

Be Ye Doers

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"— 1 Corinthians 10:12

IT IS one thing, and it might also be added, a very dangerous thing, to think of ourselves as standing in perfection, walking in complete uprightness, living a good life without fault, blemish, imperfection or sin. He who holds such thoughts as these within this frail, weak mortal body and mind, is not standing within the sight of our Heavenly Father, the Great and Beloved Deity, but has already fallen.

It is again another thing, yea, a far more important thing, in that there is a God in heaven, and not only in heaven, but whose Spirit is everywhere filling or dwelling in both heaven and earth. This same God as we are informed in Heb. 4:12, is a—

"Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

A "discerner" is "one who discerns, a clear sighted observer, one who knows and judges, one who has the power of distinguishing."

These things and more are all applicable to the beloved Deity, with Whom we have to do, the great Creator of this vast universe and all things that dwell therein, whether it be in the heavens above, the earth or the waters that cover the deep. In the next verse it is recorded—

"Neither is there any creature (or living thing, wherein is the breath of life, or lives) that is not manifest (or clearly visible) in His sight.

"But all things—ALL things—are naked (uncovered) and opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do" (Heb. 4:13).

There are things we do, which appear to be right in our own sight and within ourselves, which can be wrong and very much so in the eyes of God. Nothing can be done in a dark corner, nothing can be hid from Him.

The lesson contained herein is to not overestimate ourselves, saying that we stand, are firm, solid and secure. We strive to attain unto these things, but let us not be proud, boasters; otherwise the words of the Apostle Paul take effect in that "we fall." We fall from grace in our heavenly calling through Christ Jesus, in that we reap the reward of condemnation, punishment and death and corruption, rather than the joy and blessedness of life-eternal—a life that knows no ending, to be bestowed by our beloved Lord and Saviour, when he shall appear, upon those who "stand" now in faithfulness, humbleness and meekness and not in boastfulness and pride.

This is one of the outstanding characteristics of this evil, wicked and sinful generation in which we live, that men are proud, boastful, blasphemous, self-conceited, lovers of their own selves, covetous. It is continually a case of "I will do this" or "I did that."

Man in his self-glorification is the ruling factor in this present day and age. It brings to our mind at this time the words of Nebuchadnezzar as recorded in Dan. 4:30. The king said—

"Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?"

What great words of blasphemy! We are all very familiar with the method God brought about to punish this evil, wicked man. The kingdom was taken from him and he was brought low to eat grass and dwell among the beasts of the field.

In like manner the kingdoms and rulers of this world shall be brought low and shall fall, and the fall of them shall be great.

Brethren and sisters in Christ Jesus who are well rooted and grounded in the "One Faith" will refrain from worldly activities and political affairs.

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There is another aspect very worthy of mention, concerning the Revelation of Jesus Anointed from God unto John in Patmos in relation to the message unto the seven ecclesias. It is in the words of the Spirit to Laodicea (Rev. 3:17)—

"Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing, and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

This was the Laodicean element—what a sad state of affairs! But let us always remember, brethren and sisters, that we too, each of us, or perhaps our ecclesia, can quite easily fall into the same category. If such be the case, we lack that spiritual food which is so essential, so necessary for our eternal salvation. God said to them—

"Because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth"

(v. 16).

The taste was not satisfactory, the offering was not acceptable.

On the other hand we read in Gen. 13:2 that Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. But this great richness did not sway him or turn him from his faith in God, for he was "rich in faith" (Heb. 11:10)—

"For he looked for a city which hath foundations whose Builder and Maker is God."

His was only a temporary dwelling place, as ours is likewise. In faithfulness to God, he forsook the luxuries and comforts of the world and lived the long, waiting years of his pilgrimage in a tent. We do well to think upon these things.

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WE return our minds to the title: Are we just hearers of the Word, or DOERS also? We are told (Rev. 1:3)—

"Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein, for the time is at hand."

There is much food for thought, good sound advice, great instruction, knowledge and understanding in this one verse of the Scriptures in itself. There are three distinct things mentioned, namely: Read, hear, keep. All three can be linked together and one is just as important or essential as the other. Let us consider each in their respective order.

When we are an infant of five or six years of age, we begin to attend school to learn to read, to learn the letters of the alphabet. As we grow older we continue reading, getting a full understanding, knowledge and education, thus reaching the stature of a young man, being fitted to accept a position to earn our daily bread. Keep this thought in mind—we would be unable to obtain this position, had we not continually read, from boyhood to man.

Now we turn unto that greater wisdom. When we first come to a light and knowledge of the Scriptures, we commence as babes, we are only able to partake of milk. As we grow older, by continual reading and study, we are able to partake of meat. We have obtained a greater knowledge and understanding of God's most holy written Word, a spiritual knowledge.

But this can only be attained by a continual, not casual, reading; thus fitting us for a position in His glorious Kingdom, through His beloved Son, when he shall appear to judge each one according to their works.

Thus we see it is a case of reading and more reading, in order that we might obtain a greater scriptural knowledge and understanding, thereby growing from a "babe" to manhood and

womanhood, that we be able to present ourselves as "vessels fit for the Master's use" inasmuch as a "leaky vessel" is of no value or no use to anyone.

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AND now in second place we arrive at the word "hear." Jesus constantly reminds us—

"He that hath ears to hear let him hear."

James, tells us (1:19)—

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift (or quick and ready, eager) to hear."

Here again we have the same situation of a young child attending school, from childhood to manhood he must be ever attentive to his teacher, to hear, to pay strict attention to those things of which he has been taught, that the mind may absorb, and that he might derive a good education.

And as to that "spiritual knowledge" as contained in the Bible, the most important learning and wisdom of all, it is absolutely necessary that we give both "attendance and attention" at ALL meetings.

In this way we "hear" the speaking brother, whether it be exhortation, address or lectures, and again the mind absorbs that essential food so much unlike the meat that perisheth. The apostle Paul instructs us—

"Give attendance to reading, to exhortation to doctrine . . .

"Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them" (1 Timothy 4:13).

—not just casually or now and again, but whole-heartedly and with a great desire and eagerness. "Exhort one another daily"—not just monthly, or weekly, but daily. By so doing we "read," "hear" and "keep" the Word, the most precious Word. In Mal. 3:16 it is recorded—

"Then they that feared the Lord—those who love Him, and seek Him and call upon His Name—spoke often one to another.

"And the Lord hearkened, and heard it . . ."

Thus it is, if we hear Him, He will hear us.

"And a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His Name."

Are we thinking upon His Name? —or are our thoughts being directed into other channels which will lead to our condemnation? There is a book of remembrance being written, but here is the most important and vital point, let us endeavour to see that our names are written in the "Lamb's book of Life." This we can only do by "Hearing," paying strict attention along with "reading." The two go hand in hand together, along with "keeping" which we shall now dwell upon.

This word "keep" or keeping" is third and last in consideration but certainly not the least, by any means. The school-boy will continually keep those things he has learned fresh in his mind by DOING them, day after day.

The same applies to brethren and sisters in Christ Jesus, who work in the Lord's vineyard. They must continually, without ceasing, keep these things, these precepts fresh in their minds. Jesus said (John 14:21)—

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.

"And he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest myself to him."

This is the ONLY way we can come unto the Father—by **keeping his commandments**. Any other approach is man-made and vain.

Therefore by this means we become "doers" of the Word and not just "hearers" only.

Some may ask the question, HOW do we become "doers"? The answer is quite simple. Does not the Bible teach us to do good unto all men, especially unto those of the "Household of Faith." Furthermore—

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Eccl. 9:10).

There are many, many ways in which we should be "doers" of the Word. Perhaps there are brethren and sisters of like precious Faith who are in dire circumstances, in need, in sickness and distress, afflicted, may it be financially or otherwise. Are we arising and coming to their assistance?

What about the brethren and sisters in isolation? Do we comfort them with correspondence, to the full extent of our time and opportunity, concerning the Truth as it is in Christ Jesus?

Do we speak of the Truth at every opportunity? Do we strive to manifest God to the world in our lives and characters? Do we avoid everything that could reflect on the Truth or grieve our brethren and sisters?

What about those things affecting the working of the ecclesia? Are we taking an active part or just "sitting back" letting others do it? Exhorting and lecturing brethren have a great work to perform, but there are also many other duties, as we are all members of that "One Body" whether it be brother or sister in Christ Jesus.

As previously mentioned, our Heavenly Father knows all these things, all our ways, our doings, our actions are open unto Him. Let us endeavour to keep our record a clean one, that we appear before our Great Redeemer with joy and not with shame. For as it is recorded in the verse which we have been considering (Rev. 1:3)—

"Blessed is he that reads, hears and keeps those things which are written therein."

The **blessing** shall rest upon him, but "Cursed is he that doeth not My will," saith the Almighty God. "For the time is at hand."

Surely, brethren and sisters, we cannot deny the truth these words contain. Truly, the time is at hand, never has the world been in such a state of unrest, uneasiness, wickedness, evil and lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, for the whole world lieth in wickedness. True indeed the world is ripe for destruction. The universal cry is "Peace and Safety" but when they cry thus, sudden destruction cometh upon them as the Deity hath declared—

"There is no peace for the wicked" (Isa. 48:22)

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Let us turn to the words of godly instruction of David to his son—

"And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searcheth all hearts and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts.

"If thou seek Him He will be found of thee: but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off for ever" (1 Chr. 28:9).

These were good sound words of advice, spiritual advice, from father to son, instructing him as to how he should serve the "Great Eternal Father in Heaven," even as a father would instruct his son in like manner.

But what was the result? Solomon failed God and forsook Him. How do we stand in relation to these things? We take instruction from Mark 13:37—

"And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

—F.P. 10/63 Berean