

Shafts of light

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by Helen Gardiner

WHEN the enemy comes in like a flood the Lord will raise up a standard. So says Isaiah 59:19. Well the enemy has come forth like a mighty deluge in the church by perverting the doctrine of grace.

There is a real need for a move of holiness, righteousness and repentance.

For all His father heart, He is essentially a mighty God who needs to be feared. We need to stop playing games with Him. Righteousness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:9) and it is a fruit that needs to be evident in our hearts and in our lives.

In the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:6), we are exhorted to hunger and thirst after righteousness; so that we may be filled. The Lord loves righteousness and we need to love it also. "For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright." So is written in Psalm 11:7.

Yes, I know that righteousness is imputed to us, as it was to Abraham (Romans 4:21-25). But we need to walk in the fruit of righteousness, in order to be pleasing to Him and to have a Godly testimony in the world. The sad truth is that there are worldly people who bear more righteous fruit than those in the Church.

Of great disappointment in the Church are young people. Many commit fornication, listen to heavy metal music and love watching horror movies, without a hint of conscience.

We need to get back to the Word...

Let's consider Psalm 15:

"Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
He who walks uprightly,
And works righteousness,
And speaks the truth in his heart;
He who does not backbite with his tongue,
Nor does evil to his neighbour,
Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
In whose eyes a vile person is despised,
But he honours those who fear the Lord;
He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

He who does not put out his money at usury,

Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved."

So that's in the Old Testament. "I'm a New Covenant believer." (Then there are also people in the Church today who say, "We don't hold to the teachings of Jesus because they were given before His resurrection!") All of that does not leave one with very much of the written Word to read and to hold to.

So then, let's consider Philippians 1:9-11: "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." The fruits are by Jesus, but they should nevertheless be evident for all to see.

Of Jesus Christ it is quoted in Hebrews 1:8&9: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

That's our Bridegroom and we want to be like Him.

And there is great joy in walking in righteousness.

On the issue of holiness which is aligned to righteousness, let's read 1 Peter 1:15-19: "But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.' And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

And can we ever afford to forget the words of the much-loved apostle John in 1 John 3:7-10: "Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practises righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest; Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother."

Whoa... so how many children of the devil are sitting in churches?

People are afraid of man to say these things today.

It should not be so.

Righteousness and holiness have become dirty words in today's church.

Here is another little-mentioned virtue.

It is called – diligence...

Many Christians are not diligent in their walk with the Lord. We need to be more diligent about our spiritual exercise than anything else.

Paul exhorts in Romans 12:10-13: "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer, distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."

Jesus exhorts in John 6:27: "Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life."

Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:8: "For bodily exercise profits a little but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

In this same letter, writing concerning the treatment of widows, Paul describes those whom the church should help, as being such as are "well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work (1 Timothy 5:10)."

Peter writes in 2 Peter 1:5-7: "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control

perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."

John urges in 2 John 1:8: "Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward."

Finally, on the subject of diligence: Hebrews 6:11&12, reads: "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

It is a serious journey, overridden with joy as we walk in righteousness and obedience.

Remember Hebrews 7:25: "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

Ah, Lord God, my prayer is: "Let those who love Him be like the sun when it comes out in full strength."



John (my husband) made a rare find during a visit to a local SPCA shop: a boxed set of nine DVDs, entitled: *Truth and Freedom, Foundations for Healing*. It is a

series of 18, half-hour teachings providing foundations for the healing ministry. The teacher is Peter Horrobin, International Director of Ellel Ministries.

The subjects covered are as follows:

What is healing and who do I need it?

Foundations for Healing 1

Foundations for Healing 2

Healing, Discipleship and the Laws of God

The Healing and Deliverance Ministry of

Jesus 1

The Healing and Deliverance Ministry of

Jesus 2

Inner Healing and Emotional Wholeness 1

Inner Healing and Emotional Wholeness 2

Healing Through Forgiveness 1

Healing Through Forgiveness 2

Understanding Deliverance 1

Understanding Deliverance 2

Overcoming Rejection 1

Overcoming Rejection 2


Sex and Sexuality 1

Sex and Sexuality 2

Fear – and how to overcome it

The Truth Shall Set You Free

We are watching this series of teachings as a women's group and have been edified and blessed.

You can buy this set of DVDs through Ellel Ministries. Their e-mail is: resources@ellelministries.org. 

Jesus Says, 'Behold I Come Quickly!'

by J. C. Ryle

"Take heed, watch and pray... lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say to you I say to all, Watch (Mark 13:33, 36-37)."

WATCH against the leaven of false doctrine. Remember that Satan can transform himself into an angel of light. Remember that bad money is never marked bad, or else it would never pass. Be very jealous for the whole truth as it is in Jesus. Do not put up with a grain of error merely for the sake of a pound of truth. Do not tolerate a little false doctrine one bit more than you would tolerate a little sin. WATCH AND PRAY!

WATCH against slothfulness about Bible study and private prayer. Most backslidings began in the closet. When a tree is snapped in two by a high wind we generally find there had been some hidden decay. WATCH AND PRAY!

WATCH against bitterness and uncharitableness toward others. A little love is more valuable than many gifts. Be eagle-eyed in seeing the good that is in your brethren. Let your memory be a strong box for their graces, but a sieve for their faults. WATCH AND PRAY!

WATCH against pride and self-conceit. Peter said at first, "Though all deny Thee, yet will not I." Soon he fell. Pride is the highroad to a fall. WATCH AND PRAY!

Let us watch for our own sakes. As our walk is, so will be our peace. Above all, let us watch for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Let us live as though His glory was concerned in our behavior. Let us live as though every slip and fall was a reflection on the honor of our Lord. Let us live as though every allowed sin was one more thorn in His head – one more nail in His feet.

O, let us exercise godly jealousy over thoughts, words and actions, over motives, manners and walk! Never, never let us fear being too strict. Never, never let us think we can watch too much.

"None of us is more than half awake!" 