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CONQUERORS OR GRASSHOPPERS?

NO.305

A SERIOUS EXHORTATION

The Apostle Paul raised this pressing question to the church, *“O foolish Galatians...Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect BY the flesh?”* (Gal.3:1,3) Paul was not addressing babes in Christ; he was writing to a church that had experienced the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit. He was speaking of being made perfect in Christ.

Paul’s letter to the Galatians is filled with crucial truths concerning one’s personal growth in Christ. Paul knew by experience that past affiliations and memberships will plague us until all traces of their doctrines are totally removed from our minds and hearts. The Galatians were being hounded by the works of the Law.

“Having begun in the Spirit, are we now being made perfect by the flesh?” is the question that needs to be asked of all who are pressing toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. It is so easy to believe that because we are no longer members of a visible church or assembly, we are now free from their influence. Some of their ways and teachings are often embedded deep in our minds, and they continue to guide us unaware. Until we fully embrace the truths that the Holy Spirit leads us into daily, we are subject to a mixture of old and new.

Often, it is this mixture that keeps us in bondage for it genders many aspects of fear. Fear of being deceived is a giant force that works hard to keep us from moving on. Trust in Him is the answer but we still weigh things according to man’s interpretation of the written Word rather than by the witness of His Spirit within.

How willing are we to let go of the old doctrines that

feel safer because they have been embraced by Christians for years? I remember a simple dream that I had several years ago about a person with whom I had shared much of what I was seeing by the Spirit. In the dream, *“I saw her spacious living room. It was just packed full of furniture and hard to get around. She had arranged the new furniture that I had given her, but she had kept all of her old furniture as well.”* This was graphic, and it is sadly true for many of us. As we walk in the truths that the Holy Spirit leads us into daily, we need to let go of the old. The old will clutter our path and confuse our minds and hearts.

Until we come to Christ, the Law of commandments is good and holy. After we come to Christ and are baptized in the Holy Spirit, He becomes our Law, our teacher and leader. He is the life-giving, quickening Spirit within us and step by step, as we yield ourselves to Him, He releases us from the old. The Law of commandments still covers us as a people in the world we live in. The Holy Spirit leads us as individuals in Christ and is the law of the Spirit of life to us. *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”* (Rom. 8: 2)

Why would we return to that which has been replaced by something much better? Why would we want to hold on to the old when the new is calling us on? Is this what happened to Israel when they came to the border of the land? Is it what happens to those who cannot enter God’s rest? Is this why the fearful and unbelieving have to go through the second death?

OUR LAND OF PROMISE REVEALED

What is our land of promise? This is a good ques-

tion. There are several aspects of that land but we could easily say that it is the land we will be dwelling in for eternity. Some may see it as a heaven in the sky where we are reunited with family and friends. Others may see it as a literal foursquare city that our God built with literal streets of gold. This is what some of us have heard in our denominations.

Others are more spiritual and believe that we will be eternal spirit beings free to move around and enjoy all of God's creation. All of these ideas create doctrines formed by our vivid imaginations and become part of Christendom's teachings. These things constitute the wilderness that we walk through in our lives. Because the true picture can only be revealed by the Lord, we are wise to be spiritually flexible and stretchable until we are able to see and understand the truth as it really is, and our spiritual ears and eyes are open to more truth.

Some things never change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. And He is the foundation of our faith. *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* (I Cor. 3:11) The foundation never changes, but if we grow in Christ, what we build upon the foundation will change a lot over time.

Knowing that Jesus Christ is our foundation, everything that is built upon that foundation must fit in Him. And this building is not made of concrete and wood; this building is alive, made of living stones. He is the foundation. He is the footing or feet and He is also the Corner Stone. He is also the Head for He is the beginning and the end. So what we build in between the two must be of the same substance as He is.

In his very long prayer, Paul speaks of Jesus Christ's inheritance IN THE SAINTS. *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS."* (Eph.1: 18)

Jesus Christ is heir of all things and among these "things" He has an inheritance in the saints. What Jesus inherits in us is our spirits, souls and bodies. We

have been in earthen vessels with earthly minded souls. From deep within, Jesus has been changing our earthly being into the image of the heavenly. He is walking with us in these furnaces of earth. He takes us through suffering and through death and resurrection until we become His inheritance. He is the One who is performing it all.

By the same token, He becomes our inheritance. For if we are his children, then we are *"...heirs, heirs of God, and JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST. If so be we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."* (Rom.8:17)

Through suffering, we inherit His Life, and He inherits our souls and bodies. We become His body, His church, His bride and His brethren too. This is one the great mysteries that only His Spirit can reveal to us.

So now we may be able to better answer the question, "what is our land?" Our land is our inheritance in Christ. Our land is we "as Him" in the world. Our land is our new creation being. John declares, *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."*(I Jn.3:2)

We are the sons of God by relationship to Christ, yet we don't appear to be at this time. But we know that when He appears, we shall see Him for we will be as He is. To see Him, we must be like Him. So will the world see Him as we do when He appears? Not unless the world is like Him and we know it will not be. When Jesus Christ went to the Father, He went to prepare a place for us in His Father's house. Then He added, *"And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*(Jn.14: 3)

Of a truth, He has "come again" and has been receiving us UNTO HIMSELF. This means that He has been sanctifying or separating us unto Himself for His purpose. And He is glorifying us that we may be as He is. We were called and predestinated to this end. *"Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justi-*

fied; and whom he justified, them he also glorified.” (Rom.8:30)

He has been taking possession of our land, He has been fighting and defeating all the giants that dwelt therein. Until the last enemy is destroyed. *“For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”* (I Cor.15:25-26) Little by little, we are entering into our new eternal dwelling which is Christ our glory. We are taking possession of our land as we become as He is in us.

CONQUERORS OR GRASSHOPPERS

The saga of Israel from Egypt to the promise land is of great interest to us because they are our example. *“Now all these things happened unto them for examples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”* (I Cor.10:11)

Their trudging through the wilderness for forty years and their attitude through it all must be seen as an admonition to us as we go through the wilderness of this world’s systems. The land that God promised them is a type of the eternal state of being that is ours in Christ. What happened when they reached the borders of the land is of great interest to us because it was at the borders that the Lord separated the unbelievers from those who had the right spirit.

When the people found out that indeed the land would provide them with milk and honey and wonderful fruit they were elated, but when the report also showed that there were giants dwelling in that land, they were fearful and unbelieving; they turned viciously against those who had the Spirit to go up.

God had given them the land and He told them that He would deliver the giants into their hands so that they could destroy them. The Lord called the giants by name thus revealing their nature. He told them that they were indeed *“...seven nations greater and mightier than them.”* (Deu.7:1b) But then He added, *“And when the Lord thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy*

them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them.” (Vs.2) *“Thou shalt not be affrighted of them; for the Lord thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible. And the Lord thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beast of the field increase upon thee. But the Lord thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed.”* (Deu.7: 21-23)

In spite of all this they still murmured and said, *“And then we saw the giants, the sons of Anak which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so were we in their sight.”* (Numb.13:33)

The promise land that Israel was given to inherit in the Old Testament, was a literal geographical place, but for us it represents much more. Main-stream Christianity teaches that Canaan represents “heaven” where saints go when they pass from this life, but this interpretation does not stand the test.

The “Heaven” that Christianity portrays may have excellent fruit, but surely there are no giants to destroy there. So the emotional songs of “Canaan Land” as that beautiful land of milk and honey beyond the veil, is just another prop for the “fake doctrines” of modern Christendom.

Our promise land speaks of our inheritance in Christ. Eternal life is our inheritance, but eternal life includes spirit, soul and body. *“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.”* (Matt.5:5) And the sons shall inherit ALL THINGS including the earth. When Jesus became the firstborn of a new creation of God. He showed Himself for forty days and forty nights to His disciples. They saw Him with their literal eyes. They walked with Him and talked with Him, ate with Him and touched Him.

Jesus showed them the eternal body of glory that He had obtained for them and for all His called out ones to come. Jesus had received part of His inheritance, but the rest was yet to come. The rest were those who would possess that same body (land) through overcoming all the giants that were keeping humanity in a

state of sin and death. When the body of Christ, His church overcomes corruption and death in the flesh, we will receive our inheritance or new bodies and Jesus will have his inheritance in us too.

In his very long prayer, Paul explains, *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of HIS CALLING, and what the riches of the glory of HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS.”* (Eph.1: 18)

We are His inheritance, and He is ours. He inherits us for His incorruptible Seed raises a body of glory in us, in our earth. Thus we inherit Him who is our life and the glory that we become is the new creation in His likeness. This glory is the hope that we have in Christ. (Christ in you, the hope of glory) only the hope becomes the reality. This glory is our land, our inheritance. It is the new spirit, soul and body that belongs to Him as well as to us in Him.

CUTTING OFF THE WICKED

The Spirit speaks through the Psalmist, *“For the Lord loveth judgment and forsaketh not his saints, they are preserved for ever, but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall INHERIT THE LAND, AND DWELL THEREIN FOR EVER...Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee TO INHERIT THE LAND: when the wicked are cut off, thou shall see it.”*(Ps.37:28-29,34)

This is such an encouraging word for us today. We are not only reading this Word, we are living it. We are seeing the fulfillment of all prophecies in Christ which is now formed in us! We are still “waiting on the Lord” for our full inheritance. We are still dwelling in the old earthly land, but inside of us things are stirring for the complete transition is near.

The “Wicked” that is being cut off is the first Adam man. His replacement is coming in His own order. Christ the firstfruits and then those who are Christ’s at His coming. In other words, when the body of Christ appears as He is, then those who are of the next order will be made ready. This will go on until God is all in all. We can understand this so clearly now because we are living it.

When Israel came to the land, they were discouraged by the report that there were formidable giants in their land. At this point of our spiritual journey, we have struggled with powerful and very real forces in our own minds and hearts. But the Lord has cut off the head of the “wicked” and the thoughts of the carnal mind are under His control.

The Wicked is that serpent, the counterfeit of good, the God of this world. He has now become the great red dragon that is out to destroy man and his planet. He is the murderer from the beginning who killed Abel whose blood cries from the ground. He is the thief and the murderer who crucified the Lord of glory. He is now being revealed by the rising Son whose glory will cover the world as the waters cover the seas.

He has taught us his ways and his lies, but the Light of the Spirit of truth has revealed them one by one. It was one by one that Israel had to defeat the giants in their land, and it is one by one that we tackle our giants as well. In studying the way that the Lord led Israel to destroy the giants of their land, we get some knowledge of how He deals with us in our personal battles too.

“The Righteous shall inherit the land and dwell therein forever.” (Ps.37:29) This is not a land in the sky somewhere, it is a new state of being where we are in the presence of God and where peace and well-being is permanent.

Jesus gave us a preview of this land when He showed Himself after His resurrection. His body was recognizable when He wished it to be. He could eat with them and talk with them and they could touch Him. He was not limited by walls or doors. He could enter or disappear anytime He was ready.

These are the bodies of glory that Jesus revealed to us. This is how the body of Christ that He has prepared will be clothed. They are the Father’s mansions. This will be our clothing for the age to come when we rule and reign with Him in the earth. This will take place when the body of Christ here on earth has overcome the last enemy which is death in the flesh. The appearance of the Body of Christ is the ap-

pearance of Jesus in the earth. He brings with Him those who have been asleep, that is to say, those who are on the other side of the veil. This is the perfection that we have all been awaiting.

This is the first resurrection. It is the offering of the Firstfruits unto God. This will open a new age or period of time when Christ in His glorified body of saints, will rule and reign in the earth. The Bible quotes a thousand years for this period, which is not literally counted from our calendars, but is the time limit that God has given for that work.

The Wicked was cut off on the cross of Calvary when Jesus declared, "It is finished." However, in His resurrection Jesus began a new work of building His church, which is His body in the earth. His church, as Eve, had to be cleansed and purified in order to become His bride and receive His pure Seed (Word).

This work has been difficult at times but with diligence and long-suffering, He has brought her to the Father's House and is ready to take her as His wife. She is the one who truly loves Him and is attracted to Him. Indeed, she has gone through many hurdles to find His pure Word of life.

She has finally come to the true source which is the Holy Spirit within her. She rejoices when she shares with those who are of the same mind, but they are not found in the visible assemblies of this world. They have been set aside for His purpose (sanctified) and they each have been fed of the same bread of life.

The Wicked (old nature) has been cut off in their lives. Christ will rule and reign in the earth through them and will cut off the Wicked from those who are next in God's order. "*Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. On such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*" (Rev.20: 8)

Note that the Spirit first says, "HE WHO HATH PART." Then in the same sentence, the "He" is changed to "THEY" to describe the same "person." It is "He Christ" as a single person who becomes

"They" Christ as His many-membered" body.

THE FEARFUL AND UNBELIEVING

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death." (Vs.8)

Just as Israel of old feared the giants and could not enter into their land of promise, so there are fearful and unbelieving Christians who cannot enter God's City. The City is the Church or Body of Christ. It is our land of promise. It is the inheritance to the overcomer. "*He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*" (Rev.21:7) The "he" in this verse is Christ in His body.

When we speak of inheritance, we speak of "sonship." All Christians are children by relationship to God, but to inherit with Christ, to obtain the same resurrection, one must suffer with Him and become mature son. "*Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant.*" (Gal.4:1)

A child believes what he is told, but a mature son believes because he has the experience. Are there fearful Christians, afraid to believe? We know that the answer is "Yes." The fear of the Lord is good and safe; it is the beginning of wisdom. But this is not fear of the Lord, it is fear to believe the Lord. It is fear to be deceived. This is a lack of maturity. It comes from relying on the faith of others, and not developing our own faith through experience with God. It is a lack of knowing Him and trusting Him. We cannot trust someone we don't know.

Everyone, every Christian has had daily experience with the Lord. Only not everyone has acknowledged these experiences. It is easy to get so caught up in the daily cares and the problems that we face, that we do not notice His presence or His moving in our situations. It is easy to try so hard to do something to remedy our problems that we forget that He is right here with us ready to work things out for us. It is when

we notice Him daily in all that we do, that we begin to know Him and to know His ways. We often think that He is there for us only when we call upon Him, but He is with us all the time.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths...My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, neither be weary of his correction: for whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.” (Prov.3: 5, 6, 11,12)

ABBA FATHER!

The Bible identifies the Body, the Bride and the Church as one entity. We know that the “body” is made up of the “sons” who are predestinated to be as He is. One does not come in to “sonship” by faith alone, one becomes a son through obedience and suffering with Christ. Jesus. *“Though he were a Son yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.”*(Heb.5:8)

It is not the “son” by birth only that inherits the land; it is the son who suffers with Him. *“IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH HIM, that we may be also glorified together.”* Suffering teaches us obedience and obedience brings us into maturity. As we obey and yield ourselves to the Spirit He quickens our mortal bodies and we move according to His ways.

Paul explains, *“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”* (Rom.8: 12-14)

We are sons because we are called, but it is as we learn to yield to Him each day that through obedience we become mature sons and receive our “adoption.” *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father.”* (Rom.8: 15) Fear is the fruit of bondage.

Let us be reminded that the word “adoption” here does not have the same meaning that we usually give it. We think of adopting a child as taking one who has no parents and giving that child our name. But here the “spirit of adoption” comes to those who are already God’s children, but now they receive the understanding of what their place and purpose are in Christ.

The Spirit of adoption reveals our Father to us, and shows us what is our place as sons. When we become sons, we cry with joy, *“ABBA FATHER!” “MY DEAR FATHER!* As we are coming into maturity, we are being made aware of our Father’s presence. The word “adoption” here means, “son placing.” This is when we take our place as mature sons of God.

I remember a dream that I had a few years ago. *“In the dream I was in a kitchen getting ready to go to school. There was a counter with stools around the kitchen and I went to sit in a corner next to this man. I looked and lo, it was my father. He looked at me with such love and we sat for a few moments cheek to cheek, just absorbing the love and joy of the moment. However, I knew I still had to go to school as I was close to getting my diploma. I knew that I was going to be a little late this morning, but that would be just fine because it had been for my father’s visit.”*

This dream is ever so precious to me because it was my real flesh and blood father in the dream. I had only seen him once in a dream. That was the dream when he came to say good bye before he passed away. As a child I was separated from my father and I loved him so much. But this dream had to do with my heavenly Father who is even more precious and loving to me.

This dream does not just pertain to me; it speaks to the entire body of sons of whom I am a part. As His bride, we will always love the Son. He is the Word in us. But are Father is the love, the life, the purity and righteousness and all the attributes that are the nature of God. As we begin to walk in mature sonship, we come to know our Father. Jesus made this promise, *“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he shall give it you.”* (Jn.16:23)

That day is when we will come in his name. This is when we will be as He is and have all of His nature and attributes. This is the day that is at hand. Up to now, we have asked the Son and we have received much at His hand. It has mostly come through gifts of the Spirit. But soon we will receive from the Father as sons.

HARD TO BELIEVE

The time is here when the things that some of us have put on the “shelf” have to come off. Some will be stumbled but those who know the Father will rejoice. The “things” that are of great value to us are eternal. They are the truths that the Spirit has made real to us and that are our life. The new creature that we is made of spiritual realities. These realities have come to us, line upon line and precept upon precept as we walked through this wilderness of man-made religions.

Our journey has been like climbing a rugged, rocky and narrow mountain path. There have been times when we could rest and take inventory of our spiritual assets, but most of the times have been hard experiences and testing. The mountain that we are climbing is not the Mount of Salvation, for salvation is by faith and there is no need for such effort.

But the mountain we have been climbing is Mt. Zion, which represents the place of David’s throne, or the place of ruling and reigning with Christ. This ruling takes place in the age to come and so we are now just about to the top of that mountain. I remember a dream that I had years ago when the Lord showed me the top of that mountain.

In the dream, *“I was climbing the rugged path of a high and very rocky mountain. There were others climbing too, but I felt isolated by myself with my guide on the path. Then we came to the top and I looked all around and saw only the tops of other mountains. This mountain was higher than all the others. I then heard a voice saying, You are on Zion now.”*

At the time, I did not understand this dream as I do now. Some have been called to climb this very steep

and high mountain. (The visible Mt. Zion is only 2510 ft.) but the spiritual Mt. Zion which is God’s kingdom where the kings and priests in Christ dwell, is higher than all other kingdoms. *“But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance...”* (Oba.17)

They are those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. The Lamb has laid down His life, but we must also emphasize that this same Lamb has triumphed over hell and death. He holds the keys of hell and death. *“I am he that liveth and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and I have the keys of hell and death.”* (Rev.1:18)

The devil is not too concerned with evangelists who preach salvation and a forever heaven in the sky. The devil is shaking at the thought that a body of sons is arising to take the power of sin and death away from him. And these sons are “quickenings spirits” with the power to impart life. And they are obedient to the Father.

What is coming in the world next is not just a “revival” as glorious as those may have been in the past. What is a greater resurrection than that of Lazarus. For in Christ there is no more death. *“Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.”* (Rom.6:9)

NO MORE DEATH, not only of spirit and soul, but no more death in body as well. No more grave. This is hard for many to believe. The last enemy which is death is being overcome in us. We are now at the dawn of this full manifestation.

“For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” (I Cor.15:25-26) This is truly a “giant” to overcome. Many are being lulled by a fairy tale of an heavenly city or park somewhere where the saints will rejoice eternally. It may well be easier and more conceivable to believe that, but it is carnal and has no firm foundation. It is not built upon the Rock. Jesus never said that He was going to prepare a place in “heaven” for us; he said He was going to the Father.

Dear ones, it matters not if some among us still go to the grave. It matters not if I go to the grave tomor-

row. The truth stands firm, We are at the dawn of the Day when some will overcome death in their body and there will be no more death. *“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written. O death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”* (I Cor.15: 53-55)

This is the message the Lord set in my heart when He first stood me behind a pulpit in 1964, and it is the message that is even more on fire within me now.

A THOUGHT ON GOD’S WAYS

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isa.56:8-9)

Indeed this is an infinite difference, and it applies to everything we think and do. As I look back upon my life and the way that the Lord has taught me, I realize that His methods have not been the usual conventional ones. And because we have all been taught in the schools of men, it is difficult for us to conceive or realize how our God deals with us.

In the schools of man, the lesson is first taught through knowledge, then the test. For a long time, I thought that this was the way God taught too. But as I look at my life, I realize that God gives the experience or the test first, then He gives the understanding through the experience. It is actually in the experience that God teaches us. If we don’t learn through the first experience, then He sends another until we learn. Our human teachers teach us through knowledge, God teaches through life. What we learn through knowledge can puff us up, but the life lesson will stay with us.

Does this mean that we have no need to be taught or to read our Bible? NO. The written Word confirms the living Word. Memorizing verses does not give life, but when the test comes, the written Word confirms the lesson and seals it. This is most beneficial. God gives life through the experience. The

Bible is seed planted in the ground of our minds, and quickened by the Holy Spirit. This is what Paul meant when he said, *“So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”* (I Cor.3:7) Paul goes on to say that both he that plants and he that waters are indeed valuable; all are laborers with God.

Only what we learn through experience becomes “gold tried in the fire” and endures forever. Through experience, we are changed. We should cherish our experiences, even the hard ones. They are truly our eternal values.

God’s Holy Spirit is our Leader. He leads us through the fire or the experience so that in the fire we find Him. It is in the fire that the Word we hear from Him becomes part of us. Reading the Bible or memorizing verses are profitable but they do not stir up the Spirit of revelation within us; it is when we find Him in the fire that our eyes are open. It is then that we have learned the lesson that increases our faith and our stature in Him.

Jesus chose His disciples very carefully. They were the ones who walked with Him and were close to Him, yet none of the twelve were educated as scribes or learned men. They were just simple fishermen.

Jesus knew that He could not teach those who were skilled in knowledge as easily as those who were needy. Later, He chose Saul of Tarsus, a man with an extensive education, but Paul had a violent conversion. Paul had to unlearn everything that he had so carefully learned under Gamaliel.

Paul declared, *“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”* (Phil.3: 8) Paul was not talking about the loss of material goods; he was talking of his knowledge in the Law, his higher education and the position and prestige that they afforded him in the world. Paul knew by his experience with Jesus, that they were all worthless.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*