

BRYAN STATION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

INDEPENDENT • MISSIONARY • ESTABLISHED 1786

“Preaching the same truth since before Kentucky was a state”

VOLUME 35, NO. 9

JUNE, 2004

A PAYING GUEST

By: C. D. Cole

Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”

Introduction: Some years ago T. T. Shields made a visit to Vancouver, British Columbia. He was to spend two months there and went without engaging a room. He was met by a friend who asked him if he knew where he was going to stay, and on being told that he had no plans, the friend suggested that he take a room with a certain family lately come from Scotland. To this Mr. Shields agreed and they received him cordially. One day his hostess said, “Mr. Shields you are the first paying guest we have ever had.” The family had been wealthy in the old country, they had lived in a big house, had several servants, and entertained on a large scale. But adversity had come and they were keeping roomers for a livelihood. The expression, “a paying guest” was a sort of euphemism to disguise their poverty.

Our test suggests the thought that the word of God dwelling in us will be a paying guest. Two thoughts I want to develop from this text: first, what does it mean for the word of God to dwell in us? And second, how does it pay its way?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE WORD OF GOD TO DWELL IN US?

For the word of God to dwell in us means more than to have a slight acquaintance with it. We have various relations with people. We have business relations with our banker,

butcher, filling station operator, etc.

We meet them in a civil and agreeable fashion, but they are mere acquaintances. They do not live with us. We do not know them intimately; we do not inquire into their personal affairs. Then there are folks for whom we have a particular friendship; they visit us and we visit them. We know them better than we do those with whom we do business. But they do not live with us; they are not so closely related as that. There is a difference in doing business with a person, or in visiting a person, and in living with that person. The people we live with form a part of our life; everything we do and say affects them.

It seems evident that many church members know the Lord as they know their banker, call on Him when in trouble. But such slight acquaintance with the Lord through His word will not be much of a blessing. The man who does not pray until the bombs burst and the roof falls in will not get much relief in prayer. The mother who ignores God and His church until her wayward daughter breaks her heart, will not find comfort for her broken heart in the time of shame and sorrow. The home that has no place in it for the man of God until he is called for the funeral will not get much help from him when he walks with them to the silent city of the dead. He who finds God a present help in the day of trouble is he who finds delight in God in the day of prosperity.

HOW DOES THE WORD PAY ITS WAY?

Remember that it claims to do so. II Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...”

It serves as a critic. Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” The word does not first come as a welcome visitor. The word does not first make one glad. It is not first received with joy but in pain. The word criticizes us and shows us that we are sinners. We have to see ourselves as sinners before we can see Christ as Saviour.

The word not only criticizes the sinner; it is a critic of the saint. Sometimes it comes knocking and says, “Pay me that thou owest.” Sometimes it thunders, “Will a man rob God?”

It may come as a health inspector. The health inspector is a man who comes and says that your premises need cleaning up; you must cut the weeds, and changes must be made here and there. So the word may come and tell you that you are in bad health spiritually; you need to confess your sins and forsake them. You need to make some changes here and there. Your prayer pulse is weak; your interest in eternal things has almost reached the vanishing point. Too much in love with the world; too much occupied

with carnal things. Too worldly in thought and talk and walk. The doctor comes to see Johnny and tells him to stick out his tongue; his tongue will show the condition of his health. And our tongues show the kind of spiritual health we have too. I heard a boy who once used an ugly word and his mother washed his tongue with soap and water. He did not like the taste of soap but it was wise mother's way of telling him there are words that soil our tongues and lips and souls. The word is a great diagnostician. If some of you would attend church regularly for a while and take the word of Christ to heart you would soon learn that you are in a bad state of health spiritually.

The word profits by acting as a teacher. If I take the word of God to live with me I will learn some valuable lessons. It will enrich my life with the most valuable information. It will teach me the truth:

ABOUT GOD

His mode of being as a Spirit: Isaiah 11:1-2, "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom, and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD." John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

His personal attributes: **He is Almighty**; Exodus 6:2-3, "And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them." Revelation 15:3, "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."

Just; Isaiah 45:21-22, "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? Who

hath told it from that time? Have not I the LORD? And there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Matthew 27:19, "When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him."

Holy; Psalm 99:3, 5, 9, "Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy...Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy...Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy."

Gracious; II Chronicles 30:9, "For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him."

Wise; Jude 25, "To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

Merciful; Psalm 103:8, "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy." Psalm 145:8, "The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy." Joel 2:12-13, "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."

ABOUT MYSELF

How **sinful** I am; Luke 5:8, "When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 7:24, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? Psalm 51:2, 3, 5, "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my

sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me...Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

How **frail** I am. "LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am." John 15:5, Jesus said, "...for without me ye can do nothing."

ABOUT CHRIST

His **virgin birth**; Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the LORD himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Matthew 1:18, 21, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost... And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Deity; Isaiah 6:1, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple." Isaiah 43:3, 11, 14, "For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour...I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour...Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel..." Isaiah 44:6, "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last, and beside me there is no God." Isaiah 46:9, "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me."

Humanity; Matthew 9:36, "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." Matthew 20:34, "So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed

him." Matthew 8:23-24, "And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, inasmuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep."

His perfect life; Matthew 3:16-17, "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." John 4:34, "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." Luke 22:42, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." John 18:38, "Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all." John 19:4, 6, "Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him... When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him."

His atoning death; Matthew 20:28, "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 14:33-34, "And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death..." John 19:30, "When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."

His glorious resurrection; Matthew 28:1-6, "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his rai-

ment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said, Come, see the place where the Lord lay." John 20:14-17, "And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." I Corinthians 15:20, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

His coming again. Acts 1:11, "...Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Matthew 24:27, "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Luke 21:27-28, "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

The word profits as a **comforter.** Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." John 16:7, Jesus said, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter but He comforts through the Scriptures. He comforts with the same instrument with which He convicts. The word is

the sword of the Spirit. Ephesians 6:17, "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Is anybody mourning on account of sin? You feel that you are lost; you are uneasy in soul. Your face does not show it maybe, but your heart feels sad at the thought of eternity and where you will spend it. Don't throw that feeling off; that is a dangerous way to find comfort. Face the fact you are lost, but be comforted in the blessed fact that there is a Saviour. Let the Spirit dwell in your heart: Hebrews 9:26, "...once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." I Peter 3:18, "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Are there mourning saints today? Do you feel that you have utterly failed in your Christian life? Take comfort from I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Is anyone mourning over the loss of loved ones? Financial loss? A prodigal son or daughter? Take comfort from Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."