



Let my people go!
Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson
The Old Ship of Zion
(Christian-Zionist Publication)
"Godliness with contentment." (1 Tim. 6:6)
"To the Jew first." (Rom. 1:16)

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THE CHRISTIAN'S WILDERNESS

By Cpt. Gordon F. Nelson

Children of Israel All Died in the Wilderness Following Their Leader Moses -- Type of Christ After the Flesh

"Now all these things happened unto them (the children of Israel) 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." (1 Cor. 10:11-12)

All of the children of Israel that lived in Egypt (type of the world) and served Pharaoh (type of Satan) crossed the Red Sea (type of Calvary). *"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the (Red) sea; and were all baptized unto Moses (type of Christ) in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for THEY WERE OVERTHROWN IN THE WILDERNESS."* (1 Cor. 10:1-5)

Read Hebrews 3:7-19, *"So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest...But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."* (Heb. 3:11,17-19)

Without Being Sealed Unto the Day of Redemption, You Are Still Labouring in the Wilderness to "Enter Into Rest" (Heb. 4:11)

Until God has "sealed" you for delivery, you are still in the wilderness having God the Father ever looking at you to see if you are acceptable for His Son. The gift of the Holy Ghost is the evidence that the earnest money has been invested in you. *"...know ye not... ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price."* (1 Cor. 6:19-20) It is not until that down payment is evidenced as earnest money that we can claim this unconditional salvation that the Southern Baptists all yak about. *"For many be called, but few chosen."* (Matt. 20:16)

It is very strange, indeed, this 21st century church. The Christians that do not have eternal security are the ones that believe they have it. While the Pentecostals who have it, don't believe it!

They are “*ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*” (2 Tim. 3:7) “Justification by the law,” is what the Pentecostals clamor for, and is the reason they cannot enter into God’s free grace! Pentecostals follow blind leaders that lead them back to the law, and thus cannot enter into grace. “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*” (Eph. 2:8) “*And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.*” (Rom. 11:6)

They Could Not Believe the Evidence!

They could not believe the spies report when they returned from searching out the land of Canaan. “*We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.*” (Num. 13:27) The spies brought back the evidence; the clusters of grapes of Eshcol. (Num. 13:24) These huge clusters of grapes the spies had cut down at the brook Eshcol are a type of the receiving of the baptism of “*the Holy Ghost, and with fire*” (Matt. 3:11) that John the Baptist prophesied would happen when Messiah comes.

“*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, WHICH IS THE EARNEST of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*” (Eph. 1:13-14)

Nothing is Purchased Until a Down Payment Exists

There is no “unconditional eternal security” until God puts up the earnest money, or the down payment, “*which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*” Jesus chose you to follow the Lord. “*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” (Matt. 4:19) Jesus is a type of Moses. Moses could not go into the Promised Land.

“This is the Rest!”

“*For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.*” (Isa. 28:11-12) “*For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.*” (Heb. 4:8) “The other day,” that the writer to the Hebrews is referring to, is the Day of Pentecost when the church was birthed by the descent of the Holy Ghost. “*And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*” (Acts 2:3-4)

Romans 7 is the Christian's Wilderness That We "Labour Through"

Romans 7 ends with, *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."*

Romans 7 is the Christian's wilderness! *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."* (Rom. 7:18-20) It is to this that Paul cries out, *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* (Rom. 7:24)

Romans 8 is the Christian's Promised Land

It is in this process of being delivered that Apostle Paul calls it labour. *"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest* (Rom. 8), *lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."* (Heb. 4:11)

"For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day." (Heb. 4:8) Jesus did not give you rest, no more than Moses could give the children of Israel the Promised Land. The children of Israel had to labour to enter into the Promised Land. This Jesus *"after the flesh"* (2 Cor. 5:16), born under the law (the Christ of the four gospels), cannot take you into the Promised Land. *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter,"* (Jn. 14:16), a type of Joshua and Caleb to take you across Jordan.

"Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God." (Rom. 15:8) *"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel."* (Matt. 15:24) Pentecostals refuse to believe Him. Don't you think Paul knew who this "Christ after the flesh" was? *"Yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more."* (2 Cor. 5:16)

Joshua is a Type of the Comforter

It was Joshua, a type of the Comforter, who led the children of Israel into the Promised Land. *"But charge Joshua,"* God said to Moses, *"for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt (only) see,"* from the top of mount Pisgah, *"for thou shalt not go over this Jordan."* (Deu. 3:27-28)

Of all those that came out of Egypt following Moses (a type of Christ) and crossed the Red Sea (a type of Calvary's blood), they all died in the wilderness, having never received the promise. These things are *"examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."* (1 Cor. 10:11) The very next verse is a stunning rebuke to all Darby-Scofield

fanatics on their interpretation of eternal security. *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”* (1 Cor. 10:12)

Only the Comforter (type of Joshua) can lead you across that Jordan, out of your church wilderness. *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever...But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”* (Jn. 14:16,26)

The Baptism Of The Holy Ghost Is Not An Option

When the Apostle Peter finally finished his notable sermon on the day of Pentecost, and while giving the altar call, the congregation was pricked in their hearts. *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise (one must labour to enter into the rest – Heb. 4:11) is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.”* (Acts 2:37-40)

The only way you can *“Save yourselves from this untoward generation,”* is by embracing the Holy Ghost: for mind over matter will not save you in this hour. Failure to call upon the Comforter, a type of Joshua to take you into the Promised Land, will result in you being a part of the greatest falling away from Christianity ever recorded in history (2 Thessalonians 2:3 and the five foolish virgins of Matthew 25).

For By One Spirit Are We Baptized Into One Body

Do you know why Jesus could not give them rest? It is because the rest, evidenced by the “speaking in tongues” given by the Father, is the dowry and acceptance by the Father of the betrothal. Before the betrothal, the prospective bride must be presented to the Father. The question of the dowry, or earnest money, must be discussed with the Father. *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter (the dowry, or down payment)”* (Jn. 14:16), that you are now *“sealed unto the day of redemption.”* (Eph. 4:30)

Moses’ One Offense Made Him Guilty of the Whole Law

Moses was the meekest (humblest) man on earth, yet offended God one time when he smote the rock. *“And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came*

out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.” (Nu. 20:11-12)

The Law is “The Leaven that Leaveneth the Whole Lump” (Gal. 5:9)

Moses is a type of the law, and the Promised Land is a type of grace, the baptism of the Holy Ghost with fire, and rest. The law can never bring you into grace. It can lead you right up to the entrance, but can never bring you into the correct understanding of grace. *“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Gal. 3:24)* The schoolmaster is a type of Moses.

Pentecostals have invited the schoolmaster in, and never closed the door on the law. *“Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.” (1 Tim. 1:7)* Pentecostalism beautifies this ignorance, clothing it, and then calling it “holiness” and “sanctification.” If Paul were to write a corrective letter to the Pentecostals, the Nazarenes and the Baptists, he would send them the same letter he addressed to the Galatian church.

The error of Galatia was the returning to the law for justification, just as Pentecostalism is guilty of today. *“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you?” (Gal. 3:1)* Any reverting back to the law is akin to witchcraft; it is bewitching.

God Wants 100% of You

These “lords” and “little gods” of Christian television use the “love doctrine” of the Bible, much like the Christian Scientists use the positive thinking. *“For charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins.” (1 Pet. 4:8)* Isn’t it ironic that Peter spoke out on Pentecostalism’s favorite scripture? If Peter, of all people, believed this scripture as the TV evangelists interpret it, Peter would have to raise Ananias and Sapphira from the dead and ask for their forgiveness because he reprimanded them for lying to the Holy Ghost. Both conspired, and each gave up the ghost and were carried out feet first. Was this an example of “speaking the truth in love”?

After all, what was the great crime these two committed? It was only over money! All they did was *“kept back part of the price.”* They laid the balance of the money *“at the apostles’ feet.” (Acts 5:2)* Is Peter showing love toward Ananias and Sapphira? *“If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.” (Nu. 30:2)*

What preacher would send Ananias and Sapphira, his wife, to hell? They were believers, but had a fall out with the preacher over a vow they had taken. How were Ananias and Sapphira to know this particular piece of real estate would sell for five times the amount of money they originally paid for it?

Ananias and Sapphira were giving way over their tithes; probably 50%. What kind of God is this that can't be appeased by 50% for you and 50% for Him? This will come as a shock to most of you religious churchgoers of the 21st century, but tithing is not taught in the New Testament covenant!

God wants 100% of you!

Suppose God believed in tithing, and He only gave a tithe of the heavenly host of angels as a sacrifice for your sins. Would God's tithe have atoned for your and my sins? *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son."* (Jn. 3:16) God gave heaven's best. Can you do less?

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1) Your money is you! When you tithe, you are presenting ten percent upon the altar as representing you. Without ever uttering a word, you are saying the 90% is mine! How is that frame of thinking so much different from the reasoning of Ananias and his wife, Sapphira? Peter reasoned with them, *"Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things."* (Acts 5:4-5)

Tithing, a Work of the Law?

Why is this story even recorded in God's Word? It is a solemn reminder that we are saved by grace, and not by the works of the law. Tithing is a work of the law. *"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith of Jesus Christ...for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."* (Gal. 2:16) *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in ALL THINGS which are written in the book of the law to do them."* (Gal. 3:10) There are over 600 laws in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. You must keep all 600+ laws written in the "book of the law," or be under a curse if you fail in one point.

"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (Jas. 2:10) *"And the law is not of faith."* (Gal. 3:12)

“Above All Things, My Brethren, Swear Not!”

One does not find justification by the observing of the law, only by the hearing of faith. *“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law.”* (Rom. 3:19) When you permit yourself to come under the law, you must do whatsoever the law saith to you. It is this constant fear of coming under the law that James says, *“But ABOVE ALL THINGS, my brethren, swear not.”* (Jas. 5:12) Don’t take an oath or vow as required in every degree of Masonry! Don’t swear, vow or pledge, for you are not God. You don’t even know if you’ll be among the living tomorrow.

Jesus, in His teachings, confirms what James is teaching. *“But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: nor by the earth; for it is his footstool...But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”* (Matt. 5:34-37)

Swearing, Oaths and Pledging Brings on Condemnation

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte.” (Matt. 23:15) Doesn’t that sound like Christian television? They “compass sea and land,” or worldwide, to obtain one proselyte (or convert) who will pledge, vow or swear to send twenty dollars a month to support their telecast. Television time is so expensive that big time evangelism can’t be worrying about the orthodoxy of “swearing.” You’re not a member until you take the oath. No wonder Christians are conditioned for the Masonic Lodge vows to even slit the throat of a fellow Mason if he defects. It is one thing to join a cult, but quite another to try and get out of them alive. Why do you suppose James is screaming out, *“But above all things, my brethren (preachers), swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest YE FALL INTO CONDEMNATION.”* (Jas. 5:12)

“No Condemnation To Them Which Are In Christ Jesus” – They Don’t Swear!

However, the Bible says, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* (Rom. 8:1) Romans 7 and Romans 8 are comparison chapters. In the interim, the believer received the baptism of the *“Holy Ghost, and with fire.”* (Matt. 3:11) Jesus used the same comparison by stating, *“for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”* (Jn. 14:17) Romans 7 is explaining the warfare a believer experiences with the Holy Ghost (the Comforter) “dwelling with you,” or alongside, as compared to the Holy Ghost that is “in you.” (Rom. 8)

Christian Science Enters Mainstream Christianity Through the Babel of Tongues

For many years, our own government had Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of F.D.R., listed as a “pinko,” or red Communist. She could see absolutely no evil in Joseph Stalin or the Communist Party. Much later, the government discovered she was a Christian Scientist. According to Christian Science, there is no evil. God is all in all, and He is love. Demons, as defined by Mary Baker Eddy’s Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, are evil thoughts, and angels are good thoughts.

Our own beloved Pentecostal religion, led on by the Word-Faith hierarchy of TBN and Daystar “*lords over God’s heritage*” (1 Pet. 5:3), are fast assimilating with Schullerism and Christian Science. It was Norman Vincent Peale who first unlocked the Pandora’s Box of Eddyism by the publication of his book, The Power of Positive Thinking. Christian Science then entered mainstream Christianity. Christian Science is neither Christian nor science. It is a practice of mind over matter, having nothing to do with God.

Kings of the Earth Accept “Mind Over Matter” Theology

These “*kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man,*” (Rev. 6:15) all believed in the prosperity message and speaking unto their mountain, but not in “unconditional salvation”! They were seeking death so they would not have to look upon Jesus’ face.

Mary Baker Eddy and Christian Science believed and taught the positive confession theology before Oral Roberts or Kenneth Copeland were ever born. Have you ever seen a poor Christian Scientist? even more so, if the Christian Scientist aligns himself to a Masonic Lodge.

Oral Roberts – “All the Bible You Need is the Four Gospels!”

I heard Oral Roberts once say, “I’ve read the four gospels over 100 times. I’m convinced this is all the Bible you need to know!” No wonder “Jesus only,” or the United Pentecostal Church is such a blight on true Christianity. It is the “if Jesus didn’t say it, forget it” attitude. Jesus was addressing Jews. Apostle Paul was given the ministry to the Gentiles. “Hear ye him!” if you’re a convert to the comprehension of grace.

Lucifer and Nimrod Exalt Their Throne Into Heavens

The very first lie Lucifer, the most beautiful and “anointed cherub” (Ezk. 28:13-14) ever created, told was to the angels, “*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*” (Isa. 14:13-14) One third of the heavenly host believed this lie of Lucifer’s. When

you support a church that is family owned, you are as guilty as the preacher who profits from his own “non-profit religious incorporation.” By this type of giving, you are saying in your heart, *“Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven (via satellites); and let us MAKE US A NAME”* (Gen. 11:4) for our family owned tower via Nimrod, which means “the prosperity message – (Strong’s #5248) to super abound—abound much more, exceeding,” which is how he built his kingdom of Babel.

Moon Into Blood

Just how much intelligence does it take to comprehend and admit that the moon has not yet turned to blood? Apostle Peter declared on the day of Pentecost, *“And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE the great and notable day of the Lord come.”* (Acts 2:19-20)

Whoever thought man would ever land on the moon? Now they are saying, “Whoever controls the moon will control the earth.” Man is challenged by the moon to transform it into a giant satellite in the sky. Do you think a war over occupation of the moon is possible? Because of its strategic value in controlling man on earth, will the moon be hit by a direct hit of a super atomic missile?

God told Daniel of this ultimate sign of the *“time of the end: many shall run to and fro* (automobiles and airplanes), *and KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED.”* (Dan. 12:4) Who is to say that man can’t turn the moon into a fortress to defend our liberty? Notice how everything is for our liberty, but never “under God.” Could Iran, North Korea or Russia launch a super atomic missile that would cause *“blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke”* as it exploded in the atmosphere of the moon? One must be living at the time the prophecy is being fulfilled to properly interpret it.

No Man Can Pluck You Out Of The Father’s Hand

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 8:35-39)

Another favorite Bible verse of the John Calvin school of theology is found in John 10:29. *“My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”*

No man can pluck you out of the Father's hand, but you can walk out of the Father's hand of your own free volition. God did not create robots to love Him. The angels in heaven, who were created without sin, lost their salvation by hearkening unto Lucifer, the son of the morning. Lucifer, *"He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."* (Jn. 8:44)

Even the Angels Were Not "Eternally Secure"

God didn't just punish Lucifer for lying, but He punished the angels that believed the lie, as well. *"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."* (Jude 6) The judgment of the great day is referring to the great white throne judgment. *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the (first heaven) heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."* (Rev. 20:11) Jesus Christ will one day be your judge. How can you stand before Him clothed only in your own righteousness? His face alone caused the earth and the first heaven surrounding the earth to flee away! Your good works will even smell like "filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6), as you stand before the judge of the whole earth.

This introduces us once again to my favorite prayer in the Bible. It is Jesus' own prayer to the Father. This is the Lord's prayer! *"I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight."* (Lk. 10:21)