

What Saith the Scripture?

<http://www.WhatSaithTheScripture.com/>

Deliver Us From This Present Evil World

"Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the Will of God and our Father"

(Galatians 1:4).

by Katie Stewart

5-11-2003

Preface

God has a Plan for His people, "according to the Will of God and our Father." His Plan is to "deliver us", both for today, and forever. And, to accomplish this Deliverance, Jesus Christ, His Son, "gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4). The Heavenly Father "spared not His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all" (Romans 8:32).

Now, if anyone has *the right* to preach to us, to tell us what to do-- it is God-- God the Father and God the Son! "For God [the Father] so loved the world, that He **gave His Only Begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have Everlasting Life" (John 3:16). And if anyone has paid the price to have "a say" in what we think, say, and do, that Someone is Jesus Christ, "Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our Justification" (Romans 4:25). "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I LIVE by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and **gave Himself** for me" (Galatians 2:20).

"Love" is the Word of Operation here. "8 But God commendeth His Love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us... 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the Death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be Saved by His Life" (Romans 5:8,10). If the Father and the Son would carry out this Plan for us while we were their "enemies", then "Love" would have to be the Motive. "9 In this was manifested the Love of God toward us, because that God sent His Only Begotten Son into the world, that we might LIVE through Him. 10 Herein is Love, not that we loved God, but that He Loved us, and sent His Son to be the Propitiation for our sins" (1John 4:9-10). This was the Plan of the Father, carried out by the Son, to "deliver us from this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4). And, if this Plan was rooted and grounded in Love, then so are we to be. "Walk in Love, as Christ also hath Loved us, and hath **given Himself** for us an Offering and a Sacrifice to God for a Sweet-smelling Savour" (Ephesians 5:2). This Plan of Salvation saves us from Hell. "This is the Record, that God hath given to us Eternal Life, and this Life is in His Son" (1John 5:11). But, this Plan also saves us "from this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4).

This Present Evil World

This world is now ruled by Satan, The Prince of Disobedience. "2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that

now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Ephesians 2:2-3). And, it has been Satan's goal from The Beginning, "which deceiveth the whole world" (Revelation 12:9), to try to undermine everything that God has said. "Yea, hath God said...?" (Genesis 3:1). But, we are not to be deceived by him, "lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (2Corinthians 2:11). The LORD "layeth up Sound Wisdom for the righteous: He is a Buckler to them that walk uprightly" (Proverbs 2:7). Therefore, we are to take "the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Ephesians 6:17), "lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2Corinthians 11:3). For, many have not taken seriously the Warnings from the LORD, and from His Word. "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the Word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matthew 13:22).

Our Saviour, Christ Jesus, "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:7), that He would suffer and die horribly to Deliver us from ourselves and from the Devil. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the Light of the Glorious Gospel of Christ, Who is the Image of God, should shine unto them" (2Corinthians 4:4). Jesus spilled His Blood that we might believe Him. "34 A spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out Blood and Water. 35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe" (John 19:34-35). Spilled Divine Blood! Why? "He was clothed with a vesture dipped in Blood: and His Name is called The Word of God" (Revelation 19:13). That we would believe He is the WORD of God Almighty! "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) full of Grace and Truth" (John 1:14). And what does "Truth" do? "And ye shall **know** the Truth, and the Truth shall make you Free" (John 8:32). Oh, Blessed Deliverance! "If the Son therefore shall make you Free, ye shall be Free indeed" (John 8:36).

- (Psalm 119:114) "Thou art my Hiding Place and my Shield: I hope in Thy Word."
- (Psalm 12:6) "The Words of the LORD are Pure Words: as silver tried in a furnace of Earth, purified seven times."
- (Psalm 18:30) "As for God, His Way is Perfect: the Word of the LORD is Tried: He is a Buckler to all those that trust in Him."
- (Proverb 30:5) "Every Word of God is Pure: He is a Shield unto them that put their trust in Him."

To Know the Truth is Deliverance

And ye shall **know** the Truth, and the Truth shall make you Free" (John 8:32). This is God's Method for Deliverance. Through Faith in Him, He makes us to "know the Truth". "20 Now the God of Peace, that brought again from the dead our LORD Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the Blood of the Everlasting Covenant, 21 **make you Perfect** in every good work **to DO His Will, working in you** that which is Wellpleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be Glory for ever and ever.

Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21). And we are to cooperate with Him in the doing and working. "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that Good, and Acceptable, and Perfect, Will of God" (Romans 12:2). For "For it is God which worketh in you both to WILL and to DO of His Good Pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). Jesus' Example to us was that, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (John 5:17).

Any person who knows that Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6), is a hypocrite if he doesn't follow the Truth. "37 Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art thou a King then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear Witness unto the Truth. Every one that is of the Truth heareth My Voice. 38 Pilate saith unto Him, What is Truth?" (John 18:37-38). Staring Truth in the face, Pilate denies Truth. This is what we do when we refuse the Counsel of His Truth. "He that is of God heareth God's Words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:47). This is the test of whether a person knows God, or not. Do you believe what He said? "He that hath received His Testimony hath set to his seal that God is True" (John 3:33). "Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear Record of Myself, yet My Record is True: for I know whence I came, and whither I go" (John 8:14). To believe Jesus' Word is to "know the Truth" (John 8:32). "And the Truth shall make you Free" (8:32). Mark it down. "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the Spirit of Truth, and the spirit of error" (1John 4:6). "So then Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Human action testifies to the heart condition of man, "for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). Therefore, a true child of God hears the Word, and by hearing, obeys the Word of God. "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" (1Corinthians 1:20).

"6 Howbeit we speak Wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7 But we speak the Wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden Wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the LORD of Glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing Spiritual things with Spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are Spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is Spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man... 18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise" (1Corinthians 2:6-15,18).

The Word says, that we are to "be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Ephesians 4:23) by "proving what

is acceptable unto the LORD" (5:10). "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the Will of the LORD is" (5:17). "21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is Good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1Thessalonians 5:21-22). And so, brethren, "for this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the Knowledge of His Will in all Wisdom and Spiritual Understanding" (Colossians 1:9). Love the LORD. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the Love of the Father is not in him" (1John 2:15). Remember, that though it is "not by works of [our own] righteousness which we have done, but according to His Mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5), that still, as His children and in *His* Righteousness, we are to be "as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance" (1Peter 1:14). "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (John 5:17). His Truth does Deliver.

- (Romans 6:6) "Knowing this, that our old man [our old way of living] is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."
- (Romans 8:10) "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is Life because of Righteousness."
- (Romans 8:37) "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."
- (Galatians 5:24) "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."
- (Galatians 6:14) "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our LORD Jesus Christ, by Whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

A Unique Kind of Deliverance

It was God that made man. "And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the Earth" (Genesis 1:26). And, it was God that made a place for man to dwell. "The Earth hath He given to the children of men" (Psalm 115:16).

"(42:5) Thus saith God the LORD, He that created the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the Earth, and that which cometh out of it; He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein... (45:5,12) I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside Me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me... I have made the Earth, and created man upon it: I, even My hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded" (Isaiah 42:5; 45:5,12).

For the True Christian, the Knowledge of what God has already given us, clearly establishes Him as our Most Unique Deliverer.

- No one loves us, like the LORD. "For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the Earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He

formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:18).

- No one is always there for us, like the LORD. "I am poor and needy; yet the LORD thinketh upon me: Thou art my Help and my Deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God" (Psalm 40:17).
- No one delivers us from every single danger, like the LORD. "The LORD is my Rock, and my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God, my Strength, in Whom I will trust; my Buckler, and the Horn of my Salvation, and my High Tower" (Psalm 18:2).

In this world, we do have an "adversary the Devil", who, "as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1Peter 5:8). But, when we live for Christ, we crucify, or deny, our fleshly tendencies with which the Devil loves to tempt us. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). For instance, when Jesus Christ came in the flesh for us, "the tempter came to Him, [and] he said, **If Thou be** the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Matthew 4:3). Satan not only tempted Jesus with food during a time of fasting, but tempted Him with pride into proving He was God. But, Jesus, knowing Satan's devious ways, "lest Satan should get an advantage" (2Corinthians 2:11), was not "not ignorant of his devices" (2:11). And Jesus, also knowing that "there are many devices in a man's heart" (Proverbs 19:21), knew to run to God's Word for Refuge, for "the Counsel of the LORD, that shall stand" (19:21). Therefore He quoted Scripture to the Devil. "But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

"5 God resisteth the proud, and giveth Grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the Mighty Hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: 7 **Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.** 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 whom resist stedfast in the Faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 But the God of all grace, Who hath called us unto His Eternal Glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. 11 To Him be Glory and Dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1Peter 5:5-11).

The rope-bound heroine of early story depictions, was delivered from the dastardly villain by a hero mounted on a white horse. That was a common stereotype of deliverance from evil. But the Deliverance discussed here, while there are ultimate, very physical outcomes, pertains primarily to the realm of the spiritual. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). This kind of Deliverance needs to be a Supernatural Deliverance. In fact, the Hero must be more than merely Supernatural. He *must* be Divine! "LORD, how long wilt Thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions" (Psalm 35:17). Yes, He rides a white horse (a most blessed white horse!) when He comes to deliver. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in Righteousness He doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many Crowns; and He had a Name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. 13 And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in Blood: and His Name is

called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in Heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of His mouth goeth a Sharp Sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a Rod of Iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the Fierceness and Wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a Name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Revelation 19:11-16).

Deliverance From the Deceitfulness of Riches

There is a very sober warning concerning the ownership of wealth found in the Book of Matthew. "He also that received Seed among the thorns is he that heareth the Word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matthew 13:22). Praise the LORD for His Wisdom in also providing a Promise that can handle the riches of this world. "But he that received Seed into the good ground is he that heareth the Word, **and understandeth it**; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty" (13:23). The danger of wealth isn't the wealth itself-- it's the love of it. "For the **love** of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1Timothy 6:10). To love anything, or anyone, more than God, is idolatry. "Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with **all** thine heart, and with **all** thy soul, and with **all** thy might" (Deuteronomy 6:5). Scripture clearly teaches us what proper emphasis is given to heavenly versus earthly things. "But seek ye **FIRST** the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). The Heavenly Father is the Example for earthly fathers, even if the fathers on Earth don't give Him the credit for it. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much **more** shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (Luke 11:13). For the Father in Heaven loves to "give good things to them that ask Him" (Matthew 7:11). And He does this ever so wisely, because He knows "that a rich man shall **hardly** enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (19:23).

When professed Christians **love** riches and "the things that are in the world" (1John 2:15), it is because they have taken their eyes off Jesus. "Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith" (Hebrews 12:2). He cannot finish the work of Faith in us, if we don't trust and obey Him. "That our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the Good Pleasure of His Goodness, and the Work of Faith with Power" (2Thessalonians 1:11). That is why we are commanded to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the Love of the Father is **not** in him" (2:15). The "cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in" (Mark 4:19) can easily sway us into forgetting God. "9 They that will be rich [or, are determined to be rich, no matter what] fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the **love** of money [not the money itself] is the root of ALL evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the Faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1Timothy 6:9-10). But having wealth doesn't have to work against Faith. "17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, **but in the Living God**, Who giveth us richly ALL things to enjoy; 18 that they **do good**, that they **be rich in good works**, ready to **distribute**, willing to **communicate**; 19 laying up in store for themselves a Good Foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on Eternal Life" (6:17-19).

"17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world,

the love of the Father is **not** in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the Will of God abideth for ever"

(1John 2:15-17).

Jesus delivers us from the deceitfulness of riches when we actively trust Him for it. "Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil" (Luke 11:4). Only God can do this! "The LORD shall preserve thee from **all** evil: He shall preserve thy soul" (Psalm 121:7).

- (Matthew 26:41) "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- (1Corinthians 10:13) "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is Faithful**, Who will not suffer {or, allow} you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
- (2Thessalonians 3:3) "But the LORD is Faithful, Who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil."

Therefore, the trust we place in Him, He is Worthy to receive. "Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us **from** this present evil world, according to the Will of God and our Father" (Galatians 1:4). There is much good that can be done in this world, if a man handles wealth wisely. A good steward is a one who understands God. "42 And the LORD said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his LORD shall make ruler over His Household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? 43 Blessed is that servant, whom his LORD when He cometh shall find so doing. 44 Of a Truth I say unto you, that He will make him ruler over all that He hath" (Luke 12:42-44).

"Because thou hast kept the Word of My Patience, I also will keep thee from the Hour of Temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the Earth"

(Revelation 3:10).

Deliverance To the True Riches

Jesus Christ, "saying, I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life" (John 8:12), is the One to Whom the Father commanded to shine forth a path of Deliverance for us. "For God, Who commanded the Light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2Corinthians 4:6).

- (Acts 26:18) "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive Forgiveness of sins, and Inheritance among them which are sanctified by Faith that is in Me."
- (2Corinthians 3:14, 18) "14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ... 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the Glory of the LORD, are changed into the

same Image from Glory to Glory, even as by the Spirit of the LORD."

- (Philippians 2:6) "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God."
- (Hebrews 1:3) "Who being the Brightness of His Glory, and the express Image of His Person, and upholding all things by the Word of His Power, when He had **by Himself** purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty On High."
- (Colossians 1:15) "Who is the Image of the Invisible God, the Firstborn of every creature."
- (Romans 11:36) "For **of Him, and through Him, and to Him**, are all things: to Whom be Glory for ever. Amen."

And, it is upon the "Knowledge" of the Father's Great Mercy and Love that the Light shines. "4 God, Who is rich in Mercy, for His Great Love wherewith He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by Grace ye are Saved;) 6 and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus: 7 that in the ages to come He might show **the Exceeding Riches of His Grace in His Kindness toward us through Christ Jesus**. 8 For by Grace are ye Saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the **Gift** of God: 9 not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto Good Works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:4-10).

Now, since "no man hath seen God at any time; the Only Begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him" (John 1:18), it is only the "Only Begotten" Who can deliver us to Him. The world now, especially now, is under great darkness and Great Judgment. For, "now is the Judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out" (John 12:31).

"Now unto God and our Father be Glory for ever and ever. Amen"
(Philippians 4:20).

Conclusion

Jesus Christ "gave Himself for our sins, that He **might** deliver us from this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4). He "might" do it-- if we will give Him the opportunity to do it. "For by Grace are ye saved **through Faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the Gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8) and it is "according to the Will of God and our Father" (Galatians 1:4). The LORD will not deliver you *against* your will, because it is "according to your Faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29). You can only receive the Free Gift of Deliverance from any and ALL kinds of sin-- "through Faith".

- How do you get Faith? "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).
- God gives Faith to those who ask Him for it. "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, **believing**, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).
- It is pure pleasure for the believer to ask in Faith, because the answer is sure to come. "Hitherto

have ye asked nothing in My Name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your Joy may be full" (John 16:24).

- Only a clean heart can ask in Faith. "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His Commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight" (1John 3:22). "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3).

Sin is bondage. "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" (Galatians 4:9). To be overcome by sin, is to be held in the tight grip of the power that is greater than yourself. "For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face" (2Corinthians 11:20). The greatest suffering comes from the greatest bondage, and the greatest healing comes from the greatest Deliverance. "27 There met {Jesus} out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God Most High? I beseech Thee, torment me not. 29 (For [Jesus] had **commanded** the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the Devil into the wilderness.) 30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him" (Luke 8:27-30). There is no being more cruel than Satan. "The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel" (Proverbs 12:10). And there is no Deliverer Mightier or more Compassionate than the LORD Jesus. "His Compassions fail not" (Lamentations 3:22). "35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind" (Luke 8:35).

The battle is always Good over evil. "There is none Good but One, that is, God" (Mark 10:18). "37 He that soweth the Good Seed is the Son Of Man; 38 the field is the world; the Good Seed are the children of the Kingdom; but the tares are the children of the Wicked One; 39 the enemy that sowed them is the Devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son Of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the Righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 13:37-43). True Christians are the "Good Seed" that the LORD has planted, and watered, and tended as a Good Husbandman (i.e., Gardener). "[Jesus] answered and said, Every plant, which My Heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). "I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Husbandman" (John 15:1).

"Christ, Who is the Image of God" (2Corinthians 4:4), delivers "the Good Seed" who are "partakers of Christ's Sufferings; that, when His Glory shall be revealed, [they] may be glad also with Exceeding Joy" (1Peter 4:13). The saints, like Christ, "must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the Same Mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin" (1Peter 4:1). "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, The Just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God" (1Peter 3:18). Here's a Promise: those that "follow after Righteousness... that seek the LORD" (Isaiah 51:1), these

"shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the Glorious Liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:21). They "look unto the Rock whence [they] are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence [they were] digged" (Isaiah 51:1).

- (Galatians 5:1) "Stand fast therefore in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made us Free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."
- (Romans 6:23) "For the wages of sin is Death; but the Gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our LORD."
- (2Corinthians 9:15) "**Thanks be unto God for His Unspeakable Gift.**"

As soldiers in the Army of the Eternal God, be prepared for the battle that the Captain of your Salvation has already delivered unto you. "For it became Him, for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto Glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation Perfect through sufferings" (Hebrews 2:10).

"10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the LORD, and in the Power of His Might. 11 Put on the Whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the Whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with **Truth**, and having on the Breastplate of **Righteousness**; 15 and your feet shod with the Preparation of the **Gospel** of Peace; 16 above all, taking the Shield of **Faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench ALL the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the Helmet of **Salvation**, and the Sword of the **Spirit**, which is the **Word of God**"
(Ephesians 6:10-17).

"1 In Thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. 2 **Deliver me in Thy Righteousness**, and **cause me to escape**: incline Thine ear unto me, and save me. 3 Be Thou my Strong Habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: **Thou hast given Commandment to save me**; for Thou art my Rock and my Fortress.

4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. 5 For Thou art my Hope, O LORD GOD: Thou art my Trust from my youth. 6 By Thee have I been holden up from the womb: Thou art He that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of Thee.

7 I am as a wonder unto many; but Thou art my Strong Refuge. 8 Let my mouth be filled with Thy Praise and with Thy Honour all the day... 14 But I will hope continually, and will yet praise Thee more and more... 16 I will go in the Strength of the LORD GOD: I will make mention of Thy

Righteousness, even of Thine only...

19 Thy Righteousness also, O God, is very High, Who hast done great things:
O God, who is like unto Thee! 20 Thou, which hast showed me great and
sore troubles, **shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from
the depths of the Earth.** 21 Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort
me on every side.

22 I will also praise Thee with the psaltery, even Thy Truth, O my God: unto
Thee will I sing with the harp, O Thou Holy One of Israel. 23 **My lips shall
greatly rejoice when I sing unto Thee; and my soul, which Thou hast
Redeemed"**

(Psalm 71:1-8,14,16,19-23).