



May 2015 NEWS LETTER

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For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Friends and Family,

Rodney and I came back home to Georgia after spending a few months in Florida. We were home for one week when we learned my daughter Lois was in the hospital. We went to West Virginia to see her. But since Rodney had a doctor appointment we had to come back home for a little while. We plan to go back to W VA shortly. We don't know how long we will be there but we plan to stay until she is well on her way to recovery. Meanwhile we request an interest in your prayers for her.

Our Message this month is: NO PAIN NO GAIN

RX: HOPE

Modern medicine can do only so much. Real healing comes when we welcome the influence of the divine Healer.

With her intense blue eyes and prematurely white hair, Ms. Richards was a dramatic woman. She held a position of high responsibility and visible power at a neighboring hospital; an aura of authority surrounded her. She always called me by my first name with the attitude of a superior; and in spite of the fact that I was her doctor, I somehow felt slightly intimidated by her.

Now as she sat before me, poised and controlled, awaiting her biopsy report, I found myself searching for just the right words.

But how do you say *cancer* gently? The word itself is an explosion, leaving the ears ringing and the heart pounding.

I told her as gently as I could, carefully watching her face. At first there was a blank, uncomprehending stare, followed by a questioning expression, and then a rush of despair swept over her. I **said cancer**. She **heard death**. Nothing else I said—about the good prognosis or the therapeutic plan—registered. Her outer shell crumbled, and she dissolved into uncontrollable sobbing.

The next two weeks that October were busy for her as we planned for surgery. There were lab tests, X-rays, and diagnostic procedures. Then there were arrangements for coverage at work, for someone to pick up the mail and check in on her once she arrived home from the hospital. She told me that she purchased, wrapped and mailed all of her Christmas presents, washed her car, cleaned her house, and wrote her will. She did all these things mechanically, as a soldier marching to certain death. There was a hollowness and a resignation that I could not get past. When she told me that she had made her own funeral arrangements, I began to worry about her attitude. To her there was no life after cancer; no hope for the future.

I tried to encourage Ms. Richards with statistical data that indicated she had a very good chance to live a long and fulfilling life. I reviewed again the plan for the surgery—what we would do and what she could expect—to no avail. Nothing I said seemed to make a difference. She had cancer and it was over.

The night before her October 31 surgery I called her. “How are you doing?” I asked.

“It’s really bad Faye,” She was on the verge of tears. “I dreamed you came into surgery with a chain saw, and you looked just like Freddy Krueger on those *Nightmare on Elm Street* horror films. I’m afraid I’m not going to make it.”

I tried to comfort her, but my words sounded empty. Her Attitude greatly concerned me. I don't like to take into the operating room people who believe they are going to die. The mind has a pow-

erful influence over the body. If she really believed she would die, she just might do it—even though there was no medical reason for it. She desperately needed hope, hope for the future, hope for healing, hope in a Healer.

That night I pondered hope. I remembered hopeless times in my life, medical school being one of them. With a heavy study load and a never-ending lineup of exams, I thought I'd never finish.

Then came national medical boards part one. I failed them the first time I took them, then, I failed them again. The board allows three attempts, and then you're out. After two tries I felt like a failure. My life seemed hopeless, and I lacked the will to fight anymore.

In desperation I cried to the Lord and surrendered myself and my future to Him. Slowly peace and healing came. By the time the final board exam arrived, I was able to walk into the exam with peace and confidence—not because I knew I would pass, but because I had hope. My future as a doctor (or not) was in God's hands. There was no more need to fear.

The Lord gave me victory that day, and I passed that final exam with a score better than I could have dreamed. I had to learn to surrender and depend on Jesus before I could soar on wings like an eagle.

Now, four more board exams later, with full certification, I still savored the joy of that experience. As an attending physician I needed even more to surrender and depend on Jesus as I faced the heavy responsibilities of each day. In Christ I had peace, confidence, and hope for the future. I wanted to share this kind of peace with Ms. Richards.

Minutes before surgery I walked into the pre-op holding room to see her. She lay there pale, tense, and resigned—like a lamb being led to the slaughter, I took her icy hand. “Are you ready for this?” I asked.

“I'm scared, Faye,” her voice quivered.

“I need to do one more thing before surgery, if it's OK with you,” I said softly, “I want to ask the great Physician to assist me in your surgery.”

“I don't know what good that will do,” she doubted, “but if you want to, I guess it's OK.”

So I prayed. I asked the Great Physician to direct the surgery, to hold her in His loving arms while she slept, to heal her body as well as to calm her frightened soul. As I prayed, her hand relaxed, and afterward, when I looked into her eyes, I saw what I wanted to see—the spark of hope.

“Thank you,” she whispered. I knew she was going to make it.

From a medical perspective the surgery was a success. I was delighted to walk into Ms. Richards' room the next morning and report that the cancer was localized, with no evidence of spreading. Her prognosis was excellent.

For her, however, the news was too good to be true. She hardly dared to believe it. She still had a long road ahead to healing. I had done only so much with the knife; the Great Physician would have to do the rest.

After her discharge from the hospital, Ms. Richards required frequent office visits for cancer surveillance. At first her anxiety level bordered on panic; every ache, every bump, every bruise was interpreted as cancer recurrence. So I saw her often, and we carefully investigated each new fear.

Then, as another October rolled around, I began to notice a subtle change. She told me that she had gone on a spiritual retreat as a celebration of her first year of being cancer-free. Our conversations began to evolve into discussions about life and God. Soon we hardly had time to mention cancer anymore.

As the second cancer-free year rolled around, it was evident that I had a new Ms. Richards. Her intense blue eyes sparkled with vitality, and we often laughed together. She carried with her an aura of peace and acceptance. Her icy fear was melting into the ointment of hope.

She had encountered the Great Physician, and He had brought her hope and healing.

(Faye Whiting, Physician)

HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION (CON'T)

MARTIN LUTHER 1483 – 1546

In 1501 Martin Luther entered the University of Erfurt at the age of 18. Here an event occurred that changed the whole future life of the young

student. One day, in the university library, he came to a volume unlike all others. He opened it, and to his surprise found that it was the Bible – The Vulgate, or Latin translation of the Scriptures, by Jerome. Day after day Luther devoured the Old Book. Meanwhile, a change was passing over him as he read. New powers were awakening within. The old Luther was passing away, and another Luther was coming in his place. From that moment began those struggles in his soul which were destined never to cease till they issued not merely in a new man, but a new age.

It was 1505. In that age, to serve God was to wear a monk's hood. To Luther, groaning under sin, and seeking deliverance by the works of the law, a monastery seems the answer. On August the 17th, he walks straight to the Augustinian Convent. He knocks at the gate; the door is opened, and he enters.

The one thing with him was how he might save his soul. But it was not long till he felt that he had carried his great burden with him into the monastery; for here his conscience began to thunder more loudly than ever! Whither shall he now flee? God was preparing him for being the Reformer of Christendom, and the first lesson he must learn was how impossible it is to find relief from guilt and an awakened conscience by works of self-righteousness. God is teaching him that heaven is not bought by any sum, however great; that eternal life is the free gift of God.

One day, the clouds of despondency and fear again gathered; his old conflicts renewed. An aged brother-monk began to recite the Apostle's Creed. "I believe in the forgiveness of sins," Luther repeated after him in feeble accents. "Nay", said the monk, "you are to believe not merely in the forgiveness of David's sins, and of Peter's sins; you must believe in the forgiveness of your *own* sins." A ray of light penetrated the principle of the Gospel—the forgiveness of sins—not the payment, but the forgiveness. The principle of Popery in Luther's soul fell. He no longer looked to himself and to "the church" for salvation. He saw that God had freely forgiven him in His son Jesus Christ. In this cell at Erfurt died Martin Luther the monk, and was born Martin Luther the Christian. And the birth of

Luther the Christian was the birth of the Reformation in Germany.

Luther was ordained as a priest in 1507, and a year later was summoned to teach in the new University of Wittenberg founded by Frederick the Wise of Saxony, one of the seven electors of the Holy Roman Empire. With the open Bible in his hand, the professor spoke as no teacher had spoken for ages in Christendom. The youth crowded round him; their numbers increased day by day. Professors and rectors sat at his feet; the fame of the university went forth to other lands, and students flocked from foreign countries to hear the wisdom of the Wittenberg professor.

Luther continued to pass through experiences that caused him to see the errors of Rome and how widely its doctrines varied from the truths in God's word. His journey to Rome and the evils he saw there, along with the sale of indulgences were among the things that contributed to his enlightenment. The Town Council of Wittenberg elected him to be their preacher. In presence of this larger audience his eloquence burst forth in new power; Still wider shone the light. The Reformation was now fairly launched on its path. God had bidden it go onwards, and man would be unable to stop it.

On October 31, 1517 Luther affixed his "Theses" to the door of the castle-church of Wittenberg. Now was seen the power of that instrumentality which God had prepared beforehand—the printing press. Within weeks these propositions were circulated all over Europe. Every day Luther was making a new advance. His words were winged arrows; his sermons were lightening flashes—they shed a blaze all around! There was energy in his faith which set on fire the souls of men. Common people especially loved and respected him. Many cheered him on because he opposed the Pope, but not a few because he dealt out to them the Bread for which their souls had long hungered.

In 1519 Charles of Spain became emperor after the death of Emperor Maximilian. Charles was to become a bitter foe of the Reformation

In June 1520 Rome fulminated a bull of excommunication against Luther. The Papal excommunication was followed by a new bull, placing all of Luther's followers under the same curse as himself.

Luther was next summoned to appear at the Diet of Worms. He rejoiced to think that the truth would not perish with his ashes. With God he left it whether the Gospel would be better served by his death or by his life.

Luther appeared before the Diet of Worms. His friend, Elector Frederick was overjoyed at the appearance Luther made before the Diet and many of the princes present at the Diet were deeply impressed and became attached friends of Luther and the Reformation. On Luther's journey back to Wittenberg a troop of horsemen, wearing masks and completely armed, hastily pulled Luther out of the wagon, and plunged quickly with him into the Forest of Thuringia!

Thus suddenly the man on whom all eyes were fixed was carried off, as if by a whirlwind, no one knew whither. The Pope had launched his bolt, the emperor had raised his hand to strike—on every side destruction seemed to await the Reformer. At that moment Luther becomes invisible! Luther's protector has been used by God to provide an asylum for him at a moment of great peril. Luther has been given another work to do.

He scatters from his mountaintop hiding place—far and wide over the Fatherland—epistles, commentaries, treatises, counsels and rebukes. But a greater work than all these-- he set about translating the New Testament from original Greek into German and now his countrymen possessed the Bible in their mother tongue.

In 1526 Emperor Charles V convoked the Diet of Spires, attempting a second time to extinguish the movement. Again the result was exactly the opposite of what he had anticipated. In 1529 he convoked the Diet anew at Spires. It was now that the Luthern princes unfurled their great Protest. It was this "Protest of the Princes" that gave the reform movement the name by which we now call it, PROTESTANT.

We have many other reformers who contributed to the Protestant Reformation. Many of which gave up their lives We cannot write about each one but we remember names like: Zwingli of Switzerland, John Calvin of France, William Tyndale of England, John Knox of Scotland and a host of others

HEALTH NUGGET

BENEFITS OF RAW HONEY

When we look at the word "raw", we associated it with the preservation of important vitamins, minerals and enzymes. Just as raw vegetables are preferable because of their nutritional content, the same is true of honey. Raw honey is honey that has not been heated, pasteurized or processed in any way. The differences between raw and pasteurized honey are substantial. Raw honey is an alkaline-forming food that contains natural vitamins, enzymes, powerful antioxidants and other important natural nutrients. These are the very nutrients that are destroyed during the heating and pasteurization process. In fact, pasteurized honey is equivalent to and just as unhealthy as eating refined sugar.

Raw honey has anti-viral, anti-bacterial, and anti-fungal properties. It promotes body and digestive health, is a powerful antioxidant, strengthens the immune system, eliminates allergies, and is an excellent remedy for skin wounds and all types of infections. Raw honey's benefits don't stop there. Raw honey can also stabilize blood pressure, balance sugar levels, relieve pain, calm nerves, and it has been used to treat ulcers. Raw honey is also an expectorant and anti-inflammatory and has been known to effectively treat respiratory conditions such as bronchitis and asthma.

Raw honey purchased from a local source is an excellent way of treating seasonal allergies. Local honey is preferred for treating allergies because the likelihood is great that it will contain small amounts of the specific pollens an individual may be allergic to.

RAW HONEY IS AN EFFECTIVE NATURAL REMEDY FOR A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS

For centuries, honey has been used to treat all sorts of ailments. It can be applied topically to heal wounds and rashes, or it can be taken internally to treat infections and address other health concerns. Although there are numerous remedies, the following are popular remedies for common everyday conditions.

For skin burns, rashes, and abrasions, place a honey poultice over the affected area.

Raw honey is also an effective treatment for acne. A small amount placed on blemishes and acne nightly will often clear the skin in a short period of time. Washing your face with honey will also leave you with sparkling, clean, soft skin.

Raw honey's antibiotic properties are effective in treating colds and sore throats. Raw honey coats the throat and reduces irritation. For blocked sinuses, mix a teaspoon of honey in a pot of hot water, put a towel over your head, and just inhale the steam.

To treat allergies, take a teaspoon of raw honey a couple of times a day starting a few months prior to allergy season.

THE MANY VARIETIES OF HONEY

There are many varieties of honey, some of which are used to treat specific health conditions.

Manuka honey has strong anti-bacterial properties and is used to treat a variety of conditions which include colds, sore throats, indigestion, stomach ulcers, and acne.

Acacia honey cleanses the liver, promotes intestinal health, and reduces inflammation in the respiratory tract.

Buckwheat honey, a strong tasting and dark honey, has strong antioxidant properties. Unfortunately, Buckwheat Honey is very scarce, especially in the United States. An alternative would be Red Gum Honey that also has strong antioxidant properties.

Eucalyptus honey can be used to prevent colds and headaches.

Heather honey has been used since ancient times for its medicinal properties. This honey contains a high level of protein.

Linden honey is known for its sedative and antiseptic properties. It is used to treat anxiety, insomnia, colds, coughs, and bronchitis.

Neem honey is highly esteemed in Ayurveda for its medicinal properties. Neem Honey is used to treat high blood pressure, diabetes, skin conditions, periodontal infections, throat infections and allergies.

(Natural News)

Cannot Be Paid Off

Submitted by Gold Standard Institute
by Keith Weiner

Government spending is out of control and, while most say they want spending cuts, people oppose cuts that impact them. Among those who get government money, there's practically an unspoken, unbreakable pact to keep the money coming. But when I say that the national debt cannot be paid off, it's not a political forecast; it's a statement on the flawed nature of the dollar.

Astute observers call the dollar a *fiat* currency. Fiat means force. It's true that we're forced to use the dollar (e.g. by taxes on gold) but the dollar is also *irredeemable*. There's no way to cash it in. The dollar is credit that is never repaid. Today's dollar is a dishonored promise.

This was not always true. Before 1933, the dollar represented an obligation to pay 1/20 ounce of gold. People could deposit gold and get paper notes in receipt. Those notes circulated, and any bearer could redeem them for gold. Back then, \$20 was not the gold *price*. It was the legal rate at which gold was deposited and redeemed.

In 1971, President Nixon changed the monetary system with the stroke of his pen, making the Fed no longer obligated to redeem dollars for gold. The consequences of using debt as if it were money were soon clear. Rising debt became a more serious problem than rising prices.

To understand debt, credit and the importance of redemption, consider Joe borrowing sugar from neighbor Sue. To pay Sue back, Joe goes to the store, buys sugar and hands it to Sue. Not only is Sue repaid; the debt goes out of existence—it is *extinguished*. Borrowing money used to be like borrowing sugar. The repayment of debt in gold-backed dollars settled the loan and wiped the debt clean.

Not anymore, since Nixon detached the dollar from gold. By making people pay with paper-only dollars, each debt is transferred, not cleared.

Suppose Sue owed Joe \$1,000, then hands Joe ten \$100 bills. Sue gets out of the debt loop. But now the Fed owes Joe the \$1,000. What does Joe do? He deposits his cash in a bank. Now the bank owes Joe money, while the Fed owes the bank. What does the bank do? It buys a Treasury bond. Now the Treasury owes the bank. And so on.

By Nixon's design, the system omits a crucial feature. The extinguisher of debt, gold, is not allowed to do its job. Debt can only be transferred from one party to an-

other. It's like a lump being pushed around under a rug. With no means of final payment, that lump is never put in the trash. Debt is never extinguished.

In fact, the debt must increase, because the interest is constantly accruing. Interest is added to the debt, as it can't be paid off either. Total debt must grow by at least the interest. Debt actually increases faster than that, because the government craves what now passes for growth.

The rate of debt increase is proportional to the debt itself. It is not a fixed dollar amount, such as \$100 billion a year. It is instead a percent of total debt. Mathematics has a term for this type of growth: an *exponential* function.

Exponential growth is not sustainable, according to credible scientists. Mainstream economists ignore this fact in the hope that that somehow growth can outpace debt, one year a time.

But exponentially rising debt is not sustainable because the capacity to service the debt is finite. Without a means of extinguishing debt, servicing is merely borrowing new money to pay off old debts. This is the equivalent of taking out a home equity loan to get money to pay the mortgage.

The U.S. debt is putting us in danger of economic catastrophe. Like Greece, which found no more buyers for their bonds, the U.S. relies on selling new bonds to pay interest and principal when due. The difference is that the whole world bids on U.S. Treasury bonds, for now. But eventually, market participants will realize that the American debt cannot be paid off.

FROM KATIE'S COOKBOOKS

From Nancy Meissner's wonderful cookbook,
The Contemporary Artisan's Collection of
Recipes & Methods

PITA POCKETS (Makes 8)

(So quick and easy to make, and absolutely the best for Greek Fafelafel or spicy hummus sandwiches)

1 cup warm water (not hot or boiling)
2 tsp yeast
2 ½ - 3 cups flour (half whole wheat if desired)
2 tsp sea salt
1 - 2 tsp olive oil (optional)

Mix together water and yeast, then add 2 ½ cup flour, salt and olive oil. Stir until a sticky dough is formed.

Sprinkle flour on counter. Place dough on counter and knead for 5-7 minutes, until dough is smooth and elastic. Add more flour sparingly as needed. Place dough in bowl coated with olive oil. Turn dough so all sides are coated. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise until doubled, about 1 hour. Gently turn dough out onto a lightly floured counter.

Preheat oven to 450° and place a baking stone or quarry tile in oven if you have one. If not, place a large cookie sheet on bottom shelf in oven to heat. Divide dough into 8 equal pieces and gently flatten each piece into a thick round. Sprinkle the rounds with a little flour. Using a floured rolling pin, roll the rounds into 8 - 9 inch circles about ¼ inch thick, sprinkling additional flour on counter as needed.

Once you've prepared the pita rounds, place as many as you can fit directly on the baking stone or sheet and bake for about 3 minutes. The pita will start to puff up after a minute or two and done when it has fully ballooned. Remove from oven to a wire rack and cover baked pitas with a clean dishtowel while baking any remaining pitas. Split one side with a knife to make a "pocket".

NOTE: To bake pitas on the stovetop instead of in the oven, warm a cast iron skillet over medium heat. Drizzle a little oil in pan and wipe off excess. Lay a rolled-out pita round on the skillet and bake for 30 seconds, until you see bubbles start to form. Turn to other side and bake for 1 - 2 minutes, until golden toasted spots appear. Turn again and cook another 1 - 2 minutes to toast the other side. The pita should start to puff up during this time. Once baked, remove from skillet to a wire rack and keep cooked pitas covered with a clean dishtowel while cooking remaining pitas. Split one side with a knife to make "pocket".

A few weeks ago while we were in Florida we were very happy to meet up with our friends Nancy and Craig Meissner. They are a part of the Sustainable Preparedness Ministry and they teach people how to live independently off the grid. If you should get an opportunity to attend one of their seminars you won't be disappointed. If you are interested in contacting her, send an email via: www.PlumPrepared.com

We'll see you next month.

Remember God loves you! And so do we!

Rodney and Katie Armstrong

No Pain No Gain

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:7-9

This war is continuing to be fought here on the earth and its inhabitants are Satan’s targets.

Satan is a sore loser and is taking his ire out on God’s children, *the apple of His eye*.

“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.” Zachariah 2:8

Note: This scripture is describing Zion His church and the church is made up of His children.

From the beginning the devil has waged war on earth’s inhabitants. Cain, under the control of the devil, killed Abel his brother.

All true Christians since Cain have had to face the devil’s ire. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” 2 Timothy 3:12

The devil tried to kill Moses as soon as he was born. God turned the situation around and the very one who passed the law to kill him became his step-grandfather. (Read: Genesis 1:21-2:10)

Isaiah Was Sawn Asunder.--Isaiah, who was permitted by the Lord to see wonderful things, was sawn asunder, because he faithfully reprov'd the sins of the Jewish nation. The prophets who came to look after the Lord's vineyard, were indeed beaten and killed. "They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goat-skins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented"--men of whom the world was not worthy. They were cruelly treated, and banished from the world (ST Feb. 17, 1898). {4BC 1137.1}

The apostle Peter was crucified in Rome, but he thought himself unworthy of the same type of death that Jesus suffered and so asked to be hung upside down when he was crucified.

Most historians agree that Andrew was also crucified but he was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Greece. He called to the crowds and taught them about Jesus Christ and how they might be saved, thus he was sharing the gospel up until the very time of his death on the x-shaped cross...being loyal to the very end.

Matthew, like most of the apostles late in their lives, became a missionary and was arrested in Ethiopia. It was there that he was staked or impaled to the earth by spears and then beheaded. Not much beyond this is known since Matthew was in such a remote place in Africa and went where few historians or Christians ventured to go.

Bartholomew is also known as Nathaniel and there is scarce little known about how he died but it appears that since he was martyred in Armenia, he too must have been involved in the Great Commission and taking the good news into that part of the world. Apparently, he became a missionary to Asia Minor. Sadly, most agree that he was basically flayed to death by whip, where he was literally torn to shreds. How agonizing that must have been.

Again, not very much is known about the method of Thomas’ execution but that may be due to the fact that he was a missionary in India and was establishing a church there when he was stabbed with a spear and died from the wound.

According to most historians, Philip’s death was exceedingly cruel. He was impaled by iron hooks in his ankles and hung upside down to die. Precious little else is known about the process but it is enough to know how he died.

The apostle James is not the same James as Jesus brother so we need to establish that fact. James was far from any reliable historical writers or church historians but it is thought that he was beheaded by King Herod near Palestine and not far from where he was a local missionary to the Jews in Judea.

History tells us that John was boiled in oil but would not die. He was the one closest to Jesus and the only one that died a natural death...that is by old age and not martyred. However, he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos where he wrote the Book of Revelation.

God had a work for him to do and no one is going to die until their job is finished.

This is the most inconspicuous of all the apostles and he is called James the Less to distinguish him from the other apostle named James and the James who was Jesus half-brother. James the Less was martyred in a fashion similar to James, the half-brother of Jesus, who was thrown from the pinnacle of the temple and then beaten to death.

The apostle Simon is not Simon Peter (Andrew's brother) but Simon the Zealot. Once again, very little is known about him inside or outside the Bible. All that is known about his death is that he was also crucified.

I realize that the brother of Jesus, James, was not an apostle but he was one of the early church leaders and the account of his death is horrific. He died early in the church history while the New Testament was still being compiled. He was believed to have been thrown some 100 feet off a wall. This was done to him after he repeatedly refused to deny his faith in Jesus. After the fall, he was somehow still alive and when they discovered this, his enemies circled him and beat him to death with clubs.

I included Paul among the apostles since he was perhaps the greatest apostle and evangelist the world has ever known and most certainly deserves to be included among the apostles. Second Timothy was the last letter ever written by Paul and in it he knew that the time of his death drew near as he wrote to Timothy *"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.* (By Jack Wellman)

Paul said, "And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is giv-

en in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;" Philippians 1:28,29

Today there are people in some parts of the world being persecuted for their faith. However; for the most part, the martyrdom and persecution stopped when the gospel was compromised by the infiltration of paganism into the church when Roman Catholicism became the dominant religion. The Bibles were burned and the Christians also if they did not renounce their faith. (Somewhere between 150 and 200 million Christians became martyrs during the dark ages.)

The reason we do not see full scale persecution today is because Protestantism and real Christianity is in a compromised state. When the reformation is revived persecution and martyrdom will also again become a reality. Jesus died to save us and we should be willing to live for him and to die if need be.

We are in a war and no one is exempt. We can be genuine Christians and suffer persecution or we can be nominal Christians and escape persecution for a season, but it is the real Christians which inherit a place with Jesus and the redeemed. To become a Christian is to declare war on the devil and declaring war on the devil is to invite persecution.

The nominal Christians along with those who claim no faith are fuel for the lake of fire and are forever lost. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

"(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.) 2 Corinthians 6:2

