

BULLETIN

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY
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Jane Sellers Hancock, Editor

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Jane S. Hancock

Some Personal Thoughts.

David Hettema. You may have wondered why there have been no articles lately written by David Hettema. Although he still studies every chance he gets, although he still comes to our Sunday morning group every chance he gets, although he still meets on Wednesdays to go through the mail and confer with Rusty Hancock about the business of the Word of Truth, he has not been able to write articles for the Bulletin or for Seed and Bread. We miss his written input but are glad to have his comments as we continue the work. He urges us to keep searching for hidden truths about the Kingdom of God. We're trying, David. We're trying.

Bob Hammond. Bob's wife Geraldine died on August 5, 2012, from a brief illness. Those of us from the Word of Truth Ministry gathered with family members—her sisters, her children and stepchildren, her grandchildren and great grandchildren—for a memorial service on August 18. Bob and Jerry had been married for 40 years. They enjoyed traveling together and spent many weeks in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and in Phoenix, Arizona. Bob, who is on the Board of The Word of Truth Ministry, keeps in touch with our readers through e-mail and the website. He is a valuable member of our organization.

Nathan Johnson. Let me introduce you to Nathan Johnson. In the same envelope with this Bulletin you will find a Resultant Version of Philippians 1 and 2. Coming in the next mailing will be Philippians 3 and 4. Although the words are taken from TL-073 to TL-080, spoken by Otis Q. Sellers, it is because of Nathan's work that we can now send them to you in leaflet form.

Nathan says that he had always enjoyed Sellers published "Ephesians Resultant Version" and wished he had done the same with other books of the Bible as well. While listening to the tapes on Philippians, he noticed that Sellers seemed to read from a "resultant version" of Philippians and it seemed that he must have had a version in a place almost ready to publish.

Nathan continues. “My philosophy throughout this has been that this should be Mr. Sellers’ work, not mine, as much as possible. Of course, I have been the editor, and my editing must come through, but I wanted to keep myself as much in the background as possible and keep this, Mr. Sellers’ work, as he might have published Philippians if he had done so.”

So Nathan transcribed the Resultant Version from the tapes. And then he went to work on the “notes” which he copied from Sellers’ comments, trying to keep the notes as much “original Mr. Sellers” as he could.

Johnson ends his letter to us with these words: “I pray that many in the future might be edified by this work Mr. Sellers did over thirty years ago but that is still so relevant to the study of Philippians today.”

Nathan Johnson sent us this work as the work of Otis Q. Sellers, not the work of Nathan Johnson. But without the work of Nathan Johnson, we would not have the “Philippians Resultant Version” to share with our readers. The Word of Truth Ministry thanks you, Nathan. We know how much time and effort and love of the Word it took for you to do this.

Sheol, Hades, and Destruction. Many people believe that when you die you go to heaven and that life is better there. What I can’t understand is this: if life is so good there and it’s a better place, why does everyone fight so hard to stay alive? I’ve been to several funerals this summer. At one in a Catholic Church the service was a mixture of ritual and mass and African American music. At one point we were invited to sing, “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.” I remembered the song from grade school but I had never really paid any attention to the words. Here’s the second verse: “If you get there before I do/Comin’ for to carry me home,/Tell all my friends I’m comin’ too,/Comin’ for to carry me home.”

Yes, everyone is up there waiting but no one seems to be in a hurry to go. Where is the logic in this? I’m so grateful that I was brought up by Otis Q. Sellers. I never had to “unlearn” anything.

In “Sheol, Hades, and Destruction” Sellers goes over all sixty-five occurrences of *sheol* in the Old Testament and all eleven occurrences of *hades* in the New Testament. They both mean the same thing—the state of death. That’s what happens when someone dies. He or she goes into the state of death and the spirit goes back to God who gave it. And this belief is based completely on the study of the words in their context in the Scripture; we go to the Word of God for the sole purpose of finding the truth.

However, the state of death is not the end of man. When man dies, he goes into the state of death with resurrection in view—resurrection for the just and the unjust. Sellers defines resurrection as “recreation in which man is again taken from the soil and given once more the breath of life so that man again becomes a living soul. If it were not for resurrection, man’s death would be his end, that is, his destruction.”

For more information, read the complete booklet, “Sheol, Hades, and Destruction” by Otis Q. Sellers. Copies are available from The Word of Truth Ministry.



MEMOIR OF OTIS Q. SELLERS, SR.

By Otis Q. Sellers

Transcribed & Prologue By M.B. Hammond

PROLOGUE

The following article was published in *The Word of Truth* magazine, Volume 9, Number 4, dated Oct., Nov., Dec., 1946, by the editor Otis Q. Sellers, Jr. While such a memoir is seldom of lasting impact on any but the immediate family affected, this article, reviewed in retrospect, almost 50 years later, is seen as one of great emotional impact on every person whom God has moved to seek Jesus Christ as their Savior. The writer was a most prolific student, a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, a seeker after the truth and a supporter of the idea of progressive revelation. He was responsible for advancing the description of this day in which we live as the Dispensation of the Grace of God. He also discovered the truth that the next period or dispensation in time will be the Kingdom of God, which was the subject of Jesus Christ's ministry when He was here on earth. The writer died at the age of 91 in 1992, but this simple memoir of his human father is perhaps his best legacy to the human race. The commemorative plaque over his grave says, "A believer in the Lord Jesus Christ." Nothing more could be said than this, because of his belief in the singular preeminence and all-sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ.

MEMOIR OF OTIS Q SELLERS, SR.

Otis Q. Sellers, Sr. was my father. He was born in Greenfield, Ohio on December 29, 1873 and died in Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 29, 1946. In 1898 he was united in marriage to Ellen Agnes Moore and to this union were born six children: James, Mary, Otis, Helen, Lawrence and Dorothy. Most of his mature life was spent in the foundry and grocery business. There was little of worldly or material success related to his life, as he was neither great nor famous. However, in that day when men are honored according to the things that are valuable in the sight of God, he will be both great and famous, for he abounded in the greatest qualification that men can possess in the sight of God. He was a man of faith. He knew the Bible and believed it, as few men are able to do. The record of the Lord's dealings with him were always an inspiration to me, and in confidence that they may be to others, I wish to set forth this simple record of the ways and works of God in his life.

At the age of seventeen the Spirit of God began that work in his life that in the end would bring him to Christ. He experienced that conviction which is a necessary prelude in the lives of all that would become related to Christ. But instead of becoming related to Christ, he became a member of the Baptist church, and this was the beginning of twenty-eight years of faithfulness and devotedness to the Baptist church that never lagged or faltered. He never missed a regular service, he gave of his means as regularly as he attended, and in those years he held every office that a local Baptist church could give except that of pastor. Although quiet and reserved in personality, he was wholehearted in his devotion to the church. The reason for this devotion to the church was that he erroneously believed that loyalty to the church was the same as loyalty and devotion to God. In fact, he actually believed that there was salvation in church membership, that to be in the church was to be saved and to be out of it was to be lost. I remember how well pleased he was when I, at the age of fourteen, became a member of the church. He felt that all was well with his son inasmuch as he was in the church.

The strength with which he believed this lie of Satan can be shown by an incident that happened in 1918. His brother, an active churchman in another city, had withdrawn from the church as a protest against the actions of its pastor. While visiting in our home over night, my father criticized his action, stating that he did not believe my uncle had done right. He felt that in cutting himself off from the church, he had severed all connections with Christ. My uncle defended his action and, as near as I can remember, the following conversation took place.

“But, suppose that something had happened to you while you were out of the church?” my father asked.

“What do you mean?” my uncle replied.

“What if you had died—where would you have gone if you had died while you were out of the church?” my father continued.

“I don’t know,” my uncle resignedly replied, for it was evident that he too believed that there was salvation only in a church, and that probably it was too great a risk to be out from under its protection even for a short time.

Less than a year after this my father became a teacher of an adult Bible Class in the church of which he was a member. He had always wanted to teach an adult class and this assignment brought him great satisfaction. Being a sincere man he began to earnestly seek for something in the Word of God so that he would have a message for those whom he taught. He had always been a reader of the Bible. Now he was a student of the Bible. He had read it faithfully as a duty, hardly expecting to get anything out of it, but now he was studying it as a searcher, expecting to find in it something to give to others. The responsibility of this class was the first circumstance that was to alter his whole life and thought.

Being dissatisfied with the regular Sunday school lessons, he sought advice from a young minister, the new pastor of the church, concerning something he could teach that would be of more profit to all concerned. The minister bluntly suggested that he “teach them the plan of salvation—give them the gospel of John and the book of Romans.” This he tried to do, and while I am not sure about all the circumstances, neither do I know just how it all came about, but I do know that in the task of finding SOMETHING to give to others, he found SOMEONE for himself. Late in the year 1918 he came to know Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior, and in such a way that he was so deeply impressed with the importance of the Lord Jesus Christ that from that day forth for twenty-eight years Jesus Christ filled every day of his life. He now depended upon Jesus Christ for all that he trusted the church for before. The place that the church had held in his life was now held by Christ. He never associated with anyone very long without telling them, “Men are not saved by doing, they are saved by believing.” Again and again he witnessed to the ability of the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive and redeem. He was no high-pressure worker, but he did skillfully probe the lives of men to find just what they were trusting or upon what they were depending for their salvation. God alone knows the number that he lovingly told that the faith they had in churches, in self or in men should be placed in Christ.

The failure of the church as a responsible witness for Christ grieved him deeply. He often said to me, “Otis, if men are saved, I feel it is going to be in spite of the church and not because of it.” Again he would comment, “They tell men to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but they make church membership and baptism the same as believing.”

From the hour that he knew Jesus Christ (as his personal Savior), he was deeply concerned about me. The very love of Christ for sinners was expressed in his deep concern for my

salvation. Late in the year 1919 Jesus Christ conquered in my life. I too came to know Him as God's complete provision for the sinner. This brought my father and me together in a bond that was stronger than that of human relationship. We were father and son in flesh, but brothers in Christ. Early in my ministry, I preached one evening a popular message. I was somewhat satisfied with it and the people liked it. After the meeting we walked a short ways together and I was anxious to hear his comments. When he said nothing, I knew he was not too happy about it. Finally he quietly suggested, "You strung those things together on a pretty thin thread of Scripture." He spoke the truth. That was exactly what I had done, and I determined never to do it again.

His death was the first in our family and we feel keenly his passing from us. His hope was in resurrection, not in death. He believed that death was an enemy and that resurrection was a friend. He believed that resurrection would usher him into the very presence of Christ, and he died in this faith and hope. At his funeral I was able to say, "He loved Jesus Christ, and this was reflected in his life. He loved the truth and this was manifest in his conduct. I am the son of Otis Q. Sellers, Sr. For this I offer thanks unto my God."



THE INTERNET CORNER

By Bob Hammond

O.Q. Sellers' MP3 Library Clearance Sale

We have sent out many of Otis Q. Sellers' 570 Bible Study MP3 disks (consisting of 10 messages per disk) over the past six years. They were originally recorded on tape reels by Mr. Sellers, then underwent transition to cassette tapes before we had them again reproduced onto MP3-formatted disks. As offered in the last Bulletin, we have again compressed all these studies onto just six audio DVD's and/or onto a single flash drive. With this new technology, prices have been reduced dramatically and sales of the MP3 disks have understandably fallen off completely.

However, possibly not everyone wants computer-oriented source material yet, still preferring the MP3's for their cars or for their portable players. We have therefore decided to offer these 57 MP3 disks at the same price as the DVD/flash drive offers (an over 80% reduction) to give our readers a more level field of consideration, by placing the remaining inventory of these disks at clearance prices to our Bulletin readers, before we announce this to the Internet public on our website, www.seedandbread.org, (assuming that there is any inventory remaining then). At present, we do not plan to continue to offer these disks after this sale.

If you are interested in purchasing the full 57 MP3 disk set, just drop us a letter with check or money order to The Word of Truth Ministry in Pasadena, California, and tell us how many sets you'd like to obtain. They are priced at the same price as the six DVD's and the flash drive, \$100 including postage for orders within the USA (overseas postage is expensive, and we must add \$50 for that—a total of \$150—you may use PayPal if you'd prefer—see the website). Please, only full set orders. And "first-come, first-filled" basis in case we run out.

This may be an opportunity to preplan these sets for possible Christmas gifts to fellow lovers of the truth about our Lord Jesus Christ and the study of His Word.

I thank my Lord Jesus Christ for the people of this Ministry to agree to this substantial “loss offer” (financially). It has special meaning to me having just lost my beautiful wife of 40 years, which has expanded my desire to reach out to you all. Thank you.



“How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.”

Proverbs 16:16, NKJV



THE WORD *MONOGENES*—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

By *Joanne L.H. Johnson*

Many well-meaning people believe that Jesus Christ is “God’s little boy.” Where did this belief come from? What does the Word of God say? 1 John 4:9 says, “*In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.*” The words in this verse are “only begotten” which is translated by the KJV translators from *monogenes*. This term “only begotten” would be better translated “only,” “one of a kind” or “unique.” See Otis Q. Sellers’ **Seed & Bread** No. 173, *What Does Monogenes Mean?*

As Sellers explains further in the above **Seed & Bread**: “[*Monogenes*] is compounded from the words *monos*, which means ‘sole, single, without another, alone, only;’ and *ginomai* . . . which means ‘become.’ The strength and force of this compounded word is to be found in its first part, *monos*, and not in its second part.

“One of the first important facts to note in the study of this word is that if the New Testament [N.T.] writers had intended to say ‘only begotten,’ they would have used the words *monos* and *gennetos*, forming the word *monogennetos*, and not *monogenes*. As Moulton and Milligan, those two indefatigable etymologists, have said: ‘*Monogenes* is literally “one of a kind, only, unique (*unicus*),” not common in the LXX (*Septuagint*) in this sense (e.g. Judg. 11:34, Psa. 22:20). It is similarly used in the N.T. of ‘only’ sons and daughters (Luke 7:12, 8:42, 9:38), and is so applied in a special sense to Christ in thought that, as the ‘only’ Son of God, He has no equal and is able to fully reveal the Father. (*The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament*, page 416).”

John 3:16 says, “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten (only, unique or one of a kind) Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting (eonian) life.*” It is important not to confuse the true meaning of these words “only begotten” any further, as they detract from Christ and His mission on this Earth, which was to forgive sins and to give life to men. And we have no intention of deflating His deity either, as He was God in the flesh (with names like “the Son of God” and “the Son of Man”), like it says in John 1:14 and more fully studied below. Also, His deity is matched in the name He was given, where it says in Matthew 1:23, “*They shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, ‘God*

with us.’’ (See **Seed & Bread** No. 172, *How Can a Man be God?.*) To answer the **Seed & Bread’s** title question, He can’t be a man unless He is God.

John 1:14 says, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten [only, unique or one of a kind] of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”* Again, is that what “only begotten” means? Christ in this verse is much more than “God’s little boy.” The explanation that Sellers gave was that the one designated as the “son” in the Hebrew household was his father’s sole representative in business and caretaker of the whole family. Christ is the human form or “Expression” of God and is our only source of knowledge about God.

The phrase translated “only begotten” is the Greek word *monogenes*. In light of Sellers’ translation (“only,” “one of a kind,” “unique”) a few additional verses in John’s Gospel explains who Christ really is: *“He (Christ) was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own (people) received Him not. But as many as received Him to them gave He power (authority) to become the sons (children) of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born (generated), not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God”* (John 1:10-13).

Monogenes is a word that allows us to understand verses like John 3:16. We would be lost in a sea of mistranslations without Sellers’ clarifications. And remember John 8:32 that says, *“And ye (you) shall know the truth and the truth shall make (set) you free.”* Free? Free of what? You are free of God’s Law (to Israel); you are free of men’s restrictions; you are free of false religious claims; you are free of special requirements (like circumcision) and you are free of the misapplication of the truth (such as baptism, the Lord’s Supper and death). “Truth is that which accords with the facts,” as Sellers used to say.

