

# "Grace In The Winter"

by Jim Little

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." (Eph. 2:1)

We have quoted this Scripture to you many times in bringing you the conviction of a sinner in his natural state. Our subject at this time is "Grace in the Winter."

We are in the middle of winter now and by the grace of God I want to trace Grace in nature, showing a comparison to the Way of Grace in the Spiritual realm. In our last message in this series we spoke on "Grace in the Fall," comparing the withering work of the Holy Spirit with the withering of the leaves and the green Summer grass.

Every sinner by nature is dead in trespasses and sins, but you do not know it, my friend, until the blessed Holy Spirit makes you alive to see and to know your dead and lifeless condition out of Christ. I don't care what religion you have, if you don't know Christ you are lost; now don't get away from that truth, if you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Saviour, you are lost and on the road to an eternal Hell. Where are you going?

When a sinner is brought under Holy Spirit conviction, the Holy Spirit shows him his true nature in the light of the Word of God. The Word of God becomes a mirror to you and you begin to see just what a depraved and Hell-deserving creature you are.

You cry out many times: Lord, I'm lost, I am vile, oh, wretched man that I am! There is no hope for a sinner like me; I'm too awful for God to save me. Yes, as you behold yourself in the Word of God all hope of ever being saved flees away.

Everything flees away when you are truly awakened to see yourself as God sees you. The Holy Spirit strips you of all false peace and all false hopes.

Just as the cold wind strips the trees of its leaves and leaves the tree barren, as is the case in nature



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now, you as a lost sinner, are stripped bare. The trees look dead now because their foliage is gone. You as a sinner seeing your lost condition have no hope left, you are dead. And the more you are taught of the Lord the more you see your dead condition.

When I was under Holy Spirit Conviction that fall up until the mid winter, I felt my dead condition so much until all my previous convictions seemed like a mirage. I wondered if I were really awakened because I saw myself to be such a dead dog.

Now, a dead man can't do anything but lie still. And when you are brought down under Holy Spirit Conviction and stripped of everything, made to release your hold of everything that you ever held dear, you are one dead.

I remember many years ago when I was growing up as a boy, a man in the community and I were talking one day and he asked this question: "If you take a man's way away from him he's nothing." I replied: "That's right, if you take a man's way away from him he's nothing."

Oh, I didn't realize at that time that that is exactly what takes place under Holy Spirit Conviction. You as a sinner have to be stripped of everything! At the time that George and I were talking neither of us

knew that a man has to forsake his way before he is pardoned by God. You listen to the Word of God; "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:7)

Have you forsaken your way and returned unto the Lord? It was a great day in my life when the Lord was turning me away from my way and turning me unto Himself. I think back over Holy Spirit Conviction, when the Lord was dealing with my heart for salvation, it is sweet now that I look back over it. If I had to go back over Holy Spirit Conviction ten thousand times I would because I know what it means to be saved.

As I look out across the barren fields now, right here in the midst of the winter months, and see how dead and lifeless everything is, I am reminded that it testifies of the deadness of the sinner who is slain at the feet of Christ. Before a sinner can be saved he has to be slain at the feet of Christ. I have been trying to tell you that for over two years since we have been publishing in the POST.

How many of you are seeing your lost condition and want to be saved? The Son of man is come to seek

and to save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10) You may be lost and not know it, but you cannot be saved and not know it. Most of you in the religious world are lost and don't know it. There is no such thing as an ignorant salvation taught in the Word of God.

When God raises you out of the dead and lifeless condition you are in and places you in Christ, you know it. It is the greatest thing that ever happens to you.

A dead tree in the winter can bear no fruit. As a dead sinner, you can bear no fruit because you are out of Christ; only those in Christ can bear fruit. As a dead sinner you have nothing and you are nothing; nothing from nothing leaves nothing. But when that happy moment arrives and Christ is revealed to your heart, you rejoice with a heavenly joy because of what He has done for you in the salvation of your poor lost soul. Do you know Christ?

I hear much about ACCEPTING Christ. But you have it backwards; the Lord Jesus Christ does not stand before you for you to accept Him, you stand before the sovereign Lord for Him to accept you or leave you to go to Hell. The only thing He has to do for you to go to Hell is just leave you alone.

Now, has Christ accepted you? Has he? We need to keep straight in our theology. Some of you tell me Christ is your Lord and you know He is able. A dear woman called me up one time and said the Lord was her Lord too. Well, what I want to know is: is He your Lord and your Saviour? Christ is Lord to Satan, but Satan will never be saved. So you had better be sure He is both your Lord and your Saviour. If you are a stranger to Holy Spirit Conviction you are not saved, my dear woman.

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**NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM AMENDMENT**


The City of Fayetteville has amended the Minority Business Enterprise Program adopted August 25, 1980 for the Fayetteville Municipal Airport to include the Fayetteville Area System of Transit (FAST). As a component of the original program, separate goals were established for minority and female participation. The goal for minority involvement is 8.65 percent and the goal for female participation is 3.88 percent. These goals are established as annual goals and as such shall be adjusted each 12 months to reflect changes in unemployment rates and minority-non-minority employment rates. Under the amended plan, the annual goals will remain the same. Transit operations, as well as Airport operations, will be covered by the goals. The amended Minority Business Enterprise Program, including the goals and the methodology used for their establishment shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours for a period of 30 days from the date of this notice in the Office of the City Manager, 234 Green Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina. Comments on the goals will be accepted by the City Manager and UMTA DOT for a period of 45 days from the date of this notice. Comments should be forwarded to Mr. John P. Smith, City Manager, 234 Green Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301 and Ms. Bobbie Ibarra, Regional Civil Rights Officer, UMTA, 1720 Peachtree Road, NW, Suite 400, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. In accordance with regulation requirements, comments shall be used for informational purposes only.

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF UNION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

As required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under the mandatory regulation, 40 CFR Part 35.936-7, Union County hereby solicits for proposals for subcontract work on the design of the Dry Fork Creek Wastewater Treatment Project; consisting of approximately 23,000 feet of interceptor, a flow monitoring station and preparation of a user charge system.

Design requirements and specifics can be obtained at the office of Public Works, Union County Courthouse, Room No. 835, Monroe, North Carolina 28110 and at the offices of Henningsson, Durham and Richardson, 6230 Fairview Road, P. O. Box 11257, Charlotte, North Carolina 28220.

Proposals should be submitted to Mr. Bill Summerlin, Director of Public Works, P. O. Box 987, Monroe, North Carolina 28110. Bids must be received no later than 5:00 P.M. on Monday, March 16, 1981.




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