

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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SIX AMAZING STATEMENTS OF THE BIBLE

Larry R. Ping II

Paul tells us the way in which we are in reception of God’s Word. He explains, “*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God*” (I Cor. 2:10). Peter adds, “*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*” (II Pet. 1:21). We are most thankful for the Holy Spirit, and His great work.

Among the excellent work of the Holy Spirit are some very amazing statements. These declarations of the Spirit stand out. They demand long thought be given to them. To that end, we make this study.

1) “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed” (II Cor. 4:8-9).

Trouble in life carries with it the potential of stress, but we must not let it ruin our relationship with God. Being

perplexed means being filled with doubt and despair. The child of God cannot afford to have prolonged bouts of this, for it drives one away from God. Paul noted, “*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*” (II Tim. 3:12). Even so, we know our God “*will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*” (Heb. 13:5). There may be times we are thrown down, so to speak. Yet, we must get back up and continue the fight, before we are destroyed.

Amazing statement, is it not?

2) “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”

(Gal.2:20). Before we obey the Gospel, we were living as our own man. We did what we wanted, much like the folks of the book of Judges of whom it is said, “*every man did that which was right in his own eyes*” (Jdg. 21:25). But once one becomes a child of God,

he no longer is his own. He belongs to Christ. He has “*put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” (Eph. 4:22-24). Christ gave Himself for me. I must give my life to Him. Amazing statement, is it not?

3) “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you”

(Php. 1:23-24). In using the word “strait,” Paul was suggesting he found himself in a perplexing situation. He dearly desired to be with God in eternity. At the same time, he realized to remain on Earth would provide more opportunity to teach others. Oh, that we would have more Pauls today in the Lord’s Church. Folks who have a burning desire to be with God, who

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would “rather...be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (II Cor. 5:8). Folks who, while waiting to enjoy eternity, make time to teach others the Gospel (II Tim. 2:2). Amazing statement, is it not?

4) ***“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”*** (Heb. 12:1-2). These verses really belong with Hebrews 11, the great chapter of faith! As we run our race (as those in Hebrews 11 did), we must be focused on Jesus. He wrote the book on faith. He, too, had a focus while He was on Earth, the joy that was set before Him, Heaven. He found the shame associated with dying on the cross like a common criminal of little importance. As a result, He

resides in Heaven where “he ever liveth to make intercession” (Heb. 7:25) and where He serves as our one and only “mediator” (I Tim. 2:5). We, too, must run our race looking forward to Heaven, making little of the spiritual hurt we may receive so that one day we may be “joint-heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:17). Amazing statement, is it not?

5) ***“Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean”*** (II Kgs. 5:14). The “he” here was Naaman, the Syrian captain who “was a leper” (II Kgs. 5:1). The “man of God” here was Elisha, the prophet of God (II Kgs. 5:8). A thorough reading of II Kings 5:1-14 will show Naaman upset and ready to go home with his leprosy intact. A servant convinced Naaman to go ahead with the prophet’s plan, and it worked! The reader should take notice Naaman’s flesh was not restored to his “adult-like” state, but rather to that of a “little child.” May we always

remember, God “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Eph. 3:20). What can God do for you, or me? Amazing statement, is it not?

6) ***“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it”*** (Mal. 3:10). God issued this challenge to a people who had drifted far away from Him. Yet, He still not only would bless them, He wanted to bless them! If we but do those things God asks of us, He will bless us in ways unimaginable to us. James penned, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (Jam. 1:17). You will be amazed at what God will do for you, if you only obey. Amazing statement, is it not?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm