



# Conduct From Colossians

*Comments on Paul's Letter to the Colossians.*

## *Chapter 4*

**By A. Hinchliff**

**Colossians 4:1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.**

Paul continues his letter with a word to masters or in our day we call them employers. They are instructed to give employees what is right and fair. A man who has employees should always remember that he also has an Employer in heaven. James 5:4 "Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth." It must have been a common thing for people to not be paid their wages. Even today it occasionally happens.

**Colossians 4:2. 3. 4 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.**

He exhorted the Colossians to attend constantly to prayer and watch in it with thanksgiving. It is an easy thing to be so taken up with today's respon-

sibilities that prayer is forgotten. He especially asked for prayer for himself and the brethren who were with him. It would appear that this letter was written during the two years that Paul was under house arrest in Rome. His great desire was that while he was in detention, he would be able to communicate the message of the kingdom of God to both the Jew and Gentile. Acts 28:30 "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."

He wanted to make the kingdom message plain. He wanted to convey it not only with words but also in his walk.

**Colossians 4:5.6 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.**

There are many scriptures that talk about our walk. Paul also exhorted the Thessalonians concerning their walk. I Thessalonians 4:12 "That ye may

walk honestly toward them that are without." II Corinthians 6:3 "Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed." (Our own personal ministry.) Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders. Make the most of every opportunity. Let your speech be gracious he said, as well as sensible, so that you may know how to give every man a fitting answer.

**Colossians 4:7. 8. 9 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.**

Paul was sending Tychicus and Onesimus to the Colossians to tell them about his state and also to report to them concerning the activities being carried out in Rome. Tychicus was a messenger sent by Paul. The message he was sent with would bring great encouragement to the saints in the Colossian church. Today we would call him a travelling deacon. This dif-

ferentiates him from a local church deacon.

In our day people of the local churches are delighted to hear what the apostolic ministries are doing and the results of their ministering. Paul also wanted Tychicus and Onesimus to find out all about the Colossians and their growth in Christ.

**Colossians 4:10** Aristarchus my fellow prisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

Aristarchus was apparently imprisoned with Paul. Marcus, a nephew of Barnabas, was also there but apparently not in prison. When Paul and Barnabas were in Salamis ministering in the Jewish synagogues Mark was with them. When they planned to go on to Pergos, Mark got the urge to go home and returned to Jerusalem. Because of this, on their next trip Paul wouldn't take Mark but took Silas instead. Timothy, was instructed to bring Mark to Paul because he would be a help to him in his ministry in Rome. We are thankful for the apparent reconciliation. Paul told the Colossians that if Mark came to their church they were to receive him.

**Colossians 4:11** And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellow workers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

In the next few verses Paul men-

tions the names of a number of brethren who were labouring with him in teaching the message of the Kingdom of God in Rome. They not only helped him but were a comfort to him in his bonds.

**Colossians 4:12, 13** Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

Paul especially speaks of Epaphras saying that he was one of them. I don't know whether he originally came from Colosse or if Paul meant he was one of them because they and also Epaphras were one in Christ because of the new birth. Epaphras spent much time in prayer for them asking God to make them strong and perfect, knowing His will in all things. There were three local churches that Epaphras had a great burden for; Colosse, Laodicea, and Hierapolis.

**Colossians 4:14** Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

There is a sad note concerning Demas in II Timothy 4:10 "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica."

**Colossians 4:15** Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in

his house.

Paul sent his greeting to the church in Laodicea. He particularly mentioned Nymphas who could have been one of the elders there. Apparently the church met in his house.

**Colossians 4:16** And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

This was a letter sent jointly to the two churches. They were to get the letter that went to Laodicea and read it too, in their church. For some reason the Lord hasn't chosen to preserve the letter to Laodicea.

**Colossians 4:17** And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it

It would appear that Archippus was in special need of encouragement in, the fulfilling of his ministry. We must all take heed to the ministry that God has given us and encourage one another.

**Colossians 4:18** The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.

The letter was signed by Paul. There were those who were writing letters and signing Paul's name. This was the enemies way of bringing confusion to the church.

He desired their prayers for him while he was confined to prison.

# It's The Year of Jubilee!

*Jubilee! Jubilee! Jubilee! It is the year of Jubilee!*

**By Paul E. Seargeant**

Jubilee comes from the same root word as trumpet. It means celebration, rejoicing, anniversary, time of shout-ing, shouting, shout and blowing. During the year of Jubilee the trumpet is sounding and the wind of the Holy Spirit is blowing.

Jubilee is first mentioned in the book of Leviticus. Lev 25:8-17 "And

thou shall number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years, and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty- and nine years. Then shall thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound through-

out all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall re-turn every man unto his family. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that

which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed. For it is the jubilee; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. In the year of Jubilee ye shall return every man unto his possession. And if thou sell ought unto thy neighbour, or buyest ought of thy neighbour's hand, ye shall not oppress one another: According to the number of years after the jubilee thou shalt buy of thy neighbour, and according unto the number of years of the fruits he shall sell unto thee: According to the multitude of years thou shalt increase the price thereof, and according to the fewness of years thou shalt diminish the price of it; for according to the number of the years of the fruits doth he sell unto thee. Ye shall not therefore oppress one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the Lord your God." v31-33 "But the houses of the villages which have no wall around about them shall be counted as the fields of the country: they may be redeemed, and they shall go out in the jubilee. Notwithstanding the cities of the Levites, and the houses of the cities of their possession may the Levites redeem at any time. And if a man purchase of the Levites, then the house that was sold and the city of his possession, shall go out in the year of Jubilee: for the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel." v39-40 "And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee: thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant: But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of Jubilee." v47-55 "And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy

brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: Either his uncle or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of Kin unto him of his family may redeem him or if he is able, he may redeem himself. And he shall reckon with him that bought him from the year that he was sold to him unto the year of Jubilee: and the price of his sale shall be according to the time of an hired servant shall it be with him. If there be yet many years behind according unto them he shall give again the price of his redemption. And as a yearly hired servant shall he be with him: and the other shall not rule with rigour over him in thy sight. And if he be not redeemed in these years, then he shall go out in the year of jubilee, both he, and his children with him. For unto me the children of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

Lev 27:17-24 "If he sanctify his field from the year of Jubilee according to thy estimation it shall stand. But if he sanctify his field after the year of Jubilee, then the priest shall reckon unto him the money according to the years that remain, even unto the year of jubilee, and it shall be abated from thy estimation. And if he that sanctified the field will in any wise redeem it, then he shall add the fifth part of the money of thy estimation unto it, and it shall be assured to him. And if he will not redeem the field, or if he have sold the field to another man, it shall not be redeemed anymore. But

the field when it goeth out in the jubilee, shall be holy unto the Lord, as a field devoted: the possession thereof shall be the priest's. And if a man sanctify unto the Lord a field which he hath bought, which is not of the fields of his possession; Then the priest shall reckon unto him the worth of thy estimation, even unto the year of the jubilee, and he shall give thine estimation in that day, as a holy thing unto the Lord. In the year of the Jubilee the field shall return unto him at whom it was bought, even to him to whom the possession of the land did belong."

He is the Jubilee. Be jubilant my feet, be jubilant my soul. Rejoice in God. It is time to shout forth his praise.

There are two prominent words which denote 50 in the Bible. One is Jubilee. The other is Pentecost. The Jubilee happens every 50 years. Pentecost is 50 days after the passover.

To trumpet is to bellow, to blare, to blow, to roar, to proclaim. The trumpet (Jubilee) has sounded. When the trumpet blows, prophecy is fulfilled.

Jesus is everything to us. He is among other titles, the trumpet, the Jubilee, the Sabbath, the Rose of Sharon. He is our all in all.

This indeed is a year of Jubilee. Many beginnings happened in 1948. The move of the Spirit we have enjoyed is part of that. The natural nation of Israel, the Jewish nation has been celebrating their jubilee since April 30, 1998. Other significant events quietly occurred as well. The World Council of Churches came into being, as did also the seed of the European Union. It is not mere coincidence that this all transpired in the same year. Rejoice, God is still on His throne. This is the year of Jubilee.

# "The Next Step"

**By Andy Snoke**

In God's grand plan for His creation, what is the next step? Where are we today relative to the ushering in of the Kingdom of God? What does God require of us in this present hour?

Many scriptures seem to point towards an enormous finishing work of the Holy Spirit. A sovereign and

powerful visitation of God never paralleled in church history. There have been many mighty men of God such as Smith Wigglesworth, John G. Lake, and Charles S. Price who glimpsed in their spirit a coming wave of visitation from heaven that would surpass the tremendous revivals of their day. The desire to be a part of this great

experience, this great revival, seems to be the burning desire of many of God's called out ones.

First, what does the scripture say about this great visitation? Peter stated on the day of Pentecost: Acts 3:19-21 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing

may come from the presence of the Lord, who has preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

We also read: Rom 8:18-21 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not *worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

There are many verses that I could record at this time that speak of that great, great visitation from God. Truly, the hope of the entire world, is not in any political movement, is not in any religious movement, is not in any scientific movement, it is in the appearing, or the manifestation of the Sons of God. The world eagerly waits for that glorious visitation of God in His church. Before God will appear for His church, He will appear in His church.

Let us examine briefly what the scriptures say about the next true visitation from heaven. Let us keep in mind that God is in the restoration business. Since the Middle Ages, the Lord has been restoring truth to the church, one step at a time as stated in Isa 28:10 For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

The understanding and experience we have today of God, has been revealed to the Church through the ages through many "visitations" or revivals' from God. It has all been part of the fulfillment of prophecy of "restoration" promised in the book of Joel. Joel 2:25-26 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army

which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame."

A review of the Restoration of Truth

As an exercise in history, permit me to briefly list the approximate date of the various moves of God, along with some of the people the Lord used, and the present truth that was revealed. This information is taken from scripture study material from our 1994 classes.

- 1517 Martin Luther  
Justification by faith.
- 1525 Conrad Grebel  
Believers' baptism
- Menno Simons  
Believers' church
- Jakob Hutter  
Simplicity in worship
- 1652 George Fox  
Unprogrammed worship
- William Penn 1780's John Wesley  
Sanctification & Holy living
- 1880's A.B. Simpson  
Christ...the Healer
- A.W. Tozer 1900 Charles Parham  
Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- 1948 Sharon Bible School  
Restoration of Spiritual gifts  
Coming together of the Body of Christ  
Manifestation of the Sons of God  
Divine order of the local church

The revival of 1948 is still the most current revival, or visitation of this century. I do not mean to say that there have not been other anointed visits from heaven. But as far as true, new revelation to the church in general, no real steps forward have been taken since that date. In fact, if we were able to fully walk in much of revelation that has been revealed, it would lead us right into the age of the Kingdom.

Most of Christendom is ignorant

of the contribution that the 1948 revival gave to the church. In fact, speaking of this revival of 1948, the "New Canadian Encyclopedia" which is a secular writing, records this move of God as follows: ...which originated in North Battleford in 1948, may be the most influential Canadian contribution to modern religion.. .spreading.. .through evangelical Christianity worldwide... Many contemporary practices of charismatic Christianity...Gained popularity as a result of this movement which produced hundreds of new independent evangelical churches..." 1988 edition p. 1242 THE FORMER AND LATTER RAIN The book of Joel speaks of this restoration, as I just very briefly outlined. But it also speaks of a beginning and finishing work of God. It speaks of a former and a latter rain. By examining Joel's prophecy, and church history, it would appear that Joel sums up all the visitations from God, that will take us right into the Kingdom age, as such:

1. The former rain, or the beginning work of the Spirit (if we can ever really say God has a beginning!)

2. The restoration of lost truth, which is received step by step "I will restore to you..."

3. The latter, or finishing work of the Spirit. The final work that will bring a glorious church right into what we understand as Sonship.

- James 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

- Deut 11:13-14 "And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give *you* the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil."

- Prov 16:15 In the light of the

king's face *is* life, And his favour *is* like a cloud of the latter rain.

- Psa 72:6 He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, Like showers *that* water the earth.

- Joel 2:23-26 Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you; The former rain, And the latter rain in the first *month*. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame."

#### THE GLORY OF PENTECOST.

It is generally accepted that the former rain Joel speaks of, was the glorious outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. In fact, Peter stood up with boldness and quoted several verses from the book of Joel. One only needs to read the book of Acts, to see how mighty and glorious this outpouring really was.

Multitudes were added to the church by these unlearned men of the hour who preached not with just words and philosophy, but with the demonstration of the power of God. At one point we read where the sick were actually laid on the streets that the very shadow of Peter might touch them and heal them.

How glorious it would be to have a little of the power of God that the church in the beginning of Pentecost experienced. Yet we read in many scriptures that God will do an even greater work! He said that he would give us the former and latter rain, all in one month. This means to me that the Lord intends on restoring the original power and glory of Pentecost, along with the finishing and completing work of the Holy

Spirit, all in one month, or at one time!

The book of Haggai confirms this: Hag 2:3-9 "'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, *is this* not in your eyes as nothing? Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD, 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I *am* with you,' says the LORD of hosts.

"According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear! For thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. The silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine,' says the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts."

#### THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR

Everything seems to speak of urgency to prepare for His grand appearing in the saints, and in the church. The time for His manifestation may be much closer than we realize. *Rom: 13:11: And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*

We have to be careful about getting caught up in speculating, but I have often thought of the time frame spoken of in the following verses.

- Hosea:6:2: *After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.* The scriptures tell us that: *2Pt:3:8: But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.* It has been two days (or two thousand years) since the resurrection. This scripture tells us that on the third day (or possibly the beginning of the third thousand years, which is NOW,)

we would be revived!

- *Gen:2:2: And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.* This day speaks of God completing all of His works, which includes making man in His image.

- *Lev:25:9: Then shall thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.* In this 50th year of Jubilee, everyone was set free from all their debts. It has been about 50 years from the last significant visitation from God. Are we about to enter into the year of Spiritual Jubilee?

Now, what does God require of us today? I have often wished that there was a simple formula that we could follow that would bring us right in. But it seems that it is more of a matter of simply walking obediently, and properly before God. Being faithful to what God has unfolded to the church.

I would like to list a few verses that speak of our preparation for this finishing work of God. These verses are not complete, but they do speak of walking properly before God.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Heb 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

Joel 2:12 "Now, therefore," says

the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

Joel 2:13 So rend your heart, and rend your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Joel 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assem-

bly;

Joel 2:16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

Joel 2:17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say,

"Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where *is* their God?'" If you have this vision today, I would encourage you to call upon God for His mighty finishing work and allow you to be a participant in that magnificent revelation.

# 'The Healer'

## *Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed one is our Healer*

**By Paul E. Seargeant**

Healing is not an option, it is part of the plan of salvation.

Heb. 2:4 "God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to this own will?"

V14 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."

Soon there will be no need of healing Rev 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away." and also Ge 1:31 "And God saw everything that he made; and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

Gen. 20:17 "So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech and his wife, and his maid servants, and they bare children."

This is the first healing recorded in God's word. It seems noteworthy that it is from barrenness. God wants mankind to replenish the earth, Abraham is the prototype. God wants to heal the barrenness in the Church, but He is waiting for his Bride to call out to Him. Also of significance is the fact that the First healing was of Abimelech, a Gentile. Thank you, Lord! This was a mercy

healing.

The next healing is recorded right after that of Abimelech. Ge 21:1 - 2 "And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him." The second healing recorded is of the first of the Jewish nation.

This promise in the Old Testament is God's covenant, God's promise to his people. Lets believe it and receive it. Ex. 15:26 "And said, if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

In the Old Testament (former covenant) the key word for obtaining healing was obedience (works). However, in the New Testament (present covenant) the key word is faith (grace). In fact faith produces obedience.

Once again responsibility follows God's sovereignty. Jn 15:14 "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." Once Jesus heals you and I, we must walk properly.

Read together Ex. 23:25 "And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread and thy water; and

I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." O Lord, help us to believe your word.

Let us read some more of these wonderful promises, Deut 7:9 "Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations." Thank you, Lord? Deut 7:15 "And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee: but will lay them upon all them that hate thee." Doesn't this make you desire to be on the Lord's side?

I Pet. 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness by whose stripes ye were healed. "The price has been paid, Hallelujah!

Of the nine gifts of the Spirit, only one is plural, that is the Gift of Healings. It covers all our needs, physical healing, mental healing, emotional healing, financial healing as well as many other areas of life.

From Gethsemane to Calvary every event involved blood to atone for our needs (sin) of body, soul and spirit. This is the fullness of healing.

Let us proceed ever onward and upward from divine healing to divine health and then receive divine life.

# For Times of Depression

By Jamie Erb

Why should I feel depressed? I think this is a question all of us have asked at some point during our lives. We can also come up with all kinds of reasons why. Be it a death, job loss, sickness, relationship break down. We like to come up with quick answers. In my experience it has not all been as simple as that. First of all, I had to overcome the misconception that Christians should not ever have to endure prolonged depression. Secondly God does not inflict us with depression to punish us.

I have been dealing with severe depression for a number of years now. I have been prayed for, countless times. I have tried countless drugs, been hospitalized for months at a time. I've had shock therapy.. I'm still depressed. *Now please* do not misunderstand me. I am not looking for a pity party. There is a point to all this. I was in my room the other day when my cousin came to visit me. He brought with him a small book entitled *Precious Bible Promises*. Thank God for messengers. He was a little unsure of himself, fearing he may be pressuring me into something, but I was happy to read it and thanked him. The format of the book was, it gathered scriptures under certain titles. I breezed through the titles until I came to the title "For Times of Depression." I began to read and the print came alive!!! Praise God. I read 1 Peter 4:12-13.

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to *try* you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of *Christ's* sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding *joy*. Glory be to God, he answered my question. This is why, this is why. It was to try me, to test me. There was nothing strange about it. It all came clear. When we go to school we are being taught in various areas, but there comes a time the teacher gives us a test. Now there are several things that can happen. We can totally refuse to write the test. The result, we fail. We can come unprepared, write the test. The result... we fail. We can come prepared, write the test. The result, we pass and move on to the next lesson. You know I had a lot of trouble in school. It wasn't because I was stupid. It was because I didn't listen and didn't do my homework. When the tests came I failed a lot of them.

Does this sound familiar? Many times we refuse to write the test. We say why did you give this test? Jesus is referred to many times as the Great Teacher. Let's go back to 1 Peter 4:12-13. "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to *try* (or test you), as though some strange thing happened to you." Do you remember getting one of those surprise tests in school? The teacher wanted to know if you were listening. The scriptures are full of examples where God tests his children. Read Job. There was a man who was stripped of everything. His family, his wealth, and finally his health. His own wife said to him why don't you curse God and die. Now if anyone had a reason to be depressed, and I'm sure he was, it was Job. His friends all pointed their fingers at him and said, 'You must have committed some great sin to deserve this.' I'm sure that made him feel a lot better. Job 2:7, "So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown." Job 2:13, "So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a word unto him; for they saw that his grief was very great." Job 3:1, 'After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day. And Job spoke, and said, Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived.'" By this point he had hit rock bottom. He was depressed. Job's friends continued to tell him of his alleged sin and finally Job reproves his friends and in 13:15 he said. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." Job 42:5, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." Praise God the test was over and Job got 100%. 42:10, "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his

friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before." I think Job got his PhD in righteousness.

Romans 10:17

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

So I am encouraged to sit at the foot of Jesus (The great teacher) and to study God's word.

1 Peter 4:12-13

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to *try* you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

Psalm 30:5

'For His anger is but for a moment, His favour is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.'

Isaiah 43:2

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you."

Romans 8:38-39

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Isaiah 61:3

"To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."