



RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

II Corinthian 12:1-9

First International Methodist Book Exhibit

by Alisha C. Henderson
**Publisher Henderson
 Invited to Address
 World Methodist
 Parish at Frankfurt**



Dr. A. Lee Henderson

Dr. A. Lee Henderson, Publisher/President of the Sunday School Union of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, has been invited to present a keynote address for the World Parish and World Methodist Conclave on October 3, in Frankfurt, Germany at the international convening of the world celebrated book fair. An assemblage of national representatives of global professionals involved in all phases of the book publishing industry shall participate in what is heralded as the most prestigious publishing industry event in the world for the growing multinational marketing of books.

Speaking on his subject of Spiritual Gifts And Worldly Standards, A. Lee Henderson will address the International Publishing Committee of the World Methodist Council. The occasion marks the second year that various Methodist publishers participated formally in the world's largest book fair along with the African Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday School Union (Publishing House) under the helm of Dr. Henderson.

Printing Industry Association of the South recently accorded its top award in book design, newspaper layout and color typography to the Sunday School Union (Publishing House) and its award-winning publisher. Henderson's achievements have continued to garner honors from the time of his founding the Portland Observer in 1970. Today twenty years later the Observer is the largest multi-ethnic weekly newspaper in the Pacific Northwest. Henderson serves as Publisher/Owner/Chairperson. Mrs. Joyce Washington acts as Henderson's assistant and manager.

In 1976, Henderson was the recipient of the Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award in Oregon and achieving a slate of civic com-

memoratives for an active role in civil rights, employment opportunities creation, and service with distinction to the spiritual, physical, and psychological advances of African-American needs in communities and active participation in local, state, and federal government arenas.

Henderson's wife, Bobbye, will accompany him to Frankfurt. She is a community caregiver in all areas of church activities and recently served as Co-Chairperson for the St. John's A.M.E. Church 1990 Annual Homecoming ceremonies in Nashville, TN.

The Frankfurt international exhibit of books produced by Methodist publishers in 1989 included Czechoslovakia, East Germany, West Germany (coordinated by Walter A. Siering, Stuttgart); France, Great Britain, India, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States represented by the United Methodist Publishing House and the African Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday School Union. Joint training and publishing consulting activities in several countries are encouraged by the International Publishing Committee chaired by Gerhard Roegner, East Germany.

Thomas K. Potter, Jr., reported that a similar exhibit is being planned for the 1991 World Methodist Conference in Singapore. Other new cooperative approaches to efforts encouraged by the International Publishing Committee chaired by Gerhard Roegner, director of the Pressestelle der Evangelisch-Methodistischen Kirche, include joint training and publishing consulting activities in several countries. Vice-Chairpersons of the International Publishing Committee are Dr. Robert K. Feaster, President, United Methodist Publishing House, from the USA and Mr. Brian Thornton of Germany.

**Prayer Cancels out Worry,
 or Worry Cancels out Prayer**

**IN
 LOVING
 MEMORY OF
 Chester Leon Johnson, Sr.
 1927-1990**



On October 17, 1990, Chester L. Johnson, Sr. departed this life in Mt. Enterprise, Texas. He became ill on the train, in route. He was placed into the hospital and released. He experienced more chest pains. In an attempt to return him to the hospital, Mr. Johnson passed in the arms of his daughter.

On October 18, 1927, Mr. Johnson was born to Belton & Bernice Johnson. He was the first born of seven children.

Mr. Johnson was united in Holy wedlock to Dorothy B. Williams on March 9, 1945. To this union, seven children were born.

Mr. & Mrs. Johnson were both baptized, at an early age, at the Union Springs Baptist Church in Mt. Enterprise, Texas. The family arrived in Portland in 1956. Mr. Johnson began working in Construction and in 1959 he began working for Ameron Pipe and Construction Company. He worked there for 35 years-until his retirement in October of 1989.

The Johnson family are members of the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Rev. Don Frazier, pastor.

He leaves to mourn his death, his loving wife of 45 years, Dorothy Johnson; two sons, Chester L. Johnson, Jr. and Billy D. Johnson; three daughters, Clemmie J. Daniels, JoAnn Jones, Dorothy N. Johnson; two brothers, James R. Johnson of Beaumont, Texas and Charles E. Johnson of Los Angeles, California; two sisters, Arvelia Starling and Dorothy Henry both of Alamogoda, New Mexico; 30 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, October 23, 1990 at the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church.

Learning to Live With a Limp

□ From the pulpit of Morning Star Baptist Church Rev. T. L. Lewis, Senior Pastor

This morning I want to preach on the matter, "Learning to live with a limp". I want to hang this message on these three points. 1. The mystery of the limp. 2. The mastery of the limp. 3. The ministry of the limp.

In this second letter that Paul writes to the church at Corinth, he confronts a group of believers who considered themselves to be spiritual elitist. In other words, they deemed themselves as being superior in their spiritual and non-temporal undertaking.

They had had certain spiritual experiences and blessings. Instead of being grateful for what God had allowed them to experience, they became boastful of themselves.

Quite often, this happens. We take that which is holy and use it as a sounding board to glorify ourselves. We take that which is sacred and use it for selfish means and rapacious gains.

So in an effort to set the record straight, Paul does some boasting of his own. However, there was one major difference in Paul's boasting and the boasting of the carnal Corinthians, and that was Paul's boasting in the Lord.

They centered their boasting around the one who received the vision. Paul centered his boasting around the one who gave the vision. For there is a difference in talking about what I have experienced and what God has allowed me to experience.

As believers, we must be very careful about seeking self glory. The spotlight belongs to the Lord, not to you and me. God has said that he will not share his glory with any man. We like to boast about titles and positions.

We need to be ever mindful of the fact that all glory belongs to God. And that when glory is directed at us, we need to hurriedly pass it on to the Lord.

Dietrich Bonehoffer in his book, the cost of discipleship says that, "when Christ calls a man he bids him come and die. In other words, the call of Christ to a believer is to die to self-glory." Paul says to the churches at Galatia (2:20) "I am crucified with Christ yet nevertheless I live yet not I but Christ who liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God

who died and gave himself for me."

We can ill afford to boast about our accomplishments because apart from Christ we can do nothing. No matter how much these Corinthians boasted about their spiritual gifts, they could in no way be compared to the revelation and the vision God had allowed the apostle Paul to experience.

I imagine he must have hushed a many mouths when he said. "Brethren about 14 years ago the Lord allowed me to be caught up in third heaven. Whether I was in my body or out of my body I can't tell but God knows. I heard unspeakable words which are not lawful for man to utter. What I experienced in the third heaven is too holy to even talk about.

Concerning the three heavens, there is that first heaven, that is perceivable to every seeing eye. The first heaven can be seen just by looking up. It is where the birds fly and the clouds drift and hover.

Then there is that heaven that we can observe at night, we can through telescopes and other powerful optical instruments. It is where the moon, the stars, and other sister planets make their abode. It's the second heaven, the heaven we call outer space.

But then there is the third heaven. The space that is beyond outer space. That place where time leaps into eternity.

Even Captain Kirk and the Starship Enterprise have not been able to penetrate its boundaries. But long before there was the Wright Brothers, long before John Glenn, long before Sputnik, long before Apollo, long before Columbia and apostle named Paul was caught up in the third heaven. And what he experienced up there was unspeakable.

And to those carnal Corinthian Christians who were playing can you top this spiritual experience, when they heard Paul's testimony they had to hush their mouths. Then Paul tells them of myself I will not glory. Yet I do have the desire.

Paul recognized that in his flesh dwelleth no good thing. He recognized that there was that part of him that wanted to boast about his accomplish-

ments. In his flesh, in his old nature he wanted to boast about what he had achieved in life. He knew that he had achieved in life. He knew that he had a tendency toward sin just like all men.

But God had fixed it so that every time he wanted to exalt himself the thorn in his flesh would humble him.

Listen to him (verse 7) as he says, "lest I be exalted above measure because of all the blessings that I have received there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure."

Now in order for us to understand the mystery of the thorn/limp the mastery of the thorn/limp, and the ministry of the thorn it is necessary for us to define what a thorn/limp is and how to identify a thorn.

A thorn/limp is a vehicle or a means that God uses to keep us humble. God wants to bless us but, he knows that along with the blessing he has to have something to keep us depending on him. And that something is a thorn.

Now a good way to identify a thorn is to think about that one thing in your life that you wish with all your heart you could change. Yet no matter how hard you try you just can't. You have prayed about you have cried about it, you have begged God but the circumstances just won't change. More than likely that's a thorn.

God allows thorns to enter our lives to keep us humble. To keep us in a position where he can use us. A thorn will keep you from exalting yourself.

Without that thorn is Paul's flesh he could have felt totally self sufficient. He could have felt that what he had accomplished in life came about because of his own strength and power.

After all he spoke several languages fluently, he was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. He was a graduate of the University of Tarsus. He came from a royal family. The Tribe of Benjamin. He was a world traveler. He was a pharisee of the pharisees. This man Paul was somebody. And you know the more accomplishments you have in life the easier it is to get lifted up in pride. But God knows just how to humble us.

(To be continued)

7 p.m.
OCTOBER
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