



“WITHOUT CONTROVERSY”

Rev. J. K. Golding

“All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia:

Out of the ivory palaces.” Psalm 45:8

“God was manifest in the flesh.” 1 Tim.3:16

Spring is on its’ way! The daffodils are arrayed in their brilliant yellow robes. The urge takes over, and we must get out there to clean up those dead sticks and stems from last year’s garden. While cleaning this debris up, we are planning with great expectation the beautiful garden we’ll plant to the world this year.

Yes, April is the month for young plants, new paint and cleaning up with serious effort! A couple of years ago, I decided to turn my very small garden plot into a “butterfly garden”. Lots of vinca [periwinkle], lantana, black eyed Susan, and Shasta daisies, among other flowers. What you I’ve received on warm Summer afternoons, watching these little creatures flit from one plant to another, displaying their magnificent colors! Last year, I had a lovely pale blue butterfly visit my garden day after day for nearly a week!

Most of us are always thinking of ways to improve our world with beauty, ease, and comfort. How can I enhance my surrounding? I believe half the fun of this is the anticipation and expectation involved.

Now, for a moment, consider your world perfect, magnificent in every respect, utterly beautiful beyond words. You must leave it, and go to a lesser place, nothing is perfect, everything is marred by sin, and the Devil himself runs free to further damage everything and everybody!

Would there still be great joy in your heart? Great anticipation for this downhill journey? Great expectations? I think not!

Yet, this is exactly what our LORD Jesus Christ did for us! In Ephesians 1:3-4 we read: “Blessed be the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ; According as He hath chosen us in HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD that we should BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM IN LOVE..”

God in His foreknowledge knew He would create the world, create man sinless, but man would yield to sin, bringing spiritual death to mankind, as well as physical death. He knew He would give His only Son as a blood sacrifice to cover the sin of fallen man. With great EXPECTATION, this was planned! Why? His love for His creation, YOU and ME!!

For a few minutes, consider this tremendous event, in heaven and earth, what an event for our Savior! In 1 Timothy there is a passage of Scripture that rolls back the curtain for us to get a glimpse of that sacrifice. In ch.3:16 we read an amazing statement by Paul: He starts out by saying; “Without CONTROVERSY great is the mystery of Godliness.”

There is no doubt we do not understand or comprehend God and His doings and never will! He is too great for our human mind to discern. [If you are waiting to learn more before you work or witness for Him, forget it!! Just get started!!]

Paul goes on to say: “God was manifest in the flesh.” All that God is, was revealed in Jesus Christ, in the flesh, His love, peace, holiness, truth, mercy and long suffering as well as His Omniscience, Christ displayed this wisdom many times over. But! THINK for a moment! All that God is was spoken and became flesh!!

“Justifi9ed in the Spirit”- The Spirit recognized Him as if He were still in that heavenly body and place, just as if He had never taken on an earthly body! For example, when you and I pray for someone or something we say; “In the Name of Jesus”. He never had to, He was God in the flesh and retained that power, simply saying,: “Be made whole” or “Your sins are forgiven” or “Be thou healed.” Even unclean spirit knew Him and obeyed His words. [Mark chapter 1]

Remember in the very early years before His ministry began, when Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River where John the Baptist was baptizing? John was reluctant to baptize Him, because he knew who He was, but Jesus instructed him to do so. When He came up out of the water, the Heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended as a dove, and sat on Him. Then the Voice from Heaven saying; “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matt.3:13-17

“Seen of Angels”! The angels of heaven knew of His leaving Heaven, they announced His birth. Luke 2:9-15. When He arrived on earth and with great

expectation, they waited for the moment they could open Heaven's curtain and cry out: "I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior which is Christ the LORD.

Luke 2:10 & 17.

Then Paul says the most amazing thing is: "He preached unto the Gentiles." He came to the lost house of Israel, but the circle widened, and included those in darkness without God. Isaiah saw that coming and wrote: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great Light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shone." Isa.9:2

The Apostle to the Gentles, Paul, still marveling at all this declares, "He was believed on in the world." Perhaps he was thinking of those hated by the Jews, the Tax Collector, Matthew, the Samaritan woman at the well, the unclean man with leprosy, which He touched! He Syrophoenician woman whose faith in Him caused Him to declare; "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." And Paul himself, a great persecutor of the early church, converted in an instant while on the way to Damascus.

Paul very quietly ends this Scripture verse with a single, simple statement: "Received up into glory." What a statement! Between the lines, he's telling us God revealed in the flesh, born for the sole purpose of revealing God's love for us in coming to die for us, endured the cross, a visit to Hell, and totally completed the way of salvation. Nothing to be added or taken from it was received back up into His position in Heaven!

SONG: "OUT OF THE IVORY PALACES" Henry Barraclough [1891-1983]

**Refrain: "Out of the ivory palaces, Into a world of woe,
Only His great eternal love, Made my Savior go."**

- 1. "My Lord has garments so wondrous fine, And myrrh their texture fills;
It's fragrance reached to this heart of mine With joy my being thrills.**
- 2. His life had also its sorrows sore For aloes had a part;
And when I think of the cross He bore, My eyes with teardrops start.**
- 3. His garments to were cassia dipped, With healing in a touch;
Each time my feet in some sin have slipped, He took me from its clutch.**
- 4. In garments glorious He will come, To open wide the door;
And I shall enter my heav'nly home, To dwell forever more!"**

Recently while sleeping, I dreamed of a student I had taught back in the early 70s. He was walking about in a great complex, his beautiful tenor voice filling the air with "Out of the Ivory Palaces". His blond wavy hair shining to the point of glowing. But, Oh, the music!!

I woke up, [much to my regret for I was truly enjoying the hymn] and was amazed at what I had dreamed. This boy was indeed in Heaven, he had been killed in an auto accident after graduation in the mid 70s. Why had I dreamed of him or the hymn? Since, I have had no occasion to think of him or the hymn! Perhaps I dreamed it for you, for this article at this Easter season! Please give serious thought to all Jesus has done for us.

Rev. J Kehl Golding “Don’t be just stirred—be changed as you walk with Him!



“THE APPEARANCES OF FAILURE!”

By Mary Mayko

Luke 23:33-35 KJV “And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” And they parted His raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided Him, saying, He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He be Christ, the chosen of God.”

“Things are not always as they seem!” This is a phrase we often hear that contains much more truth than we may imagine! Another saying is, *“What you see is what you get!”* Well, that statement is often incorrect! We usually either get a lot more than we can see, or, there are some things not revealed in what you see!

Some things we receive whether we expect them or not and they can be extremely unpleasant! Bitter disappointment fills our heart and if we are not watchful that can cause us many painful days! On the other hand, we may become the recipient of some divine blessing with benefits that amaze us!

In the Bible many people had the *appearance of failure!* Yet God used the adversities in their lives to fulfill a plan He had in progress! Think of the lives of Abraham and Sarah and their apparent failure to bear a child, but God gave them Isaac! Joseph’s dreams appeared impossible, especially when he was falsely accused and thrown into prison! But God placed him in a position of power and used him to protect Abraham’s descendants! The Israelites must have looked at Moses and the forty years of wandering as a complete waste! Yet, we see Joshua leading their children to victory in the Promised Land! When *all seems like an impossibility and complete failure,* He sometimes does wonderful things that no man can take credit for!

2 Cor.4:7 KJV “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

In the days of the Crucifixion, Jesus was mocked and beaten, then hung on a Cross! *If anything ever had the appearances of failure*, that awful day was surely one of them! When He died that afternoon, a sudden darkness covered, what an instant before had been a bright sunny day! The disciples must have run in terror, thinking their Messiah had utterly failed to keep His Promises! The scene at the Cross had all the earmarks of complete failure!

Suddenly on that Sunday morning, proof of the greatest victory was evident in the Resurrection of our LORD Jesus Christ! *What a miracle!* For the disciples, what a *fright as well as delight* when they saw for themselves the Risen Savior! What a dramatic demonstration that “*Appearances are not always as they seem!*” The appearance of failure was now the *reality of victory!*

What about your life? Are you sometimes overwhelmed by apparent failures by what you have or have not done? We need to be reminded that God looks at His long range plans for us and once He has begun a good work in us, He cannot fail, no matter how things seem to be!

Phil.1:6 KJV “Being confident in this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ.”

There are many people and difficulties in life we have no control over. As we call upon His name to help us, we can trust Him to give us strength and grace to overcome. Each time we look to Him for help, *although nothing seems to change that picture of failure*, He is still working all things together for our good because we love Him! (Rom.8:28)

Take courage in His Promises, not the appearances!

God Bless! Mary Mayko

He is Risen!

CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST!

Mary Mayko 1995

Luke 24:34 KJV “The LORD is risen indeed!”

Thank God for celebrations! I am so glad He ordained times of remembering and celebrations of special times! A special celebration Christians love is Easter or Resurrection Day!

When Christ died on the Cross, it seemed all was lost, yet within a very short time, three days, Christ had risen from the grave! What joy it brought to those who met Him that Sunday morning! Today, as we go to a Good Friday Service, we reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made in our behalf. It is a rather sober time to consider all He suffered that we might have Eternal Life! Yet, just as Mary Magdalene and the Disciples rejoiced when they realized Christ was really alive, our joy today lifts our spirits in thanksgiving unto Him.

The Bible says much about remembering or building memorials to remind us that we are to come unto Him to celebrate Him! When we gather to have fellowship in families or in church, we are to enjoy these times as a blessing from our LORD. Are we committed to building those good memories and memorials as a testimony of our love for the LORD?

This should be a season of both reflection and great joy as we celebrate the Risen Christ!

Luke 24:34 KJV “The LORD is risen indeed!” Not only did He rise from the dead, He ascended up into Heaven and has promised He will one day return! V.51-52 KJV “And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them, and carried up into Heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy!”

How joyful to look up to the LORD with expectation that He will return, perhaps while we are yet alive on this earth!

Some Good Points to Remember!

CREATION: Col.1:16-17 **By Christ all things were created.**

CRADLE: Luke 2:10-12 Isa.7:14 9:6-7 **The SON of God became flesh for us!**

CHILD: LUKE 2:21, 41-52 **He grew in wisdom and obedience, so should we!**

CARPENTER: Matt.13:55 First born sons followed their father's profession, **Jesus labored, so should we!**

CHRIST: Mt.3:13 Public Ministry as a **Teacher.** Matt.5:2 Miracles John 15:14 Friend Matt.8:7 Identified as the "**Christ the Son of the Living God.**"

CROSS: The *reason* He came, to die for our sins. He is our **Resurrected Redeemer!** Tit.2:14 Rom.3:24-25 Luke 24:46-47

COMMUNION: 1 Cor.10:16 11:24-25 **Remembers His Death, Burial, and Resurrection. The Bread for His Broken Body/ our healing. The Wine for His Blood, to forgive us and cleanse us until His Return.**

CHURCH: Col.1:27 **Christ in us, the Hope of Glory!** Matt.16:18 Eph.5:23-25

COMING! John 14:1-3 Acts 1:11 1Thess. 4:13-18

He *IS* Coming Again!