited to attend.

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