

BULLETIN

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY
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Otis Q. Sellers, Founder



David R. Hettema, Director

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Jane Sellers Hancock, Editor

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Jane S. Hancock

*My faith has found a resting place,
Not in a man-made creed:
I trust the ever-living One,
That He for me will plead.*

*Chorus: I need no other evidence,
I need no other plea:
It is enough that Jesus died
And rose again for me.*

*Enough for me that Jesus saves,
This ends my fear and doubt:
A sinful soul I come to Him,
He will not cast me out.*

*My soul is resting on the Word,
The living word of God:
Salvation in my Savior's name,
Salvation through His blood.*

*The great Physician heals the sick,
The lost He came to save:
For me His precious blood He shed,
For me His life He gave.*

Lidie H. Edmunds

A Study in Hebrews. By its very name we know to whom this book was written—to the Hebrews, not to the Gentiles. And during this time, to the Hebrews, the Israelites who were in exile, those who could not follow the letter of the law. To the Hebrews who believed in the

Messiah but who did not necessarily believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Outside of Palestine many did not know, had not heard about the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Hebrews, Paul (who probably was the writer) shows Jesus Christ to be the High Priest—not an equal of Moses and the prophets, not an equal of the angels or any human messengers, but greater than all these. The questions became, “Can the Israelites hold on to the things they knew to be true before and give first place to Jesus Christ?” “How do they deal with this new dispensation in which the message, delivered by a commissioned herald, is not confirmed by signs following as it was in the Acts period?” And the answer is, “By giving first place, the highest place, the place on the rights of God, to Jesus Christ.”

So what does this have to do with me and with the lyrics to the hymn by Lidie H. Edmunds quoted at the beginning of this article? The first of eight references to the word “rest” *katapausis* (pronounced *kat-ap'-ow-sis*) can be found in Hebrews 3:11. See also 3:18, 4:1, 4:3 (twice), 4:5, 4:10, 4:11. The words may have been spoken to the Hebrews, that they should find their resting place in Him, but I take comfort in them. I have found my “resting place” in believing, by putting my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is my resting place.

ANNOUNCING A CONFERENCE

We have already sent out an announcement to our readers who live in five western states. Now we are letting you all know and hope that no matter where you live, it might be possible for you to attend. If not, we will be recording the messages so that everyone can benefit.

You will find an official registration form and agenda on Page 4 of this bulletin. Here is some general information.

We begin on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. with registration and music; at 1:30 we have our first speaker; at 3 p.m. our second speaker. At 4:30 all participants are invited to my home for dinner and continued conversation.

On Sunday we begin at 8:30 with registration and music followed by two speakers—one at 9 p.m. and another at 10:30. Lunch will be provided at noon followed by a final session from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

We hope some of you will be able to join us.

INTRODUCING NATHAN JOHNSON

When you turn the page you will see an article, “The Sum of the Truth,” by Nathan Johnson. The Word of Truth Ministry has invited Nathan Johnson to be a regular contributor to this newsletter. He will also be one of the speakers at our October Conference.

Nathan, although he is only 39 years old, has been a Bible student for 26 years. He began reading the works of Otis Q. Sellers when he was a teenager and found him to be a great Bible teacher with a plain way of setting forth the truth. His mother told him that his great grandmother had an almost complete collection of the “hardbound” Word of Truth magazines so he began reading those when he was seventeen. When he got to Volume 11 where Sellers started teaching the Kingdom of God, he realized that Sellers was right and started believing that truth himself. Since then he has continued as a Bible student and also a Bible teacher. He

says, “I teach the Scriptures rightly divided and believe that there will be a premillennial kingdom of God, which is the hope for this world.”

We welcome Nathan to the Word of Truth family. You can find out more about Nathan by logging on to his website at precepts.wordpress.com.



THE SUM IS TRUTH

By Nathan C. Johnson

The American Standard Version of Psalm 119:160 reads, “The sum of thy word is truth; and every one of thy righteous ordinances endureth forever.” The Hebrew word for “sum” in this verse is the Hebrew word *rosh*, which means “head.” In ancient times, the numbers in a column were added from the bottom up, and the sum was put at the top. This sum was called the *rosh* or “head” because it was not only the sum, but also the source from which all the addends were derived.

The author of Psalm 119 tells us that it is the sum of the Word of God that is truth, and we cannot overemphasize the importance of this fact. Many erroneous beliefs that are prevalent among Bible students could be avoided if the sum of the word of God was heeded rather than just parts of it.

Several years ago, a popular radio broadcaster predicted that “the rapture” would take place on May 21, 2011, followed by the “end of the world” later that year. His conclusions were based on a certain reading of a few scattered verses combined with some slick-sounding arguments. Many thought he knew what he was talking about, but his predictions never would have stood up to “the sum of Thy Word.”

Another Bible teacher whose ministry I follow proclaims that we cannot base our beliefs solely on the Bible, since all the cults will do the same. Therefore, he teaches that we have to limit our understanding of Scripture to make sure that it fits in with “historical Christianity,” or what Christians have believed down through the ages. His argument may sound good at first, but most of what this man teaches only goes back as far as the Reformation. He ignores the “historical view” of Christians who lived before that. How much better it would be to make “*the sum of Thy Word*” the safeguard against error!

“*The sum of Thy Word*” can guard against the errors of both the cults and of “historical Christianity,” for a lack of harmony with the Scriptures abounds in the latter as well. Calvinists emphasize verses that make it sound like people are chosen to be saved and ignore verses that which indicate that a person has to make his own choice. Followers of the teachings of Jacobus Arminius cite verses that sound like they support the idea that one can lose his salvation and ignore verses that speak of salvation as being safe and secure. Many other doctrinal viewpoints use similar tactics. What can save us from such faulty arguments except “*the sum of Thy Word*”?

Many in Christian circles do not hold with the sum of the Word. Some limit their studies almost exclusively to the gospels, reasoning that these are the only books really worth studying since they contain the teachings of Jesus Christ, Whom they believe to be the founder of Christianity. Their belief is supported by the red-letter editions of the Bible, which

by marking them out in red imply that Christ's words are more important than the other words of Scripture. Those who adhere to such distinctions fail to realize that "*all Scripture is given by inspiration of God*" (2 Timothy 3:16.)

There are other Bible students who have enough understanding of dispensationalism to realize the importance of the writings of Paul for us today, yet who mistakenly limit their studies almost exclusively to Paul's books. These fail again to note the portion of 2 Timothy 3:16 which states that "*all Scripture . . . is profitable*"

Still others limit their studies to the New Testament. By neglecting the glorious truths of the Old Testament, they fall into many errors. One such error is basing their views of future events entirely on the book of Revelation. The English Standard Version Study Bible notes on the book of Revelation set forth the many views that "historic Christian orthodoxy" allows as interpretations of this book. These views are all presented as plausible explanations for the meaning of the book. Although these views might seem plausible in some ways, they do not stand up to the test of "*the sum of Thy Word.*" How could one possibly hold to an amillennialist view when reading the many, many prophecies in the Old Testament that speak of the time when the LORD will have prepared His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom will rule over all (see Psalm 103:19)? How could one possibly hold to a preterist view after reading that a day will yet come when "*all the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee*" (Psalm 22:27)?

How thankful I am that from my earliest days of studying the Bible I was reading the works of teachers like Otis Sellers, whose ministry covered all of Scripture and who sought to get to know "*the sum of Thy Word.*" I learned that it is the Scriptures that contain the truth, not "historical Christianity." I learned that I must study the sum of the Word if I want to know the truth, not just a limited part of it. Mr. Sellers used to say that whenever he went through a portion of Scripture, he was looking to see if anything there would show him that he had hit a derail in his thinking and that something he had taught and believed was wrong. He understood that only by studying the sum of the Bible could he hope to do this. This is a good example for all of us to follow. Let us get to know "*the sum of Thy Word,*" so that we too can know all we need to know to understand the truth.



THE MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE

October 26-27, 2013

By Milton B. Hammond

Otis Q. Sellers started out as an ordained minister, graduating from Moody Bible Institute in 1922, and working as a Baptist minister for about ten years. In the course of his studies, which continued throughout his lifetime (1901-1992), he became what most people describe as an ultra dispensationalist. He was influenced by the works of Dr. James M. Gray, one of his teachers at the Institute, and later by Dr. E.W. Bullinger, and the works of Weymouth,

Rotherham and Young, men who retranslated Scripture and used vigorous and truth revealing approaches. In 1935 he moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, to teach his earliest independent group, the Gospel Fellowship, which had left Dr. M.R. DeHaan's Calvary Udenominational Church, whose members mostly came out of the Dutch Christian Reformed Church. Sellers rid himself of the title "Reverend," saying this belonged to Jesus Christ alone.

Sellers produced many ground-breaking Biblical studies such as *The Glory of One Baptism, Man's Nature and Destiny, The Dispensation of Grace, Sheol, Hades and Destruction, The Rich Man and Lazarus, The Kingdom of God and The Earth Not Heaven is the Future Home of God's Redeemed*, just to name a few. He wrote almost 200 leaflet-articles of Seed & Bread, and about 17 volumes of his *The Word of Truth* magazine. He also produced 570 cassette tapes of 45 minutes each. The ministry continued after his death under the direction of David R. Hettema.

The Mission of the Word of Truth Ministry is to continue forging ahead in the field of dispensational studies of Scripture. Our studies have indicated that the premillennial Kingdom will be about 500 years in length and is the next dispensation in God's plan. This period will be a time for men to learn righteousness and God will provide great benefits and blessings for mankind while Satan is held in restraint. It is called the Day of Christ and is followed by the turbulence of the Great Tribulation which introduces the Day of the Lord. It has Christ returning to the earth to take His place as King of the Kingdom, no longer in Heaven but now on earth. And there is no need for the removal of Christians from earth by the unscriptural "rapture."

The Ministry desires to increase its presence on the Internet and provide a much needed, safe and sane philosophy of interpretation that includes much of the current work that highlights Sellers' work. But we also desire to have an active web meeting forum to get Bible students together and encourage continued growth and interest in the Holy Scriptures. We have some men among our readers who are already doing this on a limited scale and we trust that this can be opened up in the future. As the late Harry Wells said when he was remastering Sellers' tapes, "We have the best kept secret in town." Our job now is to see that we get a wider field of distribution than our current Bulletin has.

We are inviting interested believers to a Conference on October 26 and 27, 2013. We have some good friends who have embarked on this Internet ministry in a limited way, and we want to share ideas on how best to promote an interest in this work and provide more widespread help to our faithful. We have new people to introduce for our Bulletin readers to meet, and to learn from their web awareness how we might support and develop this. We look forward to hearing from you. An agenda is provided for your perusal below.



Bible Study Audio Disks

By Otis Q. Sellers, Bible Teacher

The entire Tape Library (TL) series, consisting of numbers TL-001 to TL-570, is available on MP3 compact disks. A complete subjects list may be obtained from our Web site, www.seedandbread.org, or the home office in Pasadena, CA, or writing/e-mailing:

The Word of Truth Ministry
Mrs. Gwen Staiger
121 Wood Oak Dr., Joshua, TX 76058
E-mail: gsrecorder@sbcglobal.net



THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE
October 26 and 27, 2013
Pasadena, California

BRIEF PURPOSE: Bible study. When Otis Q. Sellers, the founder of the Word of Truth Ministry, discovered that the Kingdom of Heaven is really our future realm in resurrection, he challenged religion to prove the notion that we go to heaven when we die. The Earth is our future home but it will be different with Satan not ruling.

AGENDA

Saturday, October 26

Doors Open at 12:30 p.m.

“Meet and Greet” and Songs

Opening Prayer at 1:30 p.m.

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Dissecting the Kingdom No. 1:

Foreshadowing the Kingdom

Nathan Johnson

3:00 – 4 p.m.

Dissecting the Kingdom No. 2:

Kingdom Realities

Andrew Brown

Closing Prayer at 4:30 p.m.

5:00 – 8 p.m.

Dinner and Conversation at

2980 Edmonton Road, Glendale, CA 91206

All Attendees Invited.

Sunday, October 27

Doors Open at 8 a.m.

Continental Breakfast and Songs

Opening Prayer at 9 a.m.

9:00 – 10 a.m.

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Louis Tonetti

10:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Dissecting the Kingdom No. 3:

The Revolt in Zechariah

Nathan Johnson

12:00 to 1 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 – 2 p.m.

Dissecting the Kingdom No. 4:

Kingdom Impacts in the Dispensation of Grace

Nathan Johnson

2:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Final Words

Milton Hammond

Closing Prayer at 3 p.m.

NOTE: All sessions are 45 minutes and have 15 minutes for a Question and Answering Session and a short break included at end of hourly intervals.



BIBLE STUDY SATELLITE GROUP LOCATIONS

In Southern California (Los Angeles Area):

The Word of Truth Ministry, 228 N. El Molino Ave., Pasadena; Sundays from 10:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. Dr. Milton Hammond moderates. Contact Mr. Robert Hammond by e-mail at wordoftruth@earthlink.net or Mr. Rusty Hancock at rustywofit@aol.com. Hymn “sing-a-long” before service. “We continue studies based upon the Biblical records of our Bible, and written/spoken words of the late Otis Q. Sellers.”

In New York (New York City Area):

The Chelsea Studios, 151 West 26th Street (Room No. 609), New York City, the last Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. Mr. Luis Casillas, moderator. Contact Mr. Mike Steele

by e-mail: quickby22@aol.com. “We use O.Q. Sellers’ **Seed & Bread** leaflets (found on www.seedandbread.org) as a guide for our discussions.”

In New Jersey:

430 Boulevard Ave., Pitman, Mondays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mr. Sam Marrone presides as host and may be reached at (856) 308-3820 or by e-mail at andthewordwasgod@hotmail.com. Marrone notes, “Bring your Bible and a hunger for the Word.”

In Oregon:

Portland, No regular schedules. Contact Mr. Bob English at (503) 357-8449 for information.

In Texas (Houston Area):

5847 Chinaberry Drive, Houston, Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 or 1 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Don Black are hosts and may be contacted at (713) 462-2250. “We usually listen and study one of Otis Sellers’ tapes.”

In Minnesota (St. Paul Area):

622 Selby Ave. (Room above Mississippi Market Food Co-op), St. Paul, Every other Friday, 6 p.m. Mr. Nathan C. Johnson presides and may be reached at (651) 733-5821 (work). Johnson encourages: “Please contact me, and come enjoy your time around God’s Word with our group.”

In South Carolina:

3800 Cottage Path, Sumter, the second Sunday and the last Sunday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mr. Allen Tolbert presides and is assisted by Mr. James Johnson. You can contact Tolbert at (803) 469-7190 in South Carolina or Johnson at (704) 864-4212 in North Carolina. “Bring your Bible and come believing God’s Word.”

In Florida:

9082 Chatsworth Cascades, Boca Raton, No regular schedules. Contact Mr. Frank Bonano at (561) 883-5018 or (954) 675-4501. “We use The Word of Truth **Seed & Bread** leaflets.”



SEED & BREAD VOLUMES 1 & 2

Would you like to read the **Seed & Bread** references given in Joanne Johnson’s or Jane Hancock’s articles? You can now purchase the entire amount of Seed & Bread articles in both volumes in hard cover or soft cover editions, called **Seed & Bread Volumes 1 and/or 2**. These two volumes are printed in large type and are easy to read. The price for the soft-cover volumes is \$19. The cost of the hard-cover volumes is \$25 each volume. Please add \$3 for orders up to \$30 and 10% for orders over \$30. Kindly make out checks or money orders in U.S. dollars to

The Word of Truth Ministry and mail to **228 N. El Molino Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101-1675**. Please allow 3-6 weeks delivery time for small orders (or more time for large orders).



WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD AND GOD-FEARING PEOPLE

By Joanne L.H. Johnson

We hear on radio, television and read in newspapers and magazines about deaths and people losing loved ones in accidents or other tragedies in life. And maybe these people who died or were in tragic accidents were good and God-fearing people. I have always wondered why bad things happen to them. Was it their fault? Let's see what the Word of God has to tell us.

First of all, we are NOT living in a time of God's judgments. Bad things that happen are not anybody's fault. God is NOT inflicting punishments on bad people OR good people right now. Matthew 5:45 (NASB) says, ". . . *For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*"

This period of time in which we live is considered by the late Otis Q. Sellers as the Dispensation of Grace (see **Seed & Bread** No. 57, *The Dispensation of Grace*), because this is a time of God's silence, the time when Acts 28:28 marked the dispensational change, a time after the Acts Period when miracles happened everyday (see **Seed & Bread** No. 7, *The Acts Dispensation*). Nowadays, God does not openly work those miracles with anybody. He does everything in secret. And in this day He is very gracious to us. Sellers defines "grace" as "a love and favor to the undeserving." The future Kingdom of God (see **Seed & Bread** No. 27, *The Kingdom of God*) is a time of righteousness and health and justice with all people on earth. We must wait for God's time for His kingdom to come, which is always better than our timing. This already has been a pretty long stretch of time—2,000 years from the birth of Christ.

Consequently, this might be why the disaster or tragedy had to happen. Like David R. Hettema says, in his **More Seed & Bread** No. 248, *Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?*, quoting King Solomon, the wisest man on earth, ". . . *The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. For man also knoweth his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them*" (Eccl. 9:11-12, KJV).

Hettema also says: "*The hurtful curve balls of life do come, but not from God. Even in this time of God's grace some of us can be in the wrong place at the right time.*"

"*We do have the privilege of prayer, the wonderful option of asking God to take note of our problems and requesting His help. Sometimes we make the mistake of trying to handle these problems in our own strength. The Apostle James speaks of those who have not because they ask not. Ask of your heavenly Father, talk to God. He has promised to hear us and consider our petitions: 'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving [giving of thanks], let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus' (Phil. 4:6-7, NKJV).*"

Similarly, bad things happen to bad people as well as good people. Bad people are defined as those who follow the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:17-21). Even good people, who live by the Spirit of God (Gal. 5:22-24), are sinful. We are NOT perfect. The Apostle Paul said, quoting Scripture, *“There is none righteous, not even one . . .”* (Romans 3:10-19). Unfortunately, this is true for all people: *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). That is why we believe in Christ and all need a Savior, good and bad people alike. And that is also why we, the believers in Christ, might believe in the resurrection of the dead, instead of going to Heaven. This is something for all to look forward to in the future “last day,” the day of resurrection.

Hettema says in his **More Seed & Bread** No. 248: *“Resurrection is God’s answer to death. . . . Jesus told Martha [John 11:23-24]: ‘Your brother shall rise again.’ She responds, ‘I know that he will be raised again in the resurrection in the last day,’ expressing her belief in the future Kingdom of God. Jesus demonstrated what men can expect when He rules the earth. He raised Lazarus from the dead. Under God’s government when sin and death are removed, the restoration of life, the healing of broken hearts and broken families, every bad thing that a believing individual has incurred, because of time and chance, will be restored and more.”*

In this dispensation, Satan is the ruler of this world. Today, there is sin and death and it engulfs us all. This is why bad things happen to good and God-fearing people. And if men are going to be righteous, they need to be in conformity with God. The truly righteous person will be obedient to God. And in the future Kingdom of God, righteousness will prevail, with no more sin and death and Christ will truly be the Prince of Peace.



WE GET LETTERS

“I still read the WOTM mailings. [I] especially enjoyed OQS’ TRV translations—Philippians in particular.”

“Keep up the good work! I appreciate Mr. Sellers’ work to clarify so much error heaped upon the student who seeks God’s truth. Thank you for continuing the precious work he began.”

