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**GOD**

# Good News

Volume XVI, Issue 2

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As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so *is* good news  
from a far country.

Proverbs 25:25



Greetings in the wonderful name of  
Jesus Christ.

I think Christianity is getting too complicated. It used to be a simple question of yes or no when someone asked if you were a Christian. But now it's, "I'm a Baptist, a free-will Baptist, a Bible-Believing Free-will Baptist and soon I hope to be a Spirit-filled Bible-Believing Free-will Baptist of the Southern Conference-Unified Division."

And sometimes, it gets worse. It's not, "Let's get together and pray". It's "Let's pray in this manner, with this focus, for this purpose with our eyes closed, on our knees at this time and THEN you'll get your prayers answered."

It seems as though the Body of Christ has turned into a bunch of clubs with Members Only signs on the door.

I have serious questions about the survival of Christianity as a whole when Christians themselves have forsaken the simplest of concepts. Sure the religion will carry on, but will a true and vital spiritual relationship with God exist?

John 13:34-35:

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

This theme is carried into the New Testament also.

I Corinthians 13:4:

Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

And finally...

Ephesians 4:31– 5:2:

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Until we as Christians can do the simplest things, is there any reason to talk about word studies or in-depth research?

During the Christmas time we hear people crying out, "Let's put the 'Christ' back in Christmas".

I say, "Let's put the 'Christ' back in our Christian walk.

In His love,

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**Coming Events:**

- The joyous return of our lord and savior Jesus Christ
- Men's Conference 2006 in March or April
- Christian Business Conference Late Spring

**CD Classes**

**God Wants You to Prosper Foundational Class**

I have put my original class "Understanding Prosperity" on CD and it is available at [www.Godwantsyoutoprosper.com](http://www.Godwantsyoutoprosper.com) or you can write Good News Publications  
 PO Box 70057  
 Oro Valley, AZ 85737  
 for an order form.

**Psalm 23—A Closer Walk with Thee**

This is a 6 CD class and workbook revealing the hidden treasures of Psalm 23. This study has taught me so much about our relationship with our heavenly Father and how He takes care of us in such a loving and wonderful way. It will soon be available at [www.psalms23study.com](http://www.psalms23study.com) or you can write Good News Publications  
 PO Box 70057  
 Oro Valley, AZ 85737  
 for an order form.

**"Stories for Joshua "**

We now have Volumes 1-5 available to order with more coming in late spring or early summer. Each CD is \$18 plus \$3.95 shipping for each order, if ordered separately.

For now, the Joshua CD as well as the Prosperity in the New Economy CD can be ordered online at:

**[www.goodnewspublications.com](http://www.goodnewspublications.com)**

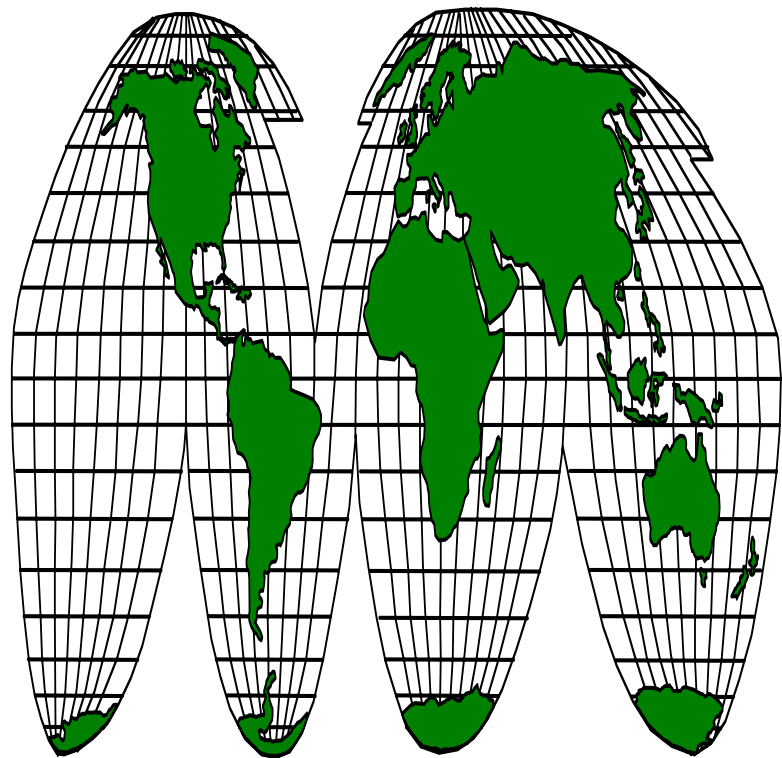
This site will be changed soon with more information and more options.

If anyone would like to be added to our mailing list to receive *The Good News*, you can still write:

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If you move, please send us a change of address. Thanks!



**God**

# *A Word from the Oasis*



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## Religion Can Be Hazardous to Your Spiritual Health

Most of life is about perspective—how do you view it? We hear people preach about the narrow path that we must walk as Christians or the narrow path to salvation, but “narrow” is all about perspective.

I once hiked to the top of Mt. Whitney in California. The final trail to the top was perhaps 6 to 8 feet wide at points, which was certainly wide enough to feel safe on. However the edge of the trail dropped off for several thousand feet. If you looked at the drop off, your knees would get weak and you would say it was a narrow trail. If you looked at the trail, it was wide and comfortable.

Religion has you look at the drop off so you feel weak and needy; it's at this point that they explain away life and give you actions to correct it. Failure is explained as God testing you. Sickness is said to be God's Will for you. Poverty is reported to be the righteous way, and giving your life to them under the assumption you are giving it to God is called service.

Religion, most vividly seen in the Gospels is only concerned about its life and promotion of itself—and is willing to use and tear down anything that opposes it, as they did with Christ.

People who don't want responsibility for their own life, who don't trust themselves, who are afraid of making mistakes and afraid of the future will gladly give their life away to someone who will tell them what to do.

Christianity is about who we are first and foremost. We are sons, not puppets. We are sons, not slaves. We are sons, not martyrs. Religion can be hazardous to your spiritual health because it stands **between** you and your God, saying you must walk its path to God. And nothing should stand between you and your heavenly Father.

## What Are We Afraid Of?

Over and over again God tells us not to be afraid and yet somehow we don't seem to hear. Abraham was given a promise from God, but held on to his fear and doubt for years. Joshua was told time and time again to fear not and have courage.

Our confidence and trust is in our God Who says that He will be what He says He will be—so what are we afraid of?

Today I see people afraid to watch TV, afraid to read books, afraid to talk to anyone who doesn't believe the same thing they believe. I see people afraid to fail and afraid to succeed. I see people afraid of sickness, afraid of death, afraid of poverty and afraid of prosperity. Some are afraid of losing their ministry, others afraid of sin. Many are afraid of not being right and making mistakes and some, yes even some, who are afraid of losing their salvation.

How can there be so much fear when God has said “Fear Not!”? Psalm 27:1 says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

We must first grab our minds and realize Who God is and then we must realize who we are as His sons. God has answers no matter what the situation is that we happen to be in. If we try something and fall short—He has answers. If we try something and succeed—He has answers.

As He has done from the beginning of time, God is there to help us regardless of the situation.

As it says in the Book of Romans:

“If God be for us, who can be against us?”

**NO ONE, NO ONE, NO ONE!!!**

### It's Not Always What You Think

II Timothy 2:4:

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

What do you think that verse says? Most people think it is talking about not having material possessions and fighting for God, but let's see.

The word "warreth" means to serve in a war. Serving doesn't have to mean fighting. My father-in-law served in World War II and never once used a gun, in fact he never left the United States—but he served.

The word "soldier" means one who is enlisted in an army, but again it doesn't mean he has to fight. In Psalms it says that God fights the battles and in the New Testament it says that the battle is in the mind. So even though II Timothy uses words like "warreth" and "soldier" it's not always what you might think.

What about being entangled with the affairs of this life, what does that mean? Most people think of being entangled with material possessions but is that what it says?

The word "entangleth" means to mix oneself up in something, to weave myself into a tangled mess. And "affairs of life" means the negotiations in this physical realm where we live.

When you look at the whole thing, it has to do with our thoughts. How would I weave a house into my life or any material possession for that matter except in my thoughts? I can only be burdened with a house in my mind.

So this verse is telling me to stay mentally free and not entangled. Now I can do that by dumping every possession I have or by simply controlling my thoughts.

Because the devil is at war with God and we belong to God, we are in a battle whether we like it or not. But Jesus Christ has defeated the devil and we are just waiting for the final papers to be served. So we move ahead in this life with our minds free to love our God and live our lives as sons and daughters.

### Resist Without Fighting

We are all born with a flight or fight instinct. It is a very helpful instinct but it must be used properly.

Instead of running to the hills when we are startled we could just move out of the way. And instead of tearing into something that comes at us, we can learn to fight the right way.

In the Christian world there is hardly a week that goes by that someone is not teaching that we must fight, fight, fight.

Yes, as we have talked about before, we do have an adversary, but we must use this instinct to fight in the proper manner to get the right results.

Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers. So we are not fighting people—and if we try to fight principalities and powers from the physical realm we will not get the results we want.

So what does God's Word tell us to do?

It's right there in Ephesians 6, we are to stand in the power of God's might. We do this first by realizing that we have been rescued from the power of darkness and placed into the kingdom of his dear son. So we live in a place of light and love, a place where the devil has no authority. That's where we are and that's where we belong.

Now once we know that, then we claim our position as sons of God, joint heirs with Christ and STAND in that power. Anytime the devil tries to enter our lives, we don't have to jump around, yell and scream, or any of the other silliness that we so often see.

We do just as Jesus Christ did and simply say, "Get thee behind me Satan; you have no place here."

We fight by standing on the authority that is ours as sons and daughters of God. IF there is any actually fighting to be done, we leave that to those who are on our side in the spiritual realm.

Even in the verses in James and I Peter where it tells us to "resist", it still means to resist by taking a stand on our rights and authority as God's children.

Resistance without having to fight is the way to victory.