



RELIGION

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK: **Scripture of the Week: St. John Chapter 6**

Inside from the Word

by Rev. Michael Lindsey, Dean of North Portland Bible College

"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope." [I Thessalonians 4:13 NIV] That is how the Apostle Paul begins his discourse on the return of Christ. The blessed hope of all believers is that the Lord Jesus will return the same way he left this earth [Acts 1:11], and will receive all his saints to himself. The church in Thessalonika was disturbed because some of their number had died; those who remained feared their loved ones would miss out on the glorious return of Christ for the church. But Paul makes it clear that "the dead in Christ will rise first..." [I Thess. 4:16]; they won't miss even a moment!

When a child of God dies, he or she does not simply lie in the ground, awaiting Christ's return. Paul affirms that "... he would prefer to be absent from the body and present with the Lord..." [II Corinthians 5:7], so there is a conscious existence after death until the resurrection. But God does not intend our souls to be disembodied in heavenly glory; he will raise up the dead in Christ with transformed bodies. "The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power" [I Corinthians 15:42-43]. This is the resurrection Paul writes about to the Thessalonians.

And this is why Paul repeatedly says the dead in Christ have merely "fallen asleep" [I Thess. 4:13-15; also, I Cor. 15:6, 18, 20, 51]. Paul never uses

this expression to describe those who are outside of Christ, because physical death has been crushed, and the hereafter is no longer an unfathomed mystery. Death need be no greater an ordeal (in ultimate terms) than falling asleep for a night.

Dr. Donald Barnhouse, the great Philadelphia pastor and Bible teacher, was driving to his wife's funeral in a car with their four children. Suddenly a huge truck pulled past them, casting a cold shadow on their car. Dr. Barnhouse asked the children, "Would you rather be run over by a truck, or by the shadow of a truck?" One replied, "Why, the shadow, of course." He said, "That's what happened to your mother. Only the shadow of death passed over her, because death itself ran over Jesus. But he rose, and lives -- and so does she in heaven."

Paul speaks of another kind of sleep, as a warning to the Thessalonians, and to Christians everywhere: "Let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled" [I Thess. 5:6]. Satan would love to lull God's people in a form of sleep, even while we live. To avoid falling asleep, we need to cultivate the attributes of watchfulness and self-control. If we are watchful, we will not miss opportunities to help hurting and broken people around us, nor "divine appointments" to share Christ's salvation with earnest seekers. If we are self-controlled, we will not fall into any of various addictions found in the world around us. If we as believers stay "wide awake," the world will know there's a genuine difference between us and them. That difference is not our own goodness, but the glory of Christ in us.

One Church, One Child Presents (Unity in the Community for Our Children) Banquet

November 18, 1989 is the date of the Unity in the Community banquet at 6:30 pm at the Lloyd Center Red Lion. The banquet will mark the first anniversary of its sponsor: One Church, One Child of Oregon which is a black adoption recruitment program. Dr. Shelvin Hall, President of the national One, Church, One Child, will be speaking at the banquet. Leaders in the Black community representing

churches, state offices, businesses and community groups will be present. All are invited to help One Church, One Child celebrate its first year of service to Oregon's Black children. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased at: Mrs. C's Wigs, Hartley Oil, Inc., JaBell's, and Tondalayera Designers Salon. For more information, contact the One Church, One Child office at 285-7634.

Help Us God Omnipotent

by Dr. A.L. Henderson

Help Us God Omnipotent, my own or the acronym* for HUGO provides us with a positive sustenance against the death and devastation of the treacherous storm that purloined life and shelter from its victims with indiscriminate rage.

I heard stories, however, that countermanded some of the grief and overwhelming need with reminders that out of the worst disasters we can learn through necessity. For devastation brought on by natural disaster can be a great leveler, and humanity is still waiting to be taught a lesson or two or more!

In a genteel neighborhood where the great Southern Colonial ante-bellum houses had presided over the slavetrade era, a gentleman who had inherited the home from his ancestors looked on in dismay as Hurricane Hugo's aftermath obliterated not only the outside portico of his home, but sloshed its muddy river of devastation through the marble halls of the entryway into his living quarters. He was deep in water.

His search throughout the town of Charleston, South Carolina for a generator to power his own broken down pumping system led to a growing despair and frustration that he would never find help.

Tramping his way through endless neighborhoods, he finally gave way to despair until he spotted activity centering around a small home humming with the efforts of a group of people he did not recognize.

But that was not unusual since he had been a virtual recluse in his home for the last thirty-five years!

Approaching them in his once-meticulous white suit rolled to his knobby knee caps, the venerable old southern gentleman's shabby but haunted look did not frighten the workers.

All of them, black men, had the spirited resourcefulness of a Richard Allen during Philadelphia's plague, and they asked him if he needed help.

Indeed, he nodded, and at the end of the day there they were together, struggling in the hallway of the dese-

crated Southern mansion to give its occupant and owner a chance to survive, with them, against the demons of the storm!

We do not expect less of humanity, and are so often disappointed by the bitterness of battles against ignorance not yet won, of blights of prejudice and economics assailing our spirit to give up.

We do not. We never will.

And behind all those who remain in service to the poor and indigent and homeless, caught in the clutches of hunger and the paroxysms of despair our A.M.E. Church shines, a solitary bastion of solicitude and healing to those who need our help>

Join us in giving what you can to those who are trapped.

HELP US GOD OMNIPOTENT to help ourselves.

Put to the test, all must endure, regardless of their social station as demonstrated by the story we just shared with you.

However, the burden of the pain and suffering is going to be carried by those least able to endure it ... those whose economic blight has been heaped upon them by restrictions and restraints of prejudice past. Truly, it is the minority core of our populace who are feeling the brunt of cataclysmic storm disaster.

Rallying in time of need elicits an exhortation that all of us are bound to share with our neighbors and families.

Before we become too smug or self-satisfied or self-righteous in our safe, snug domiciles, let us imagine what would happen if we were in the shoes of those in South Carolina.

Put together what you have in a care envelope and mail it off to us today.

None of us have a guarantee for tomorrow against the onslaught of natural disaster.

It dispenses true democracy in its savage leveling factor. But after that, those who have against those who have not determines survival.

Give a gift of life to those in danger of losing it.

Our plea for financial support is designed to reach those in our A.M.E. family outreach.

We have always been a bottomless reservoir for our needy.

With renewed strength in rebuilding their homes and healing their families of the terror and morbidity brought on by the hurricane, they can recover their own humanity.

North Portland Bible College's 1st Annual Fall Banquet "Partnership in the Gospel"



Speaker:
Dr. James E. Martin
Senior Pastor
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church

and

Special Music by:
Sister Lessie Williams
Portland Symphonic Choir
Choir Director, Ainsworth
United Church of Christ

Friday, November 3, 1989, 7:00 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Great Hall - 1624 N.E. Schuyler

Tickets available: \$12.50 each

For additional information, please call 288-2919

The Albina Church of God 5522 N. Albina/283-1635

With A Bold New Vision
Reaching out until He comes
Going Back when He comes

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Service morning 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Service evening 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday Teaching 7:30 p.m.

Thursday Moments of Deliverance 7:30

The Friendliest Church in the city
Senior Pastor Rev. Samuel M. Irving.

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ABCO Annual Meeting

On October 20 & 21, pastors, laity, and friends from American Baptist Churches of Oregon will gather for their Annual Meeting at the Calvary Baptist Church, Salem, Dr. Jack Kiekel, Senior Pastor. Information has come to you from Calvary Church to facilitate planning by yourselves and others from your congregations to attend this event in Salem.

All persons who attend the Annual Meeting of ABCO to convene the Oregon Election District session will be held during the Saturday afternoon session, which begins at 2 p.m. A new Election District Representative Nominating Committee for the Election District will be recommending a nominee for this position, which this time needs to be a pastor. All persons appointed as delegates to the ABCO Annual Meeting are also requested to serve as delegates to the Election District.

This is a very unique time of annual celebration for the ABCO FAMILY. It will be a time of praise, learning, and inspiration, with the theme: CATCH A NEW SPIRIT. Everyone is anticipated to experience a joyful and rewarding time.

Maranatha Church

4222 N.E. 12th Ave.
Rev. Wendell H. Wallace
Senior Pastor

Sunday Services
Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Morning Workshop 10:30 A.M.
Maranatha School of Ministry 6:30P.M.
Mid-week services - wednesday 7:30 P.M.

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(503) 287-0261
Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor

Psalm 34:3

For I am Not Ashamed of the Gospel of Christ...Romans 1:16

MT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. James E. Martin, Senior Pastor

116 NE. Schuyler

7:45am Worship Service
9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship Service
Bible Study:
10:30-12 Noon Wednesday
6:30-8pm Wednesday

Radio Ministry each Sun. 8am KBMS
284-1954