

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:105

The **Light**

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Editorial

by Fran Moredo

The wave of the world's influence is of such magnitude and might that even the strongest believers can waver in their walk without the Holy Spirit. Constant prayer and fellowship with the brethren help clear our paths especially during times when the call of the flesh is overwhelming. Their counsel draw us back to the real reason for our existence. The testimonies of new believers may even shame us for thinking and behaving like the secular world.

Lent is a precious time to center your life on what matters most: the ONE who made you and died for you.

Let us recall the story of the Passover. Be reminded of the significance and the impact it should have in our lives as Christians. Is it visible? Do we display humility, obedience, selflessness and holiness? Or are the opposites more dominant- pride, disobedience, selfishness and corrupt?

Create space in the middle of life's responsibilities to appreciate what's always been there: God's love.

Stay attuned to God's voice as you reflect on His sacrificial love.

There is no better time.

"But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

There is no other time.

Before becoming a Christian, I thought and behaved like I was fully in command of my life. I viewed my business as my own because I worked hard for it and never prayed to the Lord when I made any decision. When problems arose, I became very anxious and stressed out. I strongly believed that salvation is by good works.

I was invited by Bevs and Tin to a Bible study and the gospel was shared with me. I became aware of the sins I committed and repented realizing that everything is through His grace, mercy and love, YET NOT I, BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME.

Some of my insights are:

... it is not by good works that I am saved but only by the Lord's grace and through faith alone.

...depend on the Lord and not lean on my own strength.

...be more prayerful and attend the Prayer Night and Prayer Morning Special.

...appreciate the importance of belonging to a local church and be in fellowship with fellow believers.

...pray and ask for the guidance of the Lord and that His perfect will be sovereign whether in my personal life or how the Lord wants us to run the business he entrusted.

...I am a steward of His blessings.

I was able to understand His messages in the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit. These verses are meaningful to me:

Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For by grace, you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Philippians 4:6-7 *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Matthew 6:34 *"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

by Fred Galimba

From Darkness Into the Light

TESTIMONIES OF OUR BRETHREN

I am well aware that I am a sinner. No question. I have committed dishonorable acts. I persecuted other people, dishonored my parents, my teachers and my siblings. I harbored a lustful heart. I continue committing sins thinking, "No one will know this. I just have to do good works so I can offset them (my sins). Our God is a God of mercy. It's okay if I sin, I'll just ask for forgiveness and He will forgive me." That was me.

A few years ago, my partner and I decided to expand our business. As long as there's a bank willing to loan, we borrowed. Some of our friends cautioned us but we did not listen. Until one day, we found ourselves unable to pay our obligations as they became due. We felt lost.

Last year, the gospel was shared to us by Bevs and Tin but my response was "meeeh". I was not ready to accept Him. Tin would continue to invite me to Sunday services but I had excuses. One day, I learned that she paid for my registration fee for the YA Camp. Not wanting to disappoint her, I decided to go.

During the YA camp, I joined the activities out of respect to the organizers but my heart was not really there. One by one, the speakers talked in front (how to manage your business in a biblical way, how to have a God-glorifying career, etc.) and that was when the transformation started. My heart began to thirst for more, for God's word, the truth. I realized my selfishness, my pride – thinking that I can do it all on my own. I acknowledged my sinfulness and realized that good works will not save me but only God can. I asked for forgiveness and accepted Jesus in my life.

I thank the Lord for being so patient with me. Now, I understand what my purpose in life is. The material things that I keep accumulating on this earth are nothing compared to what God has in store for me in Heaven. I became more aware of my sins. Undeserving as I am, I can't wait for that day that I will go home to my Father and touch His face – in all His glory and magnificence. We still have a lot of issues to solve in our business but my heart is overflowing with gratitude because I know God is there to guide us and to help us through.

One day before my baptism, I asked forgiveness from the person whom I had a long-standing feud with. I told that person, "I am going to have my water baptism tomorrow and I can't go through it without asking for forgiveness for all the things I did to you in the past. I am now a Christian and I don't want any excess baggage in my heart." We talked and hugged. I would never have done this in my former life.

Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:8 *"for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light."* Praise be to God.

by Jun Magalalit

I was raised with a Catholic background. I attended mass every Sunday and strived to be an obedient daughter. However, there were many times that I lied, judged and gossiped about people. Nevertheless, I still considered myself a good person. I thought that I was okay and righteous in the sight of God.

Growing up, my three sisters and I saw how hard life was. My parents could hardly make both ends meet and can barely send us to school. Our family had many trials and to complicate things, my youngest sister was stricken with polio that required constant attention and medication. God seemed so far and prayer was not part of my life. I had many questions regarding the difficulties of life, as well as the uncertainties of the future. I was discontented, in despair and envious of other people.

In November 2001, after a period of hospitalization, my mother died of heart failure. It was a very painful event in my life and in our family. Suddenly, I had a lot of questions regarding afterlife. Will I see my mother in heaven? What will happen to me when I die? During her wake, a pastor shared the good news. His message about salvation, heaven, hell, sin, holiness of God and that Jesus died to pay for my sins became so clear. Although I was already attending GLCC with my sister, that was the only time I understood the Gospel. I asked God for forgiveness and I accepted Jesus Christ in my life. I am truly grateful He saved me by grace through faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

I started to grow in my Christian faith and learned more about God and the Bible. Since then, I viewed life based on God's word. I was more conscious of my sins like lying, gossiping & judging other people. My faith in Him, His plans in my life and His sovereignty over everything was continually affirmed and strengthened. Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Amidst the trials that my family and I had, God strengthened and molded me to be like Christ. God replaced discontentment with contentment in my heart and gave me a strong belief that everything works for the good of those who believe in God. Romans 8:28 *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."* God may not remove the storms in my life, but He will be with me as I go through them. I also became prayerful. God is so faithful, despite the odds. My sisters and I graduated and each has her own profession now.

At present, I am amazed at how God continue to show His favor and grace in my life. He gave a special someone, a Christian, whom I will be marrying in a few months. God chose Geof to be my lifetime companion, who loves me unconditionally. All praises and thanks be to God!

by Jacqueline Caasi

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CHRIST THE PASSOVER LAMB: THE MOTIVATION FOR A HOLY LIFE

by Ptr. Robbie Casas

How many of us struggle with sin? How often do you lose so that sin prevails over you?

As we celebrate Holy Week, the Lord gave us another opportunity to commemorate His great and gracious sacrifice on the cross and His glorious victory over sin and death through His resurrection. But in remembering these, I believe He also means for us to use this remembrance to impact our spiritual walk in terms of our pursuit of holiness.

Let us look at 1 Corinthians 5:7, *“For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”* This was prompted by an immoral situation that was allowed unchecked in the church: someone was having sexual relations with most likely his own stepmother (read vv. 1-6). Then comes the command in v. 7a: *“Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened.”* This is followed by the motivation for the command in v. 7b: *“For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”*

UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT ALLUSION

In v. 7, Paul was clearly alluding to one of the most important events in the life of Israel: the Passover. The story began in Exodus 3 when the Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush calling

him to deliver His people in Israel. They were subjected to hard labor by a pharaoh who did not know Joseph and what he did for Egypt (Exodus 2:23-25).

In Exodus 5, Moses confronted Pharaoh to convey God’s message: *“Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness”* (v. 1). Pharaoh did not grant the request later leading to the unleashing of the first 9 plagues (Exodus 7-10). However, for the 10th plague, Pharaoh finally surrendered when God struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt (Exodus 11). This brought about the Passover meal which was later on celebrated as the Passover Feast and immediately followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

In Exodus 12, God formally instituted the Passover which involved the killing of a lamb and putting some blood *“on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses”* of the Israelites (Exodus 12:1-7). When God saw the blood on the doorposts and lintel, He would pass over that home and spare the household from the 10th plague (vv. 12-13).

In vv. 8-11, God gave instructions on how the Israelites would eat the lamb, which included eating it with unleavened bread – bread without yeast, symbolizing their leaving in haste (Ex. 12:11, 39; Deut. 16:3), giving them no time to leaven their bread.

In vv. 14-20, 24-28, God commemorates this event by instituting the Feast of Unleavened Bread where the Jews had to thoroughly remove leaven from their homes for seven days.

GRASPING THE NEW TESTAMENT APPLICATION

In 1 Corinthians 5:7, Paul instructed us how to deal with sin in the church today. Read vv. 1-6. There was scandalous immorality ignored by the church: a man was committing incest with “*his father's wife*” (v. 1), most likely his stepmother. This was scandalous even by pagan standards (v. 1, ESV). In v. 2, Paul rebuked the church for tolerating such a sinner in the congregation. If they were truly grieved by this immorality, they would have disfellowshipped this unrepentant man (v. 2b). Thus, the whole congregation was guilty of sin by ignoring the man's disobedience. Paul expected the church to enact this judgment the next time they assembled as a church, even in his absence (vv. 4-5).

They were to do this “*in the name of our Lord Jesus*” – consistent with His will and holiness, and “*with the power of our Lord Jesus*” – with His authority as they apply His word. This judgment would be implemented by “*deliver[ing] such one to Satan*” – referring to excommunication and being shut out of the church community and fellowship. The next phrase, “*for the destruction of his flesh*”, speaks of a severe dealing from God possibly to the point of even being killed (cf. 1Cor 10:10; 11:30; 1Jn 5:16). This applied judgment is for the ultimate preservation of the person (v. 5b).

There is an important truth here: when the church fails to recognize sin in her midst and fails to implement biblical church discipline, it would give the sinning person a dangerous wrong impression that his/her sin is not a big deal with God. Sin allowed within and by the church is far more likely to lead other believers astray – more than the sin of nonbelievers would.

This impact on the church is the reason for Paul's rebuke in v. 6: “*Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?*” The Corinthians were not excused because they knew this fact.

The importance of and the necessity for church discipline is based on the same principle: unchecked flagrant sins bring confusion and division to the church. As believers, we have the responsibility to encourage and build up one another, but not to tolerate sin that endangers the spiritual health of the church.

In v. 7a Paul commands: “*Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened.*” Paul uses “*leaven*” as a symbol for sin. “*Old leaven*” is the old sinful ways they were used to and did not see as wrong. They were to clean out the church by removing this unrepentant immoral man, instructing us also what to do with unrepentant members whose sins threaten the spiritual well-being of the church. The

phrase “*... just as you are in fact unleavened*” was a reminder that as a church of redeemed people, they were already “*unleavened*” – cleansed from sin's penalty and power.

This cleansing is also a call to every believer to regular self-examination, confession and repentance – and greater accountability when necessary. BECAUSE CHRIST HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE SLAVERY OF SIN, WE SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH PAST SINFUL WAYS.

This is a reminder that we are a new creation in Christ (2Cor :17)! WE ARE TO BECOME WHAT WE ALREADY ARE IN CHRIST! Paul gives the motivation for the command to “clean out the old leaven” in v. 7b: “For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”

The Old Testament Passover lamb of Exodus 12 was a type of “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29) – Jesus Christ. JESUS THE LAMB OF GOD WAS SACRIFICED ON THE CROSS AND SHED HIS BLOOD TO WASH AWAY THE SINS OF THOSE WHO WOULD COME TO HIM IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH, AND COVER THEM FROM GOD'S JUDGMENT OF ETERNAL DEATH.

How should this truth impact our daily lives as Christians?

Whenever we are tempted to sin or to continue in sin, intentionally remembering “Christ our Passover” should help us turn away from sin, motivate us to pursue holiness, and have the desire to be cleansed from sin.

In conclusion, (1Cor 5:8) Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”

The MacArthur Study Bible comments: “In contrast to the O.T. Passover feast celebrated annually, believers constantly celebrate the 'feast' of the new Passover – Jesus Christ. As the Jews who celebrate Passover do so with unleavened bread, so believers celebrate their continual Passover with unleavened lives.”

As we once more celebrate the Holy Week, let our celebration continue to transform our lives as we live out the powerful implications of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary.

“...Jesus the Lamb of God was sacrificed on the cross and shed His blood to wash away the sins of those who would come to Him in repentance and faith, and cover them from God's judgement of eternal death.”

A photograph of a person in a blue dress standing in a field, looking up at a bright sky with trees in the background. The person is wearing a long, flowing blue dress and is standing with their back to the camera, looking up towards the sky. The background shows a line of trees and a bright, hazy sky. The overall color palette is dominated by blue and white.

OVERCOMING PRIDE

Pride is the stubborn evil trait that originated from Satan's heart (Ezek. 28:15; 1John 2:16), passed on to us after the first deception (Gen. 3:1-6), and since then continues to influence our minds and affections, manifested in varying degrees in our words and actions. By the testimony of Scriptures (Jas. 4:13-16) and through our personal experiences, we can all agree that even believers – those regenerated in the spirit, repented of their sins and justified by faith in Jesus, still fight against pride and many times are not very successful. Add to this dilemma is the sweeping influence (1John 5:19) of the world preoccupied with ego and self-esteem (the non-biblical terms for pride). The Bible says that in the Last Days people will be lovers of themselves, proud, arrogant, swollen with conceit ... (2Tim. 3:1-4).

How shall we overcome pride so that we can become unlike the world (Eph. 4:17-19)? Our Savior, whose death and resurrection are commemorated on Easter, shows us the way.

“Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!” (Phil. 2:5-8, NIV).

Although He is fully God (Col. 2:9), He did not use it for any selfish advantage. Although He is fully God, He willingly emptied Himself of the benefits as the second person of the Godhead. Although He is fully God, He took the nature of a servant. The word “servant” has Old Testament overtones. Isaiah 52:13-53:12. Jesus took the role of the servant and all the pressures that go with it, even to be crucified like a criminal. Jesus' glorious being and an exalted position did not hinder Him from taking the humble position of a servant and the inglorious nature of man.

We know if pride, instead of humility, is controlling our hearts if we dislike or are offended by comments about us or responses that we think are beneath our “dignity” – taking to account our positions. We hear of Christians taking pride in calling themselves “servants of God.” Yet, they would not want to be treated as slaves not realizing that in the

Bible slave and servant is the same classification.

Learning from the Lord, Paul served the church with great humility (Acts 20:19). Then he went on to instruct believers, “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (Phil. 2:3, NIV). James warned believers against presuming on the certainty of their future plans, saying that it is boasting and, therefore, evil (Jas. 4:13-16). Taking pride in human wisdom cannot lead us to a saving knowledge of God (1Cor. 1:21).

Pride leads to fall and destruction (Pr. 16:18; 2Chro. 26:16; Dan. 4:30-33; Acts 12:21-23). Humility brings honor and exaltation (Pr. 15:33). With humility comes grace (Jas. 4:6, 10; 1Pet. 5:6), salvation (Ps. 18:27, 149:4), God's presence (Isa. 66:2), guidance (Ps. 25:9), favor (Pr. 3:34), wisdom (Pr. 11:2) and encouragement (Ps. 147:6).

Let us, therefore, overcome pride and pursue humility persistently.

by Ptr. Jun Malazo

Jesus' glorious being and an exalted position did not hinder Him from taking the humble position of a servant and the inglorious nature of man.

“I will watch a porn video with my classmates. I don't want them to tease me and call me names.” said the helpless young man.

“I'm in my late 20's now, should I start considering a man of another faith?” asked the anxious single lady.

“To hasten important documents' approval and release, maybe sliding “a gift” to a staff would do the trick.” thought the desperate businessman.

“A group has talked ill of two church leaders, should I simply stay quiet lest I receive their ire?” wondered the confused church member.

Real stories, real people. Their situations demand a response to prove their faith for Him whom they profess as their Savior and Lord. “Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.” ring repeatedly. But how should one trust and obey?

OBEDIENCE is the practical acceptance of the authority and will of God over one's life. It includes BOTH submitting to Him and expressing submission in actions, words and thoughts. To be obedient is to be in agreement with God and what He says. To be in agreement with God is to be in a position of power in Christ.

DISOBEDIENCE is caused by a heart in rebellion and distrust of God. It is yielding to self-will instead of surrendering to God and desiring His will in ALL things.

The Scripture says: God expects obedience (Deut. 11:26-28, Acts 5:29, Heb 11:7). To choose Christ is to choose obedience (Jn 14:15,21, Lk 6:46). To

become disobedient is to sin or rebel against God (I Sam 15:22,23, Ja 1:22).

CORRECTING THE SIN OF DISOBEDIENCE

First, pray for wisdom and honestly review your life. Are you obeying God in your personal relationships and in your behaviour? Is God's Lordship manifest in your marriage, job or business? Is He the center of your personal devotions and financial management, as a student or young couple?

If revealed and identified to be disobedient, go to a God-honoring new direction with hope and thanksgiving (Rom 8:28,1 Thess 5:18). Further, confess the disobedience as sin before God, ask for His forgiveness and accept His promise of pardon (1 Jn 1:9). If it involves others in authority over you, go to them in accountability (Rom 12:17-18).

Finally, by faith in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, plan specific actions. Ask forgiveness from others; make amends towards people when needed. These require humility and self-control (Gal 5:22-23). As these are developed, disobedience will lose its hold on you and over your sins.

YES, Christ our Lord CALLS us to choose obedience (Jn 14:15) as our act of worship to Him (Rom 12:1), proving our love for Him (1 Jn 5:2-3, 2 Jn 6) and completing the journey to holiness in fear of God (2 Cor 7:1).

Will you choose to obey or still believe that there's another way?

by Nayda Echiverria

ACCEPTING THE AUTHORITY AND WILL OF GOD

SELFISHNESS vs. SELFLESSNESS

by Quinn Dahilan

"Fire vs. Ice"

"Death vs. Life"

"Selfishness vs. selflessness"

These are polar opposites – diametrically opposite points or ideas.

We live amidst the “Selfie Generation” from the word “selfie” - taking a photograph of oneself. The rapid rise of the selfie started in 2012. The idea of taking a self-portrait is not new but the advancement of technology and social media platforms resulted to this astounding surge. You take a picture of yourself, post it and let everyone react.

This is based on a movement that fosters self-esteem and the idea that individuals can free themselves from societal problems by believing that they are unique and deserving of all the good stuff in life. It has become the dissolution of low self-esteem as a problem and a measure on how individuals fare in society.

How? Posted selfie + instant likes = plus points in self-esteem. There is an immediate gratification, belongingness and acceptance through “likes” and “heart” emojis. The approval is instant and self-esteem soars up in the clouds.

Related to this is the constant desire for worldly things. One must know the current trends and visit new places, etc. Why? Because this is “in” and will get approval, thus higher self-esteem. Sadly, these highlight worldliness, selfishness and a shallow, destructive striving which further breed behavior that dishonor God.

The Bible teaches the exact opposite which is SELFLESSNESS. The model is JESUS CHRIST. This is just one of the characters of

Jesus that we are called to imitate. It is a mandate for all not just for the leaders in the church.

Looking back from where we were taken by God's bountiful mercy and grace, what HE did for us is rebuke enough whenever we choose to serve ourselves.

Paul exhorted the Philippians, *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interest of others.”* (Phil. 2:3-4).

The world would never understand what Paul is admonishing. It serves the opposite. It advocates, “I, me, and myself” is important.

In Philippians chapter 2, Paul expounds the example of Christ. He emptied and humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death. He focused on the eternal dividends and secured for Himself a people of His own. This is the ultimate example of selflessness that we are called to follow.

Many times the earthly needs are pressing and tempt us to think of ourselves first. The eternal rewards should excite us all the more as we obey God in this area. God is never ignorant of our immediate physical needs. Being mindful of what Christ has done is a liberating comfort so that we can be deliberate in our sacrificial care for others as He has secured our eternity with Him.

The world is on a never-ending pursuit for self-aggrandizement which we know is vanity towards a tragic end. As believers, we can take comfort that even if the world does not recognize us, God knows and loves us; and we are His.

“For even the son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45). May God in His grace, give us the strength to be selfless.

From Darkness Into the Light

TESTIMONIES OF OUR BRETHREN

(continued from page 2)

I came from a family and studied in a school where I was taught to observe doctrine and traditions. I went to church only when I felt like it to show compliance. I also attended other churches upon invitation of friends but the good news did not sink in.

I was deeply addicted to pornography. It became a part of my daily life and could not go on a day without it. I engaged in fornication and before my second marriage (my first marriage was annulled), I treated women with disregard and not in the way the Bible teaches. I was a womanizer, having relationships only to satisfy my desires. I drank occasionally to the point that I ignored my well-being and that of others.

I believed in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and that the Bible is God's Word but I did not trust them. I didn't read the Bible and took it for granted. At times, I would even question why God allowed sin to enter the world and created me/us if we are to suffer just the same.

Even though I kept asking God for forgiveness, I felt empty and hopeless since I continued sinning. The guilt and burden of carrying my sins continued to linger in my thoughts. I had no peace of mind. I believed that there was no hope for me and I was destined to go to hell.

Last year, my wife told me she was invited by her friend to attend Sunday service in Guiding Light. We attended and came to realize that the truth was being preached and each verse was dissected and explained. Our salvation is a free gift by the grace of God and it is only through Jesus that we are saved. He paid our debt in full and no amount of good works could come close to this.

After the service of GLCC's 23rd anniversary celebration, we approached Sis. Maroh and asked if there is anyone who could share the word in-depth to us. Bro. Mon shared the story of the two thieves crucified with Jesus. At home, I asked my wife if she was ready to pray and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. That night, I gave my life to Jesus, accepting and thanking Him for His love. My wife would follow suit in the days to come.

Now my attitude towards God is filled with trust and love. I have found peace. I pray constantly and turn to God for strength and guidance. Doing the 180-degree turn is not easy. There are times that I slip, but each time, I am reminded of His promise and love. My view about people and relationships has changed. I began to care more about others, not be selfish and judgmental. I have now turned away from pornography and the lust of the flesh. I have been reading and studying His word everyday. I am eager to attend Sunday service to hear and learn more of His word. I now value the life He has given me. I am thankful for everything knowing that whatever happens, trials or pains, it is His will and He will always be with me.

by Raymund Tadeo

I grew up in the Catholic faith not questioning the beliefs and practices, believing that they were studied by the priests and it was good enough for me. I was baptized and got married in a Catholic church. I thought I was a good person. I went to church every Sunday. I did not commit any mortal sin and believed that when I die, I'd probably go to heaven.

Despite these, there was a feeling of emptiness. I did not have a personal relationship with God. Most of the time I did not pray and just went on with my life. My husband raised questions about praying the rosary, the nine days novena for the dead and idolatry. At first, I was defending them but was not really convinced myself. We intentionally went to mass late to avoid the rosary or we just went for compliance.

Once, I had a patient diagnosed with cancer, who said that God is unfair because of her circumstances. When it came to her diagnosis, I knew what to say but when it came to her view of God, I did not know how to correct it. Suddenly, I did not feel confident.

During a mini-reunion with my high school batch mates, I learned that they are attending a different church and invited me to see for myself. I told my husband about this and last year, we attended the service at GLCC. We did not understand salvation as it was explained during the announcement so I told my husband that we should go to the Toddlers' room. An elder shared the gospel and it struck me, I did not understand what Jesus has done for me. I was so amazed with the salvation story. I then recognized my need to study the Bible. It dawned on me that I have read many medical books but I did not know anything about the Bible.

That night I looked for the Bible given to us on our wedding day. It was on the shelf accumulating dust. I read the story of Jesus' crucifixion together with the two robbers. I reflected on Eph 2:8-9 *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and, so this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works so that no one can boast."* Three days after hearing the gospel and reading the Bible, I made the decision to accept Jesus. I prayed recognizing that I am a sinner. I acknowledged that Jesus died on the cross to save me and decided to put my faith in Jesus as my Lord.

Now my view of success changed from professional success to living for Christ. I'm excited to attend Sunday service to worship Him and listen to His message. I desire to study the Bible and try to have a personal devotion every day. I am conscious of my sin and ask God for forgiveness. I pray knowing I need Him. I am thankful for everything I am and what I have are gifts from Him.

Now when I see my patients, I do not only have a medical evaluation but also a desire to minister to them and share the gospel. I have a lot to learn, but by God's grace I hope to grow spiritually, be able to win souls for Christ and encourage them to do the same.

by Karen Tadeo



OUR THRICE-HOLY GOD AGAINST A THRICE-EVIL ENEMY

by Zabeth F. Lacanaria

God is unspeakably holy! To render expression to His resplendence, the prophet Isaiah's tri-hagion, an inspired account of the worship of seraphim before God, gives us a glimpse of glory:

"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

Isaiah 6:3

Like the brilliance of a beautiful diamond against black velvet, our Redeemer pierces with the Sword of His Spirit the darkness, decay and deadness of our three-pronged enemy: Satan, the world and self.

"And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

And the devil said to Him, 'I will give You all this domain and its glory; ...Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.'

Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"

Luke 4:5-8

Even now, Satan blinds unbelieving eyes to Truth: *"Even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened"* (Romans 1:21).

But God is HOLY FATHER. His sublime name shall stamp out this Evil one: *"You led Your people, To make for Yourself a glorious name... You, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is Your name"* (Isaiah 63:14,16).

Even now, those steeped in self-love corrupt hearts by a disorder of worship, for *"they*

exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever" (Romans 1:25).

But God is HOLY SON. His superior worth can topple idols of self: *"He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf"* (2 Corinthians 5:15).

Even now, those who love this world *"...did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, [so] God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper... but also give hearty approval to those who practice them"* (Romans 1:28, 32).

But God is HOLY SPIRIT. He is singularly able to sanctify saints from this spiritually bankrupt world. *"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit"* (Titus 3:5).

This evil tide threatens to undo us. Yet, *"this hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast"* (Hebrews 6:19); to sail without shipwreck on the sea of sin, compelled by the seamless love and incorruptible triune holiness of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

"Well, dear brethren and sisters, as we do not wish to be out of gear with the works of God, or opposed to his nearest attendants, or in rebellion against the sacred Trinity, let us stand to it that our souls shall glory only in the Lord as long as we live." (Charles Spurgeon)

The Light

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