

When Sorrow Turns to Self-Pity

By Gary Henry

“And Cain said to the Lord, ‘My punishment is greater than I can bear! Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me’” (Genesis 4:13-14).

All who live in this world will have to deal with sorrow. It is inevitable. In an environment where sin is a reality, the temporal consequences of sin are unavoidable — and since sorrow is one of those consequences, we shall have to deal with it sooner or later. The only question is how we shall do so. It’s important to keep our sorrow from turning into what is called “the sorrow of the world” (**2 Corinthians 7:10**). This is the sorrow that wallows selfishly in its own misery. It does not confront sin in a godly way.

Two things are needed to keep our sorrow from turning into self-pity: **reverence** and **gratitude**. When we are passing through any bitterness of spirit, we must maintain a humble respect for the greatness of God as our Creator, and we must not cease to thank Him for all that is right, despite whatever has gone wrong. Even when the sun is shining, we find it challenging to be as

reverent and as grateful as we ought to be. However, when the darkness closes in, keeping our thinking clear about God can seem so difficult that we despair. We give in to the “the sorrow of the world.”

Failures of reverence and gratitude should be seen as failures of perspective. When pain focuses our attention on some small part of reality, we tend to lose touch with the larger truths. This is no trivial thing, however. If we refuse to acknowledge the whole truth about God, that refusal can cost us our souls (**Romans 1:18-21**). God is greater than our woes, and whatever the immediate cause for our sorrow, we simply can’t afford to forget the clear tokens of God’s greatness and goodness in the wider world.

Edmund Spenser wrote of the miserable fellow who finds himself “dying each day with inward wounds of Dolour’s dart.” The sorrow of the world is deadly because it indulges in self-justification. It fuels resentment and resistance to God. Like Cain, the self-pitying soul feels no genuine remorse for evil. He merely whines, “My punishment is greater than I can bear!”



Sick			
Sam Cox (Friend of Anna Stallings)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Joan Parker (Aurie Adams Grandmother)
Emma Hettinger (William Herd's Mother)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Roger Whatley (Daphene Whatley's son)	Andrew Hagewood (Friend of Sarah Norman)
Betty Bradford	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Sandra Qadeer (Rafia Qadeer's mother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Meredith NeSmith (Jessica Anderson's Cousin)	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Madi Wise (Friend of the Robert's)
Marty Meeks, Russell Dickerson (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Peggy Theis (Timothy Jones' grand-mother)	Toni and William Herd	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)

- June Birthdays**
- 1 - Kenlee Burton
 - 3 - Philip Stephens
 - 8 - Mac Searcy
 - 9 - Kay White
 - 11 - Hannah Alexander
 - 11 - Clint Stagner
 - 12 - Orié Cecil
 - 13 - Addison Dembowski
 - 17 - Sarah Norman
 - 17 - Brooks Pender
 - 20 - Jonas Dembowski
 - 22 - Paul Tam
 - 24 - Justin Bice
 - 25 - Corey Hunt
 - 28 - Allison Chandler
 - 29 - Josh Hudson
 - 29 - Lisa Lanier

News and Notes

- ☒ - Let us remember our upcoming VBS (June 24-27). Cards are in the foyer to be distributed.
- ☒ - Phillip Owens will be in a meeting at the Southeast church in Montgomery starting today through Friday. Services during the week at 7PM
- ☒ - Please register your children and guests for the VBS with the forms in the foyer. Give these to Windy Dembowski.
- ☒ - Debbi Coleman had successful knee replacement surgery. Let us pray for her successful recovery!
- ☒ - Laura Weldon will have thyroid surgery on Friday.
- ☒ - Sandlyn Fultz will have back surgery on Monday.
- ☒ - Ryan Hasty will be speaking tonight!

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The Auburn Beacon

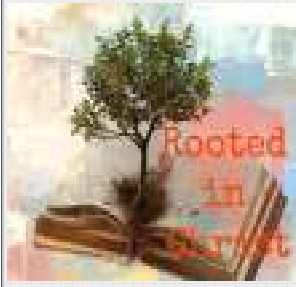
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)



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Ruling With Love

By Irven Lee



Thoughts to Ponder

Man cannot find true essential joy anywhere but in his relationship to God.

An elder is to be "one that ruleth well his own family, having his children in subjection with all gravity; for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (**1 Tim. 3:4, 5**). The elder wins the respect of his brethren in being the good husband and father to his family. The orderly family with well-behaved children and a loving wife is a tribute to a man, indicating that he has good judgment, courage, and traits of leadership. Our nation needs thousands of more fathers who have skill in guiding and training their children.

One of the most effective proofs of the divine origin of the Bible is the evident blessedness of those who believe it and live by its precepts. A husband who is a Christian and a wife who is a Christian find great happiness in living with their obedient children. Truly the husband rules with love.

It is just as easy to show that wives are to be in subjection to their own husbands as it is to prove that fathers are to have their children in subjection. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (**Eph. 5:22-24**). The idea of the husband being the one in authority in the home could not be taught with more plainness of speech. A business needs a manager; a school needs a principal; a state needs a governor; and a home needs a head a decision maker with the power of oversight in a position of leadership.

The father is to love his children so that he will bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (**Eph. 6:1-4; Prov. 22:6; Heb. 12:5-11**). It is love that causes him to use the rod when needed (**Prov. 13:24**). The children are given a sense of security by his strong arm of protection and guidance. The little people need the love and chastening of a good father just as they need food and clothing for their bodies.

The wife is to obey her husband since he has been given the responsibility of leadership. The manager of a business and the principal of a school are in charge in their respective spheres. This position of leadership is not a pedestal for praise and special honor. It is rather a special responsibility to see that the

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Elders
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM
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business and the school operate properly. Neither is to have the unpleasant attitude that he is a lord over the teachers or the clerks. The workers are not at war with their leader, but they work as parts of the team under a captain whom they appreciate. They realize the need of a leader who can co-ordinate and systematize their work. Many teachers have no desire to be principal because they know the responsibility that comes with the position. Many good wives are very happy as worthy helpers of their husbands who have been so good to them.

We could read of the wives being in subjection to their husbands in **Col. 3:18** and **1 Peter 3:1-6**, as well as in **Eph. 5:22-24**. In each of these references, the very next verse teaches that husbands should love their wives. Love suffers long and is kind (**1 Cor. 13:4-7**). In finding a good wife a man is abundantly blessed (**Gen. 2:18; Prov. 18:22; Prov. 31:10-31**). Aged women are to teach young women to love their husbands and their children (**Titus 2:3-5**). The wife will find happiness in being in such intimate association with loved ones. The one true God asked that men serve as head of the house, and He insisted on the proper love that flows both ways. His plan offers a pleasant situation for all members of the family.

The leaders of the Women's Liberation Movement are atheists and admit it. They seek woman's liberation from the responsibilities of a wife and mother. To them the woman who is a home maker is a slave. They do not count that it is more blessed to give than to receive (**Acts 20:25**). To them, Christ was only man and the Bible only a book to be rejected. They would give the children to the government to be cared for in communes. Women and men could live more like a herd of animals.

I am not ashamed to admit that I recognize Christ as having all authority in heaven and on earth (**Matt. 28:18**). We are to be judged by His word at the great day of reckoning. Any may deny these fundamental facts if he desires, but he will realize the error of his way when he finds his place outside the walls of the great city with his own kind from all ages (**Rev. 22:15**).

The Bible was given to the human race to give hope, instruction, and warnings so that we might find the abundant life now and in the world to come (**1 Tim. 4:8; Mark 10:28-30**). It was not God's purpose to

crush men or women nor to mistreat children. There is a God, and those who realize this should treasure His counsel and His exceeding great and precious promises (**2 Pet. 1:1-4**).

The leaders of the National Organization of Women (NOW) have many deceived followers who think that this well-financed political body is working toward women receiving fair salary in the industrial and business world through the ERA. Congress and the presidents have already put laws to this effect in the statute books, and the courts are going about to enforce them. The real effort of NOW is to bring honor to the homosexuals and lesbians. Their thrust is against marriage and the home.

When people follow the Bible they "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (**Rom. 12:2**). Those of us who visit one home of true Christians after another know that God's law is best. One of the most effective proofs of the divine origin of the Bible is the evident blessedness of those who believe it and live by its precepts. A husband who is a Christian and a wife who is a Christian find great happiness in living with their obedient children. Truly the husband rules with love.

The church is subject to Christ. Wives are to be subject to their own husbands as the church is unto Christ. Christ and His apostles used the picture of the bride and groom to typify the church in its relationship to Christ. (**Read Romans 7:1-4; Rev. 21:2; 2 Cor. 11:2; John 3:29.**) It is wonderful that the church can be married to Christ who is head over all things to the church. The church needs His guidance, protection, and love. When is a more beautiful picture of happiness seen than in the picture of a happy bride who is glad to help make a stable home with the one she loves? Her husband has found a good thing and is happy, but she is just as happy.

Faithful servants of God are referred to as children of God (**Rom. 8:16, 17; 1 John 3:1**). Christians are subject to their heavenly Father. What more appropriate relationship could be found than a son to his father to typify the Christian's relationship to God? The ideal father and a wonderful son give us a picture of genuine happiness when they walk down the street together. Oversight and authority in no way destroy love. God is love, but we are to obey Him. We love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). - **Truth Magazine January 1, 1981**



Inheriting the Promises

By R. J. Evans

"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" (Heb. 6:12).

God has "given to us exceedingly great and precious promises" (**2 Pet. 1:4**). But God's promises are conditional. God has promised and is able to save us "to the uttermost" (**Heb. 7:25**), but we must obey His gospel and be faithful until death (**Rev. 2:10**) in order to be saved. While on earth, Jesus stated: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (**Matt. 7:21**). The necessity of obeying the gospel so that we will receive the promise of salvation becomes evident when we consider the eternal consequence of failing to do so. Please consider the words of the Apostle Paul as he speaks of what will happen when the Lord returns—"And to give you who are trouble rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (**2 Thess 1:7-8**).

How can we make sure that we obtain all the many wonderful things which God has promised us? Our text provides us with two necessities: *Faith and Patience*.

First, let us consider the importance of *faith* in obtaining that which God has promised. Faith is so important, because as the Hebrew writer says: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (**Heb. 11:6**). In this great chapter of faith (Hebrews 11), example after example is given of those, who by faith, met and obeyed God's instructions and conditions, and as a result, received the promises given by the Lord. For example, "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son" (**Heb. 11:17**).

Thus, the kind of faith that pleases God is a living, active, obedient faith. Giving a mere mental agreement or consent to the fact that God exists is not enough. James said it this way:

"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble" (**Jas. 2:19**). He goes on to tell us—"You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (Jas. 2:24). Thus, we are saved by a comprehensive faith—a faith that does all that God has commanded.

In **James 1:5**, the Lord promises wisdom to those who need it. But there is more to the promise than simply asking. The next two verses give us the importance of faith in receiving the promise—"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord" (**Jas. 1:6-7**). Therefore, having faith that God will do what He has promised, has something to do with obtaining what He has promised.

Patience is also needed in obtaining what God has promised. The Apostle Paul said that we "through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (**Rom. 15:4**). Too often, we lose patience and give up too quickly. This is clearly brought out in **Hebrews 10:36**: "For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise." Paul stressed this when he said, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (**Gal. 6:9**). If we, therefore, give up before God sends His blessings, we will miss them. When we get frustrated and discouraged, we need to be reminded of the inspired words of James: "My brethren take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed, we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the patience of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful" (**Jas. 5:10-11**).

Yes, God has promised us some wonderful blessings. The ultimate of all blessings will be—Heaven! May we all have *faith and patience* enough to obtain them. We close with the words of the Apostle John: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (**Rev. 14:12**). May we ever strive to be of that number here on earth who have—***faith and patience.***

