

BULLETIN

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY
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Otis Q. Sellers, Founder

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Jane Sellers Hancock, Editor

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Thoughts from the Editor
Jane S. Hancock

Our New Mailing Address:

The Word of Truth Ministry
P.O. Box 1609
Canyon Country, CA 91386

This is the first step as we begin to downsize the ministry—not the work we do but the place where we do it. Our headquarters in Pasadena, California, is too big for us. No longer do we need space to make copies of tapes, to make CDs. Everything is digitized and available when we need it. No longer do we need space to store extra copies of what we print. We don't print extra copies any more. We print on demand when necessary. No longer do we need a mailing room. What we used to mail out is now on our website. So getting a Post Office box is the beginning.

One difficult decision as we make this move is what to do with the Otis Q. Sellers library which includes over 1000 books, a surprising number copyrighted in the late 1800s. I am currently inventorying the collection, bookshelf by bookshelf. If you are searching for an out-of-print book, we may just have it.

Bob Juneau

Let me introduce you to a new writer for the Word of Truth Ministry, Bob Juneau. You will find "Waiting upon the Lord" on Page 2 of this Bulletin and a **More Seed & Bread**, "The Will of God for Our Lives," included with this mailing. Bob is married to his high school sweetheart, Angie, and they live in a suburb of Minneapolis where he is a pilot for a small charter airline. He wrote, "After many years of seeking truth through different theological positions, Angie and I love studying God's Word and are thrilled to finally be gaining much Biblical clarity through rightly dividing the Word of Truth."

The Midwest Conference CD

Included in this mailing is the MP3-CD of the Midwest Conference held last September in Milwaukee. After much discussion we decided to send it to you “as is”—warts and all. The sound quality for some speakers is crisp and clear; for others, not as good. Two speakers, Louis Tonetti and Hal Booher, had visuals shown on a screen. We decided you should hear their words even though you can’t see the visuals. You will hear Ed Michelic, away from the microphone, giving an impromptu opening to one of the sessions using the exact words Otis Q. Sellers used to begin meetings: “We greet you in the faith and fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose we are, whom we love and whom we serve.” And then, after a pause, “It is now time for us to begin.” You will hear comments as Andy Brown’s daughter passes the basket for collection. And you might even hear a question or two from the audience.

For your convenience here is a list of the messages in order:

- Nathan Johnson. “God’s Various Times.”
- Hal Booher, “Mystery of the Kingdom of God.”
- Louis Tonetti, “Angels and Giants and Spirits in Prison.”
- Andy Brown. “Understanding God’s Work.”
- Bob Juneau. “Cessation of Miracles.”
- Nathan Johnson. “Which Dividing Line?”
- Brown and Johnson. “Christ and His Body.”
- Nathan Johnson. “Grace Period—Start to Finish.”

If you would like “Notes” to go with Nathan Johnson’s, Andy Brown’s, or Bob Juneau’s messages, prepared by the speakers, we have them. Just send to our **new** mailing address, care of Rusty Hancock, or to his email address, **rustywoft@aol.com**, and he will see that you get them.

Sad News

Gwen Staiger, recorder for the Word of Truth Ministry and former member of our board, wrote to say her husband died in early October. He was a devoted husband and helped her a lot. We thought you should know. If you would like to send her a message, we can forward it to her.

Happy New Year

As world and national and local news brings us words and pictures of terrible acts of violence and inhumanity to man, we can only pray that the time will come when God steps in and establishes His Kingdom on Earth. Meanwhile keep safe, enjoy your families, and keep leaning on the Lord.



AN ACTIVE GOD

By Andrew Brown

Have you noticed that we live in a time when God is silent? God is working exclusively in grace (Eph. 3:2) so that every act is done in secret and untraceable ways (Eph. 3:8, 9). *“Truly, You are a God who hides Himself”* (Isa. 45:15; NASB throughout) is more true than ever before. In contrast, during the Acts Period, believers could not be hidden. *“These signs will accompany those who have believed”* (Mark 16:17). God confirmed His word with manifestly empowering effects. Today believers have no certain proof of belief since their lives are hidden in Christ (Col. 3:3). When Christ manifests Himself at the start of the Kingdom, then He will manifest us also (Col. 3:4). For now, He has deposited His Spirit in believers as a guarantee that He has purchased them (Eph. 1:13). God is living inside us and does not want to be dormant and inactive! *“His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him”* (2 Pet. 1:3). Christ desires to be all in all. In His grace, He can still work more than we can imagine.

Among those who know God's chosen method of dealing in grace alone, a deception often arises that God is not working. Christ told the Pharisees, *“My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working”* (John 5:17). God is always working, but to “see” one must put on eyes of faith. Paul prayed that *“the eyes of your heart MAY be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”* (Eph. 1:18). Great blessings await us in the Kingdom; however, Paul speaks of the PRESENT, *“and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe”* (Eph. 1:19). God can work powerfully within us! This power awaits every believer and is the same power that raised Christ from death (Eph. 1:20).

In Ephesians 3, a chapter teaching God's present purpose, Paul urges *“[God] would grant you...to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man”* (Eph. 3:16). Christ works—not in manifest miracles, but in the inner man without mediators (1 Tim. 2:5) for the purpose that *“Christ MAY dwell in your hearts through faith and that you [be] rooted and grounded in love”* (Eph. 1:17). Christ desires to make His home in us and solidify our worthy walk in this evil day. This involves a relationship that includes Him in everything about ourselves so that our hearts are transformed into a welcome dwelling for Him. Many of the verses on this subject contain conditional statements (MAY) that unfortunately are not experienced by many believers. *“You MAY be filled up to all the fullness of God”* (Eph. 3:19). Profoundly, this is the same fullness of the Deity that dwells in Christ and He offers a powerful relationship that brings such fullness! Christ is *“able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us”* (Eph. 3:20). The ultimate satisfaction of closeness with Christ activates this dynamic possibility.

This is not like the FALSE FIRE of many today who try to mimic the Lord's workings as Jannes and Jambres or Simon the sorcerer did in the past. Colossians affirms our completeness in Christ along with *“bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”* (Col. 1:10). Paul prays that we MAY be *“strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might”* (Col. 1:11). Most believers resemble dead, powerless fish rather than alive, powerfully equipped saints.

Although Paul was struggling with the loss of miraculous gifts and the suspension of the Kingdom (Phil. 1:6, 30), he still retained a different power that carried through to our day. *“For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within*

me” (Col.1:29). He was trying to get the Philippians, who were struggling with the departure of gifts, to realize the fellowship with the Spirit that remained (Phil. 2:1). “*For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure*” (Phil. 2:13). If they would stop complaining about how God wasn’t working anymore, they could tap into how He IS WORKING NOW. Remember, although Paul could not heal Epaphroditus, God healed him. Our pursuit takes time and effort. Prayer is not a “blank check” anymore, but it can empower us. “*The peace (union) of God, which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*” (Phil. 4:7). Our relationship (union) with God surpasses all comprehension! Amazingly, all this is done in secret and increasing measure!

Paul reminded Timothy to “*kindle afresh the gift of God*” (2 Tim. 1:6). Although different from Timothy, we still need to put ourselves in position for God to light our fire. He will do it, “*for our God is a consuming fire*” (Heb. 12:29). Let us not be like the character of those in the last days who are “*holding a form of godliness but [denying] the power*” (2 Tim. 3:5). There is power from God today which many believers are not experiencing. “*God has not given us a spirit of timidity but of power and love and discipline*” (2 Tim. 1:7). Let us not be satisfied with merely God’s PASSIVE grace given to all mankind. Let us pursue God’s ACTIVE grace by seeking God and growing strong in relationship with Him. “*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*” (2 Tim. 2:1). God’s love has found a way to act in grace. Can you find time and motivation to draw nearer to Him?



WAITING UPON THE LORD

By Robert Juneau

Psalm 37:9 says: *For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.* When Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg Germany on October 31, 1517, another door opened. This door would eventually lead men toward truth. The reformation of “the church” that resulted from Luther’s actions that day brought forth much truth that the clergy of his day with their staunchly held positions had no interest in considering. The courage Luther had to act on his convictions and never waver when called upon to recant was admittedly admirable but it must be recognized that the reformation took us only so far. In less than three years Protestants will be celebrating the five hundredth anniversary of this event. It would be wonderful to be able to look back upon the many further Biblical discoveries that have been made within the religion of Christianity since that day but sadly the ideas, beliefs, doctrines, and practices in Christendom have been for the most part left unchallenged for five centuries. The early reformers were willing to “take on” the Catholic Church over doctrinal differences yet we have seen little else since but an attitude of closed mindedness and an inclination to shut out any voice of dissent. Anyone daring to question the authority of religious organizations or the men who run them has usually been rejected outright.

There is however a chink in the armor. It may have taken a few hundred years but dispensational theology begins to emerge from this Protestant movement in the 1830’s when J.N. Darby starts to see that the kingdom of God in Scripture could not possibly be the

“church,” but instead was a literal event when the will of God is fulfilled on the earth with Israel front the center. C.I. Scofield then popularized and furthered this idea in the latter part of the nineteenth century. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, E.W. Bullinger, a descendant of an early Swiss reformer, brings dispensational theology into a new light, uncovering many Biblical truths not previously understood, found mostly in his epic work, *The Companion Bible*. Further reform and Biblical understanding comes in the first half of the twentieth century as C.H. Welch acknowledges the dispensational character and setting of the epistles of Paul. This pivotal understanding greatly enhanced our ability to rightly divide the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15). The twentieth century saw another man dare to take God at His Word at all cost. O.Q. Sellers brought dispensational theology in line with an unprecedented understanding of doctrinal truths concerning the kingdom of God, Israel, Christian individualism, and much, much more. All of these men built on a foundation of previous understanding, bringing new and progressive ideas to the forefront for others to further explore and advance. Today it behooves us to take up this work of further developing Biblical truth, building upon the work of others. Some like Nathan C. Johnson are doing just that. Nathan is a most skillful expositor of all things Biblical who is further advancing these truths found in the nooks and crannies of Scripture. Who will be the next champion to bring forth further understanding of Biblical things not previously understood? How much more understanding is there to garner from Scripture? The religious world would say, “Not much,” but I must disagree; I believe God has given us His Word to explore for the ages.

While it is a disgrace that it has taken two thousand years for much truth to finally start emerging from His Word, this is not God’s fault; it is man’s fault. God has been faithful in providing us with His Word today as Acts 28:28 teaches us. Not only is the Word available to us, it has actually been authorized (*apostello*) for our use. Man has failed miserably in what he has done with it. For one and one half millennia the Light of God’s Word had been hid under a bushel (Mark 4:21-23). I sometimes try to envision a world where instead of a new religion springing up in the first few centuries of this dispensation, instead of men’s ideas taking hold, we had seen Biblical truth surface from the very beginning. Imagine how much further along we would be in our understanding if we had two thousand years of truth building to rest on instead of just a few hundred years. Would this dispensation have already come to a close? See 2 Timothy 3:9. Would the kingdom of God already have been ushered in? Read 2 Timothy 4:1. Would the earth today be filled with the knowledge of God like the waters cover the sea? Consider Isaiah 11:19. Would the inhabitants of the earth have finally learned righteousness? See Isaiah 26:9.

God has been very patient with His creation, is it so much to ask that we be patient with Him? Sometimes we question why this dispensation has gone on for so long. Why has He put up with all of man’s sin, unrighteousness, and wrong thinking? Why has He tarried so long in bringing in the manifest kingdom of God? I wonder if perhaps He has tarried, knowing that further, deeper knowledge of Him would eventually surface. If God is omniscient, it must be true that He knew of a day when a more profound understanding of Him would eventually emerge. This is why we are on the earth today. While we are waiting on the Lord, we can be studying to discover all we can from God’s Word. I wonder if this dispensation continues because God is finally getting what He has always wanted from the people of this dispensation, believers who walk in His Light (the Bible being our portable Light), believers who stand as

individuals, believers who walk in Christ, apart from the religious requirements of men, believers who seek after the knowledge and wisdom of God. I wonder how much more “Light” will be shed during this dispensation, before it comes to an abrupt end and the manifest kingdom of God bursts on the scene.



WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO TODAY?

By Joanne L.H. Johnson

What does God want me to do today? What guidance do I need to pull me through? I have no direct Word from God and nobody else does, for that matter. But, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we should always be searching out His words and ways. Consider what is recommended in God’s Word for men and women. Micah 6:8 says: *“He has showed thee (you), O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”* (KJV used throughout.)

Questions arise. What is God’s wisdom for today? What knowledge does He want us to have? What understanding do we need to serve Him? Bear in mind these timeless, ancient, wonderful words of God:

- *“For the Lord gives wisdom: out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding”* (Prov. 2:6).
- *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction”* (Prov. 1:7).
- *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy [One] is understanding”* (Prov. 9:10).
- *“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that wins souls (shares the Word of God with others) is wise. Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more [than] the wicked [ones] and the sinner”* (Prov. 11:30-31).

David’s son, Solomon, said about his God-inspired proverbs that these are *“to know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; to give subtlety to the simple (naïve), to the young man knowledge and discretion. A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels”* (Prov. 1:2-5).

Presently we have no direct way of communicating with God, as in Old Testament times, or when Christ was on Earth, or during the times of miracles of the believers of the Acts Period. But we can get inspiration from God through reading the pages of His Word, the Bible. Like the Apostle Paul said, we are *saved by grace through faith in Christ, our Redeemer: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”* (Eph. 2:8-10).

We read the Apostle Paul’s words inspired by God in Christ for pursuing God’s way in the present day:

- *“Be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man*

truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor; working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needs. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:24-32).

- *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth (desires) against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the Law [to disobey God's laws]. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, . . . wrath, strife, . . . envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another” (Gal. 5:16-26).*

This particularly enduring appeal, the Lord's Prayer, is a most unusual prayer given by our Lord Jesus Christ for all to wisely consider when we need strength for today, as well as being considered a prayer for the Kingdom of God: *“Our Father which are in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors (this sentence is a Kingdom principle). And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen” (Matt. 6:9-13).* (For more information, see **More Seed & Bread** No. 293, *The Lord's Prayer For Today*, by M.B. Hammond.)

What does God want us to do today? May we always be found believing, walking in the ways of the Lord Jesus Christ, and reading His magnificent Words of Life: *“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).*

