

**JANUARY 2015
NEWSLETTER**



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*For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
 and his truth endureth to all generations.
 Psalms 100:5*

Dear Friends and Family,

Welcome to the New Year 2015! We each have a fresh new year before us. What can we do to make this coming year better than the one before?

Although this past year may have brought sorrows; perhaps with the death of a loved one, sickness or a number of other heartaches; however, this New Year can be a time of healing and restoration. Let us face the New Year with hope and thankfulness to our God and Maker. No matter how many obstacles Satan puts before us, God can heal our hearts, give us courage, and lift up our spirit.... if we let Him!

We hope you all have a wonderful New Year and pray God will bless you in every way possible!

GOD CARES

When His eye is on the sparrow
 And each budding leaf that grows;
 When He sends the dew each morning
 And the sunshine to the rose;
 You may know beyond all doubting,
 In this trial you're passing through,
 God cares...and every moment
 He is watching over you!

By Keith Bennet

Our Message for this month: WHO JESUS IS

PLAIN LINDA

The last stroke of the bell was dying away when Linda Dahl walked timidly across the schoolroom floor, and sat down in the nearest empty seat.

"Oh, my, my!" whispered Jennifer Wilson across the aisle to her chum. "She is the plainest-looking girl I ever saw." Elizabeth nodded her head very positively, and two or three others exchanged knowing glances.

A few moments later a little piece of paper fluttered down at Jennifer's feet from a desk top. On it was written: "She's so plain. She's Rocky Mountain--all ridges and bubbles."

Meanwhile Linda sat very still, her great black eyes fixed on the teachers face.

Have you ever held a frightened bird in your hand, and felt its heart beat? That is the way Linda's heart was going.

She was a stranger. Her father had moved to this place from a distant town, and she had walked to school that morning with a student who lived on the same street, but who had fluttered away into a little group of children almost as soon as she had shown the new girl where to hang her coat; and Linda, naturally a bit sensitive, felt very much alone.

This feeling was heightened when the bell struck, and one by one the students filed past into the schoolroom, with only a rude stare or indifferent glance, as if she were some specter on exhibition.

When the last one had passed her, she clasped and unclasped her hands nervously. "It is because I am so homely!" she thought.

A month or more went by. Somehow Linda and her schoolmates had not made as much progress in getting acquainted as one would have thought.

The new girl was unobtrusive, attended strictly to her studies, and made few demands on those about her; yet it was true that there was among them at least an unacknowledged conspiracy to taboo her, or an understanding that she was to be ignored almost completely.

This treatment Linda attributed to her looks, Ever since she could remember, she had been called "homely," "ugly," "plain," and similar names. Now, though she preserved a calm exterior, she could not help being unhappy because she was thus slighted.

One Monday morning a little flurry of excitement was visible among the pupils of the uptown grammar school. Elizabeth Weston had announced a party to come off later in the week and several of them had been invited.

"Will you invite Linda Dahl?" asked Jennifer, bending over her friend.

"I have been thinking about it," Elizabeth answered, slowly. "Miss Somers says she has the best lessons of any one in her class, and then she was so nice to Jimmy Flanders that day he sprained his arm. I have half a mind to." And so she did.

That night when Linda was telling her mother of the invitation she had received, she said, doubtfully, "I think I shall not go."

"Why not?" was the reply. "It can do no good to stay away, and something may be gained by going."

So Linda found herself at Elizabeth's home on the evening of the party. Her hostess met her smilingly.

"She is really glad that I came," thought Linda. And she felt her soul suddenly warm to life, just as the thirsty earth brightens and glows and sends up little shoots of new green at a patter of summer rain.

The long parlor was decorated in green and white. The bright lights, the merry figures moving beneath, and the shining faces, half of which were strange to Linda, formed a pretty picture, and the girl moved here and there in the constantly shifting kaleidoscope with a freedom and happiness she had not known since coming to the town.

At last she found herself, with the others, sitting very quietly and listening to two girls play a duet on the piano. Then one of them sang a Scotch song.

With the warmth and richness of the song it seemed you could hear the warbling of birds and the melody of brooks. Linda heard a half-sigh close beside her.

"I wish I could sing! I've always wanted to be able to sing!"

Then for the first time she saw who sat there--a tall, beautiful, gracefully-dressed girl whom she had noticed several times during the evening, and to whom everybody seemed to defer. She had heard vaguely that this was Elizabeth's cousin, Sarah, and wondered if it was for her that Elizabeth had given the party. "And can't you?" she asked, evincing instant interest.

The girl turned toward her with a smile. "Not at all," she answered. "Sometimes I used to try when no one heard, and once when I was in the hammock

with my brother's little girl, I joined her in the song she was singing. She looked at me in a minute with a rueful countenance and said, 'Aunt Sarah, I can't sing when you are making such a noise!' Linda laughed. "I haven't tried much since," the tall girl added.

"We have singing lessons at school twice a week," Linda said, presently, "but I like the everyday lessons better."

"Do you?" asked Sarah. "I like mathematics and using a hammer and nails and saw. Mother says I should be a carpenter."

"But you don't look like one," Linda smiled, critically; and then continued: "We began physical geography this term. It is so interesting. And Miss Somers makes language beautiful; I can't help liking grammar!"

"Is that right?" said Sarah. "I never could understand it!"

Linda was laughing again. The tall girl turned more fully toward her inquiringly.

"I was thinking of what Johnny Weeks said down in the primary room the other day," Linda explained. "The teacher asked him what 'cat' was. I guess he was not paying attention. He looked all around, and finally said he did not know. She told him it was a noun. "There, he said, after some deliberation, 'kitten' must be a pronoun." Thus the conversation continued between plain Linda and Sarah.

An hour afterward, all the lights but one in the house were out. Elizabeth sat with her cousin talking over the events of the evening.

"And how do you like Linda Dahl?" she asked, and lent an eager ear, for Sarah's word could make or mar things irretrievably.

"Like her? I have never liked anyone better. Perhaps I would not have noticed, had you not spoken particularly about her."

"Well," said Elizabeth, "how is that?"

"Oh, she is all life and vivacity," said Sarah. "I thought you said she was so quiet and backwoodsy."

"But she was," defended Elizabeth. "I never saw her-like this before."

"Then something must have awakened her. If anyone seemed ill at ease or lonely, she went to him or her, and before long they were talking and happy! I saw some of her schoolmates look at her wonderingly. She had just one thought, and that was to

make everyone happy. You could have spared any one of the girls better; in fact, any three of them."

Long after Sarah had gone to sleep, Elizabeth lay thinking. "Jimmy Flanders," she said, and counted off one finger. Then she recalled another good deed of Linda, and then another. After all, it was wonderful how many she could reckon up, and all so quietly done. Strange she had never thought of them all together before. How could Linda be so happy and giving among so many frowns and slights?

The next forenoon session of the grammar school was well under way. Linda opened her history book, and in it was a little slip of paper that she had used as a book-mark since that first morning. An odd spirit seized her, and almost before she knew it, she had gone up the aisle and laid it on Elizabeth's desk. The next instant she would have given much to withdraw it.

Elizabeth glanced down and flushed painfully. There it was: "She's so plain. She's Rocky Mountain--all ridges and bubbles." But Linda was back at her work again, evidently unruffled.

When the bell tapped for intermission, Elizabeth went to her. "Linda, I did write it. Oh, I am so ashamed!" she cried, and burst into tears. She hid her face on Linda's shoulder.

One of those smiles that somehow have the power of transforming the harshest features, swept over Linda's face, she squeezed Elizabeth's hand.

From that day, Linda slipped into the queenly place she had a right to occupy, and it was not long before everyone forgot her plainness.

That was the beginning. But as the years went by, the strangest thing began to happen to Linda, though she did not seem to notice. As she grew older and matured, the rough lines mellowed and softened; the short figure stretched upward until she was as beautiful as her dearest wish had pictured.

But her real beauty always remained her gracious spirit of love and unselfishness and her tender regard for others. That is a beauty that never withers away, for its roots are planted in the soul.

HEALTH NUGGET

5 Everyday Products You Didn't Know Had pesticides

(Mens Health (By Jessica Migala)

You thought pesticides were something sprayed on your lawn to annihilate weeds, but it may also show up in things you use everyday, like cleaners, antibacterial products, and even the shoes you're wearing now. "They're used to extend shelf life and kill critters that may harm us," says Ann Blake, Ph.D., founder of Environmental & Public Health Consulting.

The downside? "Overuse of these ingredients can promote drug resistant superbugs," says Blake. Meaning bacteria adapt, survive, and spread even when you treat them with drugs. Antibiotics may not even work when you get sick and need them the most. While you know to go organic to avoid pesticides in your food, read on for where to uncover these five sly sources.

1. Antibacterial hand soap

It contains an antimicrobial pesticide known as triclosan, which works by killing bacteria. However, it destroys both the bad and--potentially protective--good bacteria present on your hands, says Blake. What's more, triclosan can be absorbed by your body through the skin and has been linked to endocrine disruption as well as antibiotic resistance. It's so pervasive that in a 2014 study, researchers found it inside peoples' nasal passages where it encourages the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria, making you more prone to infection. (Does Antibacterial Soap Work? The FDA is targeting antibacterial soap companies to prove if their products are actually more effective than plain old soap and water.)

Plus, research in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* found that the ingredient is no more effective than regular soap and hot water for cleaning hands. In a bind? Use an alcohol-based sanitizer. And keep an eye out for triclosan on ingredient lists as it's not only in antibacterial soap. You can also find it in your toothpaste (particularly Colgate Total), acne treatment products, deodorant, and shave gels.

2. Cutting boards and food storage containers

Plastic products are often treated with, you guessed it, triclosan. Because items like these don't have to list their ingredients, it can be harder to tell what's in them--so you really can't be sure. Look for claims like "keeps food fresher" as one clue that it's antibacterial, says Rebecca Sutton, Ph.D., senior scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute.

Because of the prevalence of triclosan--and so many of the products you use are plastic--it's been found in the urine of 75 percent of people tested in research by the Centers for Disease Control. (The EPA is currently reviewing the true safety of triclosan.) Until then, go for wooden cutting boards to prep your food in the kitchen, which research shows are more sanitary and easier-to-clean than plastic anyway. Then, stash leftovers in glassware.

3. Household cleaning products

If it says it sanitizes, disinfects, or removes scum/biofilm, it's got a pesticide. "It's really hard to buy a cleaner that doesn't contain a quat," says Blake. That's bacteria-killing chemical shorthand for this mouthful: quaternary ammonium compounds. Unfortunately, these may contribute to the development of asthma, particularly in people in the cleaning industry, says Sutton.

The alternative is simple. Things like soap, water, and hydrogen peroxide diluted with water work really well to clean, recommends Blake. Or, look up cleaning products on the Environmental Working Group's guide to healthy cleaning, a database that Sutton helped create. One all-purpose cleaner that's rated high: Dr. Bronner's 18-in-1 Hemp Pure-Castille Soap (drbronner.com).

4. Workout gear

Nanosilver is a type of antibacterial in some exercise clothing, socks, and shoes. Unfortunately, you can't be 100 percent sure if it's in your stuff. Companies don't have to say what's in their product if they use vague terms like "fights odor" rather than "antibacterial." The big risk is to the environment. "Every time you wash your clothing, some of the silver washes down the drain and can enter wastewater or sewage sludge where it's toxic to aquatic life and the beneficial bacteria in soil," says Sutton.

If you want to reduce exposure, avoid clothing labeled "anti-odor" or "antimicrobial." And don't worry about smelling bad. A new study in *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* found that synthetic fabrics--those most often used for workout apparel--actually smell worse than their cotton counterparts.

5. Dishtowels

On the label, some towels may include phrases like "specially treated for antimicrobial protection." In that case, they may contain pesticides. You don't have to buy any fancy brand. A regular dishtowel will work just fine. You'll clean up your mess--and won't be harmed in the process.

Although some of our readers may know all about the Protestant Reformation and how it started, there may be some who may have little knowledge about it, so Rodney and I thought this would be a good time to run an article on the history of Protestantism. We hope you will learn some things you may not have known.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HISTORY OF PROTESTANTISM

By Dr J.A. Wylie (published 1878)

Compiled and edited by Nancy Meissner

(Our thanks to our friend Nancy Meissner who has done an excellent job of Highlighting the History of Protestantism.)

(Because of lack of space some of this article may be condensed or omitted)

The spread of Christianity during the first three centuries was rapid and extensive. It had received a terrible blow under the stakes and massacres of Roman Emperor Diocletian. But instead of exterminating Christianity, this gave the Gospel an opportunity to give to the world a mightier proof of its divinity; however, when dignities and wealth began to flow in upon its ministers and disciples, the faith which had maintained its purity amid the fires of its pagan persecutors became corrupt and waxed feeble.

From the fourth century the corruptions of the Christian church continued to make marked and rapid progress. The Bible began to be hidden from the people. And in proportion as the light, which is the surest guarantee of liberty, was withdrawn, the clergy usurped authority over the members of the church. The ministers began to affect titles of dignity and to extend their authority and jurisdiction to temporal matters. Where there had been a brotherhood, there was now a hierarchy. Rites and ceremonies were borrowed from the pagans, and the canons of councils were put in the place of the Bible: among other things, the Bishop of Rome assumed the authority to command all the churches to observe Easter on a certain Sunday, as enacted by the Council of Nicea in 325, and excommunicated those that did otherwise. By the middle of the sixth century, the Bishop of Rome had assumed the su-

premacny, and claimed to be the “Successor of Peter” and the “Vicar of Christ”. The brightness of the morning of the Christian church had changed into twilight and soon became night. Pagan Rome became Papal Rome, and with it came the DARK AGES.

The apostasy was not universal. At no time did God leave His Gospel without witnesses. When one body of confessors yielded to the darkness or was exterminated by violence, another rose in some other land, so that there was no age in which—in some country or other of Christendom—public testimony was not borne against the errors of Rome, and in behalf of the Gospel which she sought to destroy.

For many centuries, the churches of the Waldensian valleys in northern Italy were witnesses for the truth. When their co-religionists on the plains entered within the pale of Roman jurisdiction these true believers retired within the mountains and preserved their independence and the ancient faith handed down to them by their fathers.

ROME manifestly was the schismatic; SHE it was that had abandoned the true faith—leaving to all who remained on the old ground, the indisputably valid title of THE TRUE CHURCH.

Here among the Waldenses, the Word of God was first published in the vernacular. When the Romance (or Romaunt) version of the New Testament was issued, the people that sat in darkness saw a great light! Now the nations of Southern Europe could read in their own tongue the wonderful works of God. Each copy was laboriously produced by pen, its price corresponded to the time and labour expended; it had to be carried long distances, often by slow and uncertain conveyances; and last of all, it had to encounter the frowns and ultimately the prohibitory edicts of a hostile hierarchy. In spite of all this, disciples were multiplied, congregations were formed; barons, cities, provinces joined the movement. It seemed as if the Reformation was come. Not yet.

The torch of persecution, which had smoldered since the fall of the Roman empire, was now relighted. But it must be noted that this was the act not of the State but of “the Church”. Rome had founded her dominion upon the dogma of persecution, as exemplified in The Crusades. The Papacy began to see that the zeal and blood which were being so freely expended on the shores of Asia might

be turned to better account nearer home. And so, in the 13th century, Pope Innocent III set up the tribunal of the Inquisition. The cloud of exterminating vengeance was turned on the South of Europe. Behind the Soldiers of the Cross marched the monks of St. Dominic, and fire and sword speedily did its work. In one of these dismal tragedies alone, not fewer than 100,000 persons are said to have been destroyed. Innocent III and St. Dominic share between them the merit for this work.

Although the Crusades were now ended, they continued under this more dreadful form of The Inquisition. It worked on, day and night, century after century, with a regularity that was appalling. With steady march it extended its area, till at last it embraced almost all the countries of Europe, and kept piling up its dead year by year in ever larger and ghastlier heaps. These awful tragedies were the sole and deliberate acts of the Church of Rome. She planned them in solemn council (Council of Toulouse, 1229), she enunciated them in dogma and cannon, and in executing them she claimed to act as the vice-gerent of heaven. She was in the noon of her power. So fell, smitten down by this terrible blow, the Protestantism of the 13th century. We have arrived at the beginning of the 14th century. But before we begin our narrative of the advent of the Reformation, let us take a closer look at the people we mentioned earlier, known as the Waldenses.

THE WALDENSES

The Waldenses’ place in Europe is unique. Their position in history is also unique. They gave a two-fold testimony, bridging the primitive ages and modern times; giving a testimony AGAINST ROME and FOR PROTESTANTISM. They existed long before the Reformation, and they sowed the seed in many lands that brought about the Reformation. The persecutions of this people by Rome form one of the most heroic pages of the church’s history. We take up our chronicle of their history where we left off earlier. We are now entering the 14th century.

In 1332 Pope John XXII ordered the Inquisitors to go into the Waldensian valleys and execute the laws of the Vatican against the heretics there. What success attended the expedition is not known, and we mention it chiefly on this account—that the bull commanding it bears undersigned testimony to the then-flourishing condition of the Waldensian

church. This was before Wicliffe had begun his career in England. We will relate just a few stories from their history:

Christmas 1400, armed inquisitional troops headed by Borelli suddenly attacked the Waldensens, who fled into the mountains. Without shelter or food in the winter snow, fifty to eighty children alone, besides adults, froze to death.

In 1487 Pope Innocent VIII appointed Cataneo his legate to exterminate the Waldensens wherever they could be found. During this war of extermination, at one time the Waldensens were forced to retreat into a large cave. The Papal army then proceeded to suffocate the inhabitants of the cave with smoke. Altogether more than 3000 Vaudois, including 400 infants, perished in this cavern.

He Knows!

I see not a step before me
as I tread on another year,
But the past is in God's keeping,
The future His mercy shall clear,
And what looks dark in the distance
may brighten as I draw near.

O restful, blissful ignorance,
'Tis blessed not to know,
It stills me in those mighty arms,
Which will not let me go,
And hushes my sad soul to rest
On the bosom which loves me so.

"So I go on, not knowing,
I would not if I might
I would rather walk in the dark with God,
Than go alone in the light
I would rather walk with Him by faith,
Than walk alone by sight.

My heart shrinks back from trial
Which the future may disclose.
Yet I never have a sorrow
But what the dear Lord chose
So I send the coming teardrops back
With the whispered word
He knows!

(In Heavenly Places by EG White pg 121)

FROM KATIE'S COOKBOOKS

Tofu-Carob Mousse Cake

2 (14 oz) packages extra firm tofu
2 Tbsp pure maple syrup (a little extra if you desire)
1 tsp vanilla
¼ cup soy milk powder
¼ cup water
1 ½ cups carob chips
25 to 30 Graham crackers (1-1/2 boxes ?)
Unsweetened coconut
About ¼ cup ground nuts (walnuts or pecans)
(I added about ½ cup tofutti cream cheese)

In blender, combine tofu, maple syrup, vanilla, soy milk powder, water and cream cheese. Blend until smooth. Melt carob chips on stove low heat (watch carefully it sticks and burns easily – (better in double boiler if you have one.) Pour melted chips into other ingredients in blender and blend until smooth. Cover bottom of 9x13" pan with Graham crackers. Spread a third of the carob mousse over the top of crackers. Add another layer of graham crackers and a third more of the carob mousse over the top. Finish with another layer of graham crackers and top with the last third of the carob mousse mixture. Sprinkle coconut and nuts on the top and chill in fridge over night.

I made this desert the other day but I also made some tofu whipped topping and put a layer of this on the top before I added the coconut and nuts. It was pretty good! Here is the recipe for the topping:

Tofu Whipped Topping

1 14 oz firm tofu
3 Tbsp coconut oil (or olive oil)
3 Tbsp honey
1 tsp lemon juice
¼ tsp salt
1 Tbsp vanilla.

Place all ingredients in blender and blend until smooth and creamy. I put on the top of the mousse cake before I added the coconut and nuts. You can chill and serve the unused portion as you would whipped cream topping.

Remember God loves you and so do we!

Katie and Rodney Armstrong

Who Jesus Is

I have known from the time I was a child Jesus was our Savior As we would drive through the country we would see crude signs on telephone posts saying "Jesus Saves".

Do you know Jesus is our creator? Do you know Jesus created Adam and Eve, and stooped and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life?

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us **by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds;**" John 1: 1, 2

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of **his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of every creature: **For by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created **by him, and for him:** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist" Colossians 1:13-17.

It was Jesus who created the universe

From the time He created Adam and Eve Jesus has been here with His people. He walked in the garden with Adam and Eve.

"And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden." Genesis 3:8

He visited with Abraham; "Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, after I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? **And the LORD said unto Abraham**, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?" Genesis 18:11-13

He was with Moses at the burning bush; "And when **the LORD** saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Exodus 3:4, 5

"Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.**" John 20:27, 28

Jesus is God; "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Colossians 2:8,9

Jesus was with the Israelites through their forty year wilderness journey;

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that **Rock was Christ.**" Corinthians 10:1-4

Jesus is Lord and what makes Him Lord is He created everything and that makes everything belong to Him.

There are three members of the godhead, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, all three are God. Jesus is the God that created us and has guided and provided the direction and needs of humanity from creation.

Jesus came in human form when born as a baby in Bethlehem, but He has always been here to guide His people. He was the rock Moses struck in the desert to get water for the Israelites.¹ Corinthians 10:4

Jesus was in the cloud that followed them by day and the fire over them at night.¹ Corinthians 10:1-4

I am not trying to down play the role of God the Father. It was the Father that Jesus depended on for strength and instruction when He walked on earth. Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" John 5:30

Before Jesus was born in Bethlehem He was a spirit and could manifest himself instantly wherever He chose; however, after He took on human form He was held captive in His human body. Since He could only be in one place at a time, He sent the Comforter, His representative, to be our instructor and guide.

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" John 15:26

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26

It is good to know that Jesus will be our Advocate, the one who will stand between us and the Father when we are being judged. "And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." 1 John 2:1.

We have been taught the judgment will be in heaven after we arrive there but this not true. The judgment must be in progress now, how else would God know who to save and who to punish? When Jesus comes to take us home the time of judgment will be past.

Jesus is our Great High Priest and in order to understand His role in saving us we need to study the ordinances of the sanctuary service in the Old Testament.

The ordinary priest would take the blood of the animals offered for sacrifice for sins and daily sprinkle it on the vail (curtain) in the sanctuary.

This is the way the sins of the people were presented daily before the Father whose seat was behind

the vail. Once a year the high priest would sprinkle blood on the mercy seat where God dwelt. In the Jewish economy judgment came once a year. The people were given ten days to make atonement for their sins and those who did not were put out of the camp to die. Today Jesus is our Great High Priest presenting His blood before the Father for our sins. When Jesus comes the judgment will be over. When the judgment is over, Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven. His feet will not touch the ground.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;" 1 Timothy 6:12-15

Jesus is the servant of servants. He is our perfect example. If He really is our Lord we will mirror Him and also be a servant to those around us representing Him.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Philippians 2:3,4

