HAS THE CHURCH FORFEITED ITS FREEDOM?

Frances Swaggart explores the God-given liberties of every believer.

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God's answer to failing, sinning, dying, lost, wrecked, and destroyed humanity is the Cross of Christ and nothing else.
Of all of these Scripture albums that we have made, I do believe that this is the best yet. Whatever you do, you must get a copy for yourself. It will drive evil spirits out of your house, from your place of business, and from your person--of that I am certain (I Sam. 16:23).

**PRAISE (02-211)**
- Tell Me His Name Again
- Rock of Ages
- The Solid Rock
- Whisper Jesus
- Sweet By And By
- Near The Cross
- The Love of God
- I Surrender All
- The Last Mile of the Way
- At The Cross

**The Psalms (02-208)**
- Amazing Grace
- Blessed Assurance
- I See A Crimson Stream Of Blood
- The Old Rugged Cross
- In The Garden
- Farther Along
- Draw Me Lord
- I'll Never Be Lonely Again
- I Am Thine, O Lord (Draw Me Nearer)
- How Beautiful Heaven Must Be

**Healing (02-139)**
- Living Where The Healing Waters Flow
- I Believe In Miracles
- Someone To Care
- Cleanse Me
- I Want To Be Healed
- Healing In The Name Of Jesus
- Rise And Be Healed
- Only Believe
- The Healer
- Touching Jesus

**Worship (02-134)**
- In The Shelter Of His Arms
- I Am Thine, O Lord
- Room At The Cross
- Amazing Grace
- He Hideth My Soul
- The Old Rugged Cross
- He'll Hold My Hand
- When My Saviour Reached Down For Me
- There Is A Fountain
- Blessed Assurance
- Standing Somewhere In The Shadows

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“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.” — Genesis 2:1
The Heavens And The Earth Are Finished

This proclaims the fact that when the heavens and the earth were completed, they were a brilliant array. It seems as if the heavens were literally blanketed with stars. Because of the pollution in the air back in the states, I had not seen anything of this nature. For nearly an hour I suppose, I stood there mesmerized, looking at this carpet of stars in the heavens, which was so beautiful as to be beyond description. So, if one can think back in his imagination to before the fall, the heavens at that time must have been an array of unimagined beauty. They will be that way again. John the Beloved said, “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea” (Rev. 21:1).

Finished

When the Lord said that the creation, or possibly one should say, the re-creation, was finished, all was pristine and beautiful beyond compare. About 4,000 years later, while hanging on a cruel Cross, His Son would again say, “It is finished,” and the way back to God was then open, but what a price had to be paid! In fact, it was such a price as to make the original creation seem as if it were nothing. As beautiful as material things might be, they are still just things; however, the Son of God gave His life on that Cross, and nothing can equal that.

On a coming day, the final words will then be said, “It is done” (Rev. 21:6). In fact, this will be after the millennial reign when the new heaven and the new earth will be brought into being. Then, Satan and all of his cohorts of darkness will be placed in the lake of fire forever and forever, and sin will be only a bad memory, if that.

The Seventh Day

“And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made” (Gen. 2:2).

This presents an anthropomorphic statement. In other words, it’s a statement made about God in the ways and manner of men so that we might understand it better. God cannot be conceived as resting or as needing rest through either

WE BELIEVE:

- The Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God (Ps. 119; Mat. 4:4; Lk. 24:27).
- There is one God, eternally existent in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (1 Jn. 5:7).
- In the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His Virgin Birth, in His Sinless Life, in His Miracles, in His Vicarious and atoning Death, in His Bodily Resurrection, in His Ascension to the Right Hand of the Father, in His personal future return to this Earth in Power and Glory to rule a thousand years (Jn. 1:1-4; Eph. 2:13-18; Rev., Chpts. 19-20).
- In the Blessed Hope—the Rapture of the Church at Christ’s Coming (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- The only means of being cleansed from sin is through Repentance and Faith in the Precious Blood of Christ (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9, 13-18).
- Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal Salvation (Jn. 3:5-8; Titus 3:5).
- In the Sanctifying Power of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life (Rom. 6:3-14; 8:1-2, 11).
- In the Resurrection of both the saved and the lost: the one to Everlasting Life and the other to everlasting damnation (Rev. 20:5-6, 11-15).

PRAY THIS PRAYER AND MEAN IT WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I now realize that I am a sinner. I accept the fact that You died for me on the rugged Cross of Calvary. I now open my heart’s door and receive You as Saviour and Lord of my life. Please take full control of me and help me to be the kind of Christian You want me to be. Amen.”

If you prayed this prayer in all sincerity, you are now a Child of God. So that we might rejoice with you, we invite you to fill out this coupon and mail it to Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, P.O. Box 262550, Baton Rouge, LA 70826-2550. In Canada, mail to Jimmy Swaggart Ministries of Canada, P.O. Box 1020, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6V9. We will send you a free copy of Jimmy Swaggart’s book What Must I Do To Be Saved? This book will help you grow in grace and knowledge.

DEAR JIMMY: TODAY I ACCEPTED JESUS AS MY LORD AND SAVIOUR.

NAME ______________
ADDRESS __________________________
CITY ___________________ STATE/PROV ZIP ______________
DATE OF DECISION _______________ AGE __________
exhaustion or fatigue. The prophet said of Him that He “faints not, neither is weary” (Isa. 40:28). Cessation from previous occupation is all that is implied in this statement.

Incidentally, a morning here for the Sabbath day is implied, but no evening as with the other days is implied. The Sabbath is actually eternal. It foretells Christ, the true Sabbath, in whom God rests and in whom believers rest. This is God’s own rest of Hebrews, Chapter 4.

When it says that God “rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made,” I think we can derive from this phrase that He is not creating new universes. Since that time, He has given Himself to the new work of upholding His creation. The Scripture says, “By Him all things consist” (Col. 1:17).

Since the fall of man in the garden of Eden, God has given Himself to the carrying out of the plan of redemption. Concerning this, Jesus said, “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (Jn. 5:17). That’s the reason that beginning with Genesis, Chapter 4, and continuing throughout the balance of the Word of God, we have the story of man’s redemption. The whole of this recorded past—6,000 years—has been spent in this process.

**Blessing**

“And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made” (Gen. 2:3).

This presents the third blessing. Williams said: “Blessing is stamped upon this introduction to the history of God’s interest in man and His creatures. He blessed the living creatures (Gen. 1:22); He blessed man (Gen. 1:28), and He now blesses the seventh day.”

If we fail here to see what the Lord is actually doing, then we will miss completely the import of what is being said.

This Sabbath, or seventh day (Saturday), the last day of the week, is meant by God to be a type of the salvation rest that one finds in Christ. That’s the reason it was a part of the Ten Commandments.

When an individual accepts Christ, he enters into a Sabbath rest so to speak, which will never end. That’s the reason no mention is made of an evening and morning for the seventh day. Read carefully what Paul said: “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it” (Heb. 4:1).

“Since the fall of man in the garden of Eden, God has given Himself to the carrying out of the plan of redemption.”

We enter into this rest not by keeping a certain day. That’s not what it means at all. If that’s what we seek to do, then we will “come short of it.”

**Rest**

One enters into this rest by accepting Christ and making Him the Lord of one’s life. Then Paul said, “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them (Jews before the Cross and Jews after the Cross): but the Word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them who heard it” (Heb. 4:2).

Paul is saying that the Word preached to the Jews before the Cross did not profit them simply because they tried to make salvation out of the keeping of the Sabbath day. This meant that they had no faith in the one to whom the Sabbath day pointed.

Paul continues, “For we which have believed do enter into rest, as He said, As I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Heb. 4:3).

In this Scripture, Paul is saying that all the works of God were finished on the sixth day; consequently, there must not be any more works. We enter into this rest, as stated, not by keeping a certain day, but by accepting the one whom the seventh day typified. Paul said, “For He spoke in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all His works” (Heb. 4:4).

This was spoken in Genesis 2:2. Once again He emphasizes the fact that all the works are now finished. This means that if man tries to find salvation by works or maintain salvation by works, God has sworn in His wrath that man will not enter into His rest by such efforts.

**Christ And The Cross**

The apostle then said, “For he who is entered into His rest, he also has ceased from his own works, as God did from His” (Heb. 4:10).

So, we see from all of this that God blessing and sanctifying the seventh day refers strictly to Christ and the rest that He brought us by what He did at the Cross on our behalf. We obtain this rest by exhibiting faith in Him and His great sacrifice. If we try to obtain it any other way, which then places us in the position of works, such activity angers God greatly (Heb. 4:3).

When God finished all His work on the sixth day, and He “saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good” (Gen. 1:31), that meant that all work and

Continued on page 8
FULL-POWER STATIONS

Fulton, AL ........................................ 89.3 (WJKI)
Covering Fulton, Thomasville, and Grove Hill

Mobile/Citronelle, AL .................. 102.1 (WQUA)
Covering Mobile, Alabama

Augusta/Little Rock, AR .......... 97.7 (KJSM)
Covering Central Arkansas, Western Tennessee, a small part of Northwestern Mississippi, and a small part of Southern Missouri

Camden, AR .......... 1450 AM (KNHD)
Covering parts of Southern Arkansas

Lake Village, AR/Greenville, MS .... 95.9 (KUUZ)
Covering parts of Western Mississippi and Eastern Arkansas

Nashville, AR .......................... 96.9 (KSSW)
Covering Southwestern Arkansas

Palm Springs, CA .................. 90.9 (KPSH)
Covering the Coachella Valley

Mayo, FL ........................ 89.5 (WGSG)

Panama City, FL ................................... 91.7 (WFFL)
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Crete, IL .............................. 88.1 (WBMF)
Covering South Chicago and Chicago Heights

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Covering Ottawa, West La Salle, East Joliet, and North DeKalb

Winfield/Wichita, KS ................. 91.9 (KBDD)
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Baton Rouge, LA .......................... 88.5 (WJFM)
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Bastrop, LA .......................... 88.3 (KJGM)
Covering Bastrop, Monroe, and the Northeastern part of Louisiana

Jonesboro, LA ................ 104.9 (KTOC)
Covering Northern Louisiana

Lafayette/Church Point, LA .......... 91.9 (KCKR)
Covering Southern and Western Louisiana

Desoto/St. Louis, MO ......... 100.1 (KDRJ)
Covering Southern Missouri, parts of Eastern Missouri, and Western Illinois

Benton/Yazoo City - Jackson, MS .... 92.1 (WJNS)
Covering Central Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana

Grenada, MS ............................ 95.7 (WTGY)
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Covering North Western New York State

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Ada, OK ................................. 88.7 (KAJT)
Covering South Central Oklahoma

Bristow, OK ......................... 104.9 (KREK)
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Guthrie, OK ......................... 1490 AM (KMFS)
Covering Oklahoma City, Edmond, and parts of Central and Northern Oklahoma

Norman/Oklahoma City, OK .... 89.3 (KSSO)
Covering Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Graysville, TN ............................ 95.7 (WAYB)
Covering parts of Southern Tennessee and Northern Georgia

Atlanta/Texarkana, TX ........ 100.1 (KNRB)
Covering parts of Northeastern Texas, Northwestern Louisiana, Southwestern Arkansas, and Southeastern Oklahoma

Corrigan/Lufkin, TX ................. 99.3 (KYTM)
Covering Corrigan and Lufkin, TX

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## RADIO PROGRAM GUIDE

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works were finished. To be sure, even as Paul said in Hebrews, Chapter 4, it pointed to the coming redemption found only in Christ, which can only be obtained by faith and never by works. So, the Sabbath was meant to portray Christ and the great rest that He would afford by what He did for the human race in the offering up of Himself on the Cross. Consequently, the Lord blessing and sanctifying this particular day carries a meaning far greater than the mere fact that He had finished the creation.

### The Resurrection Of Christ And The First Day Of The Week

If we are to notice in the book of Acts and the Epistles, the Sabbath, which is Saturday, gradually fell by the wayside, with the first day of the week, the day of the resurrection of Christ, taking its place (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10).

Jesus fulfilled all of the law, which included the Sabbath. As stated, He rose from the dead on the first day of the week, and this was, no doubt, done purposely. It signals not an ending, but rather a beginning. And so it is!

### Generations

“These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens” (Gen. 2:4).

“These are the generations,” occurs 11 times in this first book of the Bible. Generations refers to “divine divisions.”

The phrase, “These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created,” refers to the manner in which all were created as outlined in Genesis, Chapter 1. As stated, the Lord has an ordered procedure about all that He does. His government is perfect regarding creation, as well as all other things. He is a God of order.

In this government of order, much of the time, one can tell what God is going to do by what He has done in the past. There is no chaos about Him. At the same time, due to man’s fallen nature, there is nothing but chaos about...
him. Consequently, for man to have an ordered existence, he must serve God and, thereby, learn the ways of the Lord that he may walk therein. Only in this manner can man walk in a semblance of order. Otherwise, he has disorder.

One only has to look at the nations of the world that subscribe, at least to a certain extent, to the Bible. This means that they have at least a goodly number of their population who serve the Lord. That nation will be orderly and will prosper. Otherwise, as we have already stated, there is chaos. Someone has well made the following points and rightly so:

No Bible, no freedom!
Some Bible, some freedom!
Much Bible, much freedom!

The Lord God

The phrase, “In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,” presents the new name of God as Jehovah Elohim. Jehovah is the absolute, self-existent one, who manifests Himself to man, and in particular, enters into distinct covenant engagements for man’s redemption, which, in due time, He fulfills.

Concerning this new name, Williams says: “This chapter reveals Christ as Jehovah Elohim, man’s Redeemer. The first chapter reveals Him as Elohim, man’s Creator. He first prepares the beauteous world in which man is to dwell and then He creates man, and, as Jehovah, enters into covenant with Him. These two great titles of Christ are distinguished throughout the entire Bible and finally appear in its two closing chapters, which treat of redeemed man and a new earth.”

The words created and made literally say “created to make.” The idea is that God made the world in such a way that it can be almost endlessly developed. This is tied in with man’s dominion, which, regrettably, has been at least partially taken over by Satan. Consequently, that which God originally intended, which is a greater development, has been all but halted in its tracks. However, this will be remedied with the coming new heaven and new earth.
THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE, we see God leading His people out and setting them free.

In the Old Testament, God tells Moses, “Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go” (Ex. 8:1).

In the New Testament, Jesus stands up in the synagogue, opens the book of Isaiah and reads, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised” (Lk. 4:18).

From the beginning, God’s desire for man was freedom. When God created Adam, He did not constrain his choices. Mankind has always possessed a free will.

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Gen. 2:16-17).

When Adam’s will was put to the test, he failed, and surrendered his God-given freedoms. From that day forward, unredeemed man would be ruled by another, and his freedom would always be measured and doled out by those in authority over him.

Thankfully, out of His mercy and grace, God steps in from time to time and places a man in a leadership role to further His purpose and His plan. Joseph is a good example:

“And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is none so discreet and wise as you are: You shall be over my house, and according unto your word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than you. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph’s hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before

Galatians 5:1 says, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”
him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without you shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt" (Gen. 41:39-44).

Joseph’s authority was absolute and universal, and there was no part of Egypt which he didn’t control. Surely Joseph’s kind that keeps right on asking, and seeking, and knocking. The kind of Christian that never, ever quits.

When Joseph died, the Bible says, “there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.”

According to my husband, this new king knew exactly who Joseph was. Since he came to power about 60 years after

“In recent decades, we’ve seen millions of unborn babies murdered, young children taught to question their gender, marriage redefined, and God pushed completely off the campuses of our public schools. Had the church at large not been so weak when these national sins surfaced, it would never have allowed them to harden into the brick and mortar laws we have today.”

leadership influenced and increased the degree of freedom of first generation Israel. The Bible says, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Prov. 29:2).

God was with Joseph and He gave him the wisdom to guide Egypt through the predicted seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Joseph kept the people of Egypt from starving, and for this they remembered him and his family for the rest of Joseph’s life.

But here’s where the story takes a sharp turn. The Bible says, “And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation.” There is finality in that verse, as if it describes the end of an era.

Isn’t something similar taking place in the church today? True men and women of God of “that generation” are leaving us—leaders who possess real Bible faith; patriarchs with the spiritual grit to stand against the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Look around, church. There are too few left who know how to touch God through the kind of prayer that moves mountains—the

Joseph’s death, he was well aware of Joseph’s leadership and successes during Egypt’s now infamous harvest and famine. This verse in Exodus 1 means that the king had no regard for Joseph—he didn’t care about him or his God.

Compare that attitude with leaders in today’s modern church. They, too, are aware of the Josephs in the church, past and present, but they have no regard for them. Some will acknowledge as far back as Azusa Street and move forward through the great tent revivals, the waves of miraculous healings, and the massive crusades that drew tens of thousands toward salvation and the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Preachers today recall the harvests of the past, but fail to discern the spiritual famine happening in their own churches. They want the results of Joseph, but they don’t want to put in the time with God to reap them.

Before Joseph died, the Bible says the children of Israel “were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.” So the new king had a
problem on his hands. He didn’t realize that God’s promise to Abraham was unfolding on his watch or that a new nation—Israel—was growing at an alarming rate. Threatened, the king did what ungodly rulers do: he wore down their freedoms to nothing.

The children of Israel were not enslaved overnight; it happened in stages. The king garnered support from his people and took the first step, which was to set taskmasters over them to “afflict them with their burdens.”

In his commentary, Matthew Poole says these taskmasters, or masters of tribute, “Were to exact from them the tribute required, which was both money and labor; that their purses might be exhausted by the one, their strength by the other, and their spirits by both.”

Yet even in this affliction, the Israelites continued to multiply and grow, which “grieved” the Egyptians.

According to my husband, this word grieved really expresses “a mixture of loathing and alarm.” Out of hate and fear, the Egyptians clamped down harder on the children of Israel and made them serve with “rigour,” which means “to break in pieces or crush.”

When this didn’t stop their expansion, the Egyptians pressed harder. “And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in morter, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour” (Ex. 1:14).

This same pattern is true of the world and the church today. Our Egypt—the world—loathes Christians. Actually, it’s Him they hate—the Lord Jesus Christ.

And just as the children of Israel allowed themselves to become enslaved, so has the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. It didn’t happen overnight. It started with afflictions like these that stung the spirit and drained the purse:

- A high school coach loses his job after praying for his team on the football field.
- A county clerk is jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples.
- A teacher faces suspension for calling homosexuality a sin.

Afterward comes the rigour (the hate):

- A gunman sits through a Bible study before killing several people in a church.

…”This same pattern is true of the world and the church today. Our Egypt—the world—loathes Christians. Actually, it’s Him they hate—the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- The vice president’s Christian faith is likened to “mental illness” on national TV.
- Crosses are removed from public parks and monuments etched with the Ten Commandments are vandalized.

But the bitter bondage, that takes time. In recent decades, we’ve seen millions of unborn babies murdered, young children taught to question their gender, marriage redefined, and God pushed completely off the campuses of our public schools. Had the church at large not been so weak when these national sins surfaced, it would never have allowed them to harden into the brick and mortar laws we have today.

For too long, Christians have forfeited their God-given freedoms and allowed themselves to be shackled in silence by those aggressively pushing an antichrist agenda. Why is that?

Both situations involving the children of Israel and the church beg this question: How did they allow themselves to get into such bondage?

My husband addresses this in his commentary on Exodus: “[God] allowed them to be reduced to slavery so they would want to leave. Had they continued as they were during the time of Joseph, actually having the best of the land, and being treated as royal guests, there is no way they would have left Egypt. They had to be reduced to abject slavery, and the worst kind at that, before they were ready to leave. As someone has well said, man will seldom carry out the will of God until it’s in his own personal interests to do so.”

It’s true. When the children of Israel got tired of slavery, they started looking for a deliverer. God gave them Moses, who would tell Pharaoh, “Let My people go.”

God gave us the Lord Jesus Christ who led captivity captive, and liberated the souls in paradise who died before the Cross. After the Cross and His resurrection, Jesus said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

Christ restored our God-given freedoms through His finished work at Calvary. In John 8:36 we read, “If the Son therefore shall make you free (Christ alone can make one free, and He does so through and by what He did at the Cross, and our faith in that finished work), you shall be free indeed (a freedom which the world cannot give and, in fact, doesn’t even understand)” (The Expositor’s Study Bible).

My husband says liberation by Jesus Christ not only frees us from sin, but also from the fear of man and what man can do to us. So what are we waiting for, church? What are we, as believers, to do with this freedom?

Exactly what Adam should have done with his: use it to surrender our will to the will of God—that’s where true freedom reigns.
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THE ARGUMENT OF HEBREWS IS that even though the first covenant was indeed divine, it was only a shadow of the promised second covenant. Therefore, if the shadow was divine, how much more divine must the substance be?

Hebrews tells us that all the divinely given shadows, types, symbols, and figures are satisfied in Christ, who is their substance. Jesus Christ is the substance that the sacrifices represented:
- He is the substance of the whole burnt offering.
- He is the substance of the meal offering.
- He is the substance of the peace offering.
- He is the substance of the trespass offering.
- He is the substance of the Sabbath rest.
- He is the substance of the Passover Feast.
- He is the substance of the Feast of Pentecost.
- He is the Feast of Trumpets.
- He is the substance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- He is the Feast of Firstfruits. He is the substance of the Feast of Tabernacles.
- He is the substance of the great Day of Atonement.

Hebrews tells us that we have a better covenant based on better promises, and fulfilled in a better sacrifice.

The Old Testament saints were saved by faith in what the sacrifices (plural) represented. We are saved by faith in one sacrifice—the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary’s Cross.

The Old Testament saints were saved by looking forward to an event that had not yet taken place. We are saved by looking back to a finished work.

The Mosaic law was centered around doing—do this and do that. But the new covenant is anchored in “It is finished.”

God Does Not Change
In this short verse, there is a great truth that every believer must grab ahold of and never let go. In these few words, we find a declaration of hope, liberty, deliverance, salvation, healing, power and...
authority, and that truth is this: God does not change.

Malachi 3:6 states, “I am the LORD, I change not.” What a promise to hold onto. Never forget:
- Nations come and nations go, but God does not change.
- Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall, but God does not change.
- Churches come and churches go, but God does not change.
- Denominations come and denominations go, but God does not change.
- World leaders come and world leaders go, but God does not change.
- What is valuable today is worthless tomorrow, but God does not change.

In the midst of an ever-changing world, there is one who will never change, and that is God.

God does not change, the Word of God does not change, and the Holy Spirit does not change. Grace and mercy do not change; justification and sanctification do not change.

The blood of God's Son is still setting prisoners free. The Lord still heals the sick. The Lord still baptizes believers with the Holy Spirit. There is still power in the name of Jesus Christ. No matter how great the sin of the world may be, this is still true today: “where sin abounded, grace did much more abound” (Rom. 5:20).

**Jesus Christ Is The Same**

This phrase tells us that Jesus of Nazareth of the new covenant is the Jehovah of the old covenant. Christ is the one to whom the entirety of the old covenant pointed. Consequently, He is the fulfillment of all of the prophecies of the Old Testament.

**Yesterday, Today, And Forever**

This phrase covers the entire span of time:
- “Yesterday” refers to all of the great faith worthies of Chapter 12, and all of the other Old Testament saints.
- “Today” refers to Paul’s time when the Holy Spirit, through the apostle, said that as the Lord was to the patriarchs and prophets of old, so will He be to those of the early church.
- “Forever” refers to our present time, and all of the future generations to come, guaranteeing that Christ is the same now as He was then and will be forever.

The one who created the heavens and the earth is the same one who turned the water into wine.

The one who opened the Red Sea is the same one who walks on water.

The one who shut the mouth of lions is the one who put money in the mouth of a fish.

The one who sent ravens to feed Elijah is the one who multiplied the loaves and the fish to feed thousands.

The one who caused the sun to stand still is the one who calmed the raging storm.

The fourth man in the fire is the same one who is the resurrection and life.

Therefore, as Christ does not change and the Word of God does not change—which means that correct doctrine does not change, which means that faith does not change—then the promises of God do not change.

Second Corinthians 1:20 says, “For all the promises of God in him are yea and in him amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

God does not change!

“The Old Testament saints were saved by looking forward to an event that had not yet taken place. We are saved by looking back to a finished work.”
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THIS QUESTION, asked by the prophet Malachi, was really a question from the Lord to His people. It’s a simple question, and it portrays Israel’s condition. The word *robbed* here means “to defraud.” So, you could phrase it this way: “Will a man defraud God?”

This is exactly what happens to a Christian when he doesn’t participate in the act of giving—he defrauds God. Man, who depends totally and completely on the Lord—will he rob from Him who is his sole benefactor? How can that be? As we have stated before, giving is the means by which God has chosen to spread the gospel and bless His children. By refusing to get involved in this act of giving, you defraud—steal—from God, and no Christian in his right mind would ever want to steal from God.

The Holy Spirit points to the reason why the children of Israel were in dire straits—poverty stricken—because they had withheld or robbed God of tithes and offerings. They had ignored their duties of caring for the priests, disregarded the feasts days, and failed to take care of the poor. This was an absolute travesty, and, in doing so, they were now under a curse.

What I am about to say now will not sit well with some of you, but it’s the truth: Just as Israel of old was placed under a curse due to her lack of supporting the work of God, so are those today who do likewise and ignore the command to give. There is no sugarcoating this—every single person who does not participate in giving to God’s work is placed under a curse.

Listen to what the Word of God says about this: Malachi writes, “You are cursed with a curse” (Malachi 3:9). Even though it was the prophet who penned these words, it was the Holy Spirit who actually said this. The reason that Israel was barren and her crops would not grow is because God had pronounced a curse upon Israel for not adhering to the word of the Lord regarding tithes and offerings.

It’s the same now. You may wonder why money seems to be going out as fast as it’s coming in, why things are breaking down in your home, or why you always find yourself in the red, so to speak. Most Christians can trace these results back to the time they stopped supporting the work of God. When their paychecks came in, they took care of their own houses first. Any Christian who refuses to act upon the
commandment of tithing and giving offerings is cursed with a curse, which means denial of all blessing. Just as Israel suffered as a result of not giving, so will Christians suffer for not giving to support the work of God.

Prove Me
However, God gave the children of Israel a way to reverse that curse, and it began with them bringing their tithes into the storehouse, which was the temple and the cities where the Levites dwelt. Today, the storehouse is where the soul of the believer is being fed. If that’s a local church, then the believer should bring his tithes and offerings to that local church. If it’s a media ministry, then he should send his tithes and offerings to that ministry.

Whatever or wherever that storehouse is, the believer better make sure that what he is supporting truly is the work of God. The criteria for making sure is very simple:
- Are people being saved?
- Are lives being changed?
- Are believers being filled with the Spirit?
- Are bondages being broken?
- Is the Message of the Cross being preached?

Devourer rebuked. God said that He will rebuke the devourer, which refers to Satan—the father of lies. The word rebuke means “to turn back.” This means that when we give to God’s work, He will hold Satan back from the fruits of your efforts. By doing this, it results in prosperity for God’s children. Prosperity is not a bad word. You would be surprised as to how many Christians have a skewed viewpoint of prosperity—many from bad experiences in the church. But it’s not a bad word for the Christian, and it’s something that God wants you to experience. It may not mean that you will become a rich individual regarding your finances, but God does want you to prosper in every area of your life. He wants you to prosper financially. He desires that you prosper in health. But overall, He longs for you to prosper spiritually. He will rebuke, or turn back the enemy from taking what God has given you.

Family blessed. The Lord says, “Neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field,” and this has to do with the harvest being gathered without it being lost. Now, this could refer to many areas of your life, but I want to take this opportunity to bring up your family. I believe that when a Christian begins to give and support the work of God, the blessing that God pours out on him will extend to his children. God has blessed Jill and me with three beautiful girls who are being raised in a godly environment. Even though that doesn’t guarantee their salvation, it definitely helps, and I believe that God will protect them as they get older. And the Word of God teaches that if we train up a child in the way he should go, then when he gets older, he will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6).

Nations will notice. The promise is given that when you support the work of God through finances, all nations will call you blessed. This simply means that as the blessings of the Lord are pouring out upon you, others will take notice as to why you are blessed, and will wonder why. When they realize that you are supporting the work of God, they will call you blessed.

In closing, there is a statement that I hold to be true, as do many Christians around the world: As a believer, you cannot outgive God. As you continue to give, God will continue to give back to you, pressed down, shaken together, and running over (Lk. 6:38). I pray that you take these words to heart and believe that God will do what He said He would do. Never underestimate what God can do or how He does it. He wants to bless you, but you must do your part.
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- I Bowed On My Knees And Cried Holy  
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- He Poured In The Oil And The Wine |
| **How About Your Heart? (02-198)** | - Where He Leads Me  
- I Never Shall Forget The Day  
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| **All I Need Is Jesus (02-195)** | - The Anchor Holds  
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| **It Was A Great Thing That He Did For Me (02-199)** | - It Was A Great Thing  
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- We Shall See The King  
- Search Me Oh God  
- Only Trust Him  
- The Lily Of The Valley  
- It Will Be Worth It All When We See Christ  
- He Hideth My Soul  
- Nothing Between  
- If Jesus Goes With Me |

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<td>Spartanburg, Greenville</td>
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<td><strong>SOUTH DAKOTA</strong></td>
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**TEXAS (cont.)**

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<td>Denton</td>
<td>…………………… 6 / 749 HD</td>
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<td>Duncanville</td>
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<td>Ennis</td>
<td>…………………… 12 / 750 HD</td>
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**WEST VIRGINIA**

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<tr>
<td>Green Bay</td>
<td>Spectrum 388 / 1388 HD</td>
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<td>OTA</td>
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<td>Milwaukee</td>
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<td>68 / 1068</td>
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<tr>
<td>AT&amp;T</td>
<td>OTA</td>
<td>68.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**U.S. OVER-THE-AIR (OTA), LISTINGS**

For those of you who are not familiar with digital television, these are free “old fashioned TV channels” that are able to be picked up with a digital tuner and antenna. Most new televisions are equipped with built-in digital tuners or you can purchase a tuner from your local electronics store (Best Buy®, Radio Shack®, etc.). As well, you can purchase the proper antenna at your local electronics store. Many viewers under the broadcast signal of the television stationtronics can use a small, digital antenna inside the home. For those on the outer edge of the signal or to receive the best signal, an outdoor antenna may be required. Both indoor and outdoor antennas are available for less than $50!

**INTERNATIONAL CABLE, SATELLITE AND FREE-TO-AIR (FTA) LISTINGS**

ALL LISTINGS OPERATING 24/7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Channel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASIA &amp; INDIA</td>
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<td>ABS 1</td>
<td>sonlifetv.com for more info</td>
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<td>AFRICA</td>
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<td>Intelsat 20</td>
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<td>Thaicom 5</td>
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<td>Northern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Bird 6</td>
<td>sonlifetv.com for more info</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA &amp; NEW ZEALAND</td>
<td>OPTUS D2</td>
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<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foxtel®</td>
<td>186</td>
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<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
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<td>Canberra, Wollongong, Orange, Dubbo, Wagga</td>
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<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>Darwin, Central</td>
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<td>Queensland</td>
<td>Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maryborough, Toowoomba, Excludes Brisbane</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>(Spencer Gulf Area), Loxton, Mt. Gambier, Griffith, Mildura, Excludes Adelaide</td>
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<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>Launceston, Hobart</td>
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<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Albury, Ballarat, Bendigo, Gippsland, Shepparton, Excludes Melbourne</td>
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<td>BARBADOS</td>
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<td>BELGIUM</td>
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<td>Télésat</td>
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<td>TV Vlaanderen</td>
<td>356</td>
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<td>BRAZIL</td>
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<td>NationWide: StarOne C2 Satellite</td>
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<td>Net Cable</td>
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<td>WEBSERVICE - Play Media</td>
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<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
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<td>SPAIN</td>
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<td>SWEDEN</td>
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<td>Freeview</td>
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Until a channel comes to your area, enjoy your favorite radio and television programs by visiting www.sonlifetv.com. You can already view live services and prerecorded programming online!

**COLOR ME A BIBLE STORY**

If your little one likes to color, these new coloring books will be ideal for him or her.

Each coloring book (ages 3-8) contains 48 pages and offers young children the opportunity to learn the Bible while they color. It is a wonderful way to stimulate your child’s thirst for learning God’s Word.

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GREAT HYMNS OF THE CHURCH: VOL. 1
- THERE'S ROOM AT THE CROSS FOR YOU
- I WOULD NOT BE DENIED
- I SHALL NOT BE MOVED
- WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER
- I SEE A CRIMSON STREAM OF BLOOD
- NEAR THE CROSS
- AT CALVARY
- O I WANT TO SEE HIM
- THE OLD ACCOUNT WAS SETTLED
- ROCK OF AGES

GREAT HYMNS OF THE CHURCH: VOL. 2
- GLORY TO HIS NAME
- AMAZING GRACE
- ARE YOU WASHED IN THE BLOOD?
- 'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS
- THERE SHALL BE SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS
- TELL IT TO JESUS
- HE TOOK MY SINS AWAY
- THE HEALING WATERS
- THERE'S GOING TO BE A MEETING IN THE AIR
- STANDING ON THE PROMISES

GREAT HYMNS OF THE CHURCH: VOL. 3
- BLESSED QUIETNESS
- THE CROSS IS NOT GREATER
- KNEEL AT THE CROSS
- WE'LL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER
- VICTORY
- GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU
- PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND
- O HAPPY DAY
- LOVE LIFTED ME
- IN THE GARDEN

GREAT HYMNS OF THE CHURCH: VOL. 4
- HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD
- PASS ME NOT
- OUR LORD'S RETURN TO EARTH
- THERE'LL BE PEACE IN THE VALLEY
- THE OLD RUGGED CROSS
- THERE IS A FOUNTAIN
- WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN?
- I AM THINE, OH LORD
- I'M BOUND FOR THAT CITY
- YES, I KNOW

GREAT HYMNS OF THE CHURCH: VOL. 5
- BLESSED ASSURANCE
- I'LL FLY AWAY
- HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
- SOME GOLDEN DAYBREAK
- FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS
- LIFT ME UP ABOVE THE SHADOWS
- HE WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS FOR ME
- AT THE CROSS
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The Message Of The Cross
The message in this book is personal and addressed to every believer who has tried to live for God but failed. It was written for those who were told by elders to just try harder to overcome sin. It’s for the people of God who trust their own abilities, strengths, and talents because they don’t know how to trust God. Read this apostolic revelation from God to Brother Swaggart and how it changed his life and ministry. In these chapters, he shares God’s prescribed order for victory through faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified, which is the story of the Bible. Learn how the Holy Spirit works within the parameters of the finished work of Christ to help believers gain victory over the world, the flesh, and the Devil. (Over 250 pages, hardcover)

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DONNIE SWAGGART’S NEWEST BOOK
LIGHT OF LIBERTY

If you want to know how this nation—the United States of America—came into being, then this book, I think, will open the door as nothing else that you’ve ever read. It is something that every believer, in fact, every person, needs to read. I urge you, don’t fail to get this book.

Light of Liberty (09-147)
Men and women came to the New World in hopes of establishing a new nation—a free nation unbound by kings, popes, and religious oppression, and a nation whose cornerstone was God’s Word alone, in which freedom and liberty were rights for all. An overwhelming majority of America’s Founding Fathers were Christian, but even those who were not understood that the foundation of this fledgling country was rooted in Christian doctrine. In his book, Evangelist Donnie Swaggart leads his readers from Plymouth Rock to Pennsylvania Avenue and from the Declaration of Independence to the Bill of Rights showing how the United States of America was not a grand experiment but rather the ultimate testament to any nation founded on the Word of God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ (264 pages, hardcover).

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM JIMMY SWAGGART MINISTRIES

Due to an ever-increasing workload, and I speak of the television network programming, which runs 24 hours a day, every day, we felt led of the Lord to discontinue our yearly Thanksgiving Campmeeting, beginning this year.

We will focus our annual event efforts on the Resurrection Campmeeting each spring and the International Youth Conference each July. For those accustomed to attending our Thanksgiving camp, I pray that you would join us instead for our Resurrection Campmeeting, IYC, or both! We are thrilled to say that IYC is now just as popular with the “recycled teenagers” as it is with young people.

The ministry continues to grow by proverbial leaps and bounds, and we find ourselves having to measure our time accordingly, so I pray that you will understand our reasons for this change.

We look forward to seeing you at one or both of our camps!

In the Master’s service, yours,

[Signature]

Jimmy Swaggart

For more information on IYC or Resurrection Campmeeting, visit www.jsmcampmeeting.org
JSBC PRECAMPMEETING SESSIONS
(Please Note - JSBC precampmeeting sessions are held in the FCA AUDITORIUM)

MON
1 PM-2 PM • Dave Smith
2:30 PM-3:30 PM • Carl Brown
6:30 PM-7:30 PM • Mike Muzzerall

TUES
1 PM-2 PM • Joseph Larson
2:30 PM-3:30 PM • Dan Burritt
6:30 PM-7:30 PM • Jim Woolsey

WED
9 AM-10 AM • Sharon Cornell
10:30 AM-11:30 AM • John Rosenstern

WED
7 PM • Gabriel Swaggart

THURS
10 AM • Loren Larson
2 PM • Bob Cornell
7 PM • Donnie Swaggart

TUES
1 PM-2 PM • Joseph Larson
2:30 PM-3:30 PM • Dan Burritt
6:30 PM-7:30 PM • Jim Woolsey

WED
9 AM-10 AM • Sharon Cornell
10:30 AM-11:30 AM • John Rosenstern

FRI
10 AM • Loren Larson
2 PM • David Borg
7 PM • Gabriel Swaggart

SAT
10 AM • Loren Larson
2 PM • Don Gray
7 PM • Donnie Swaggart

SUN
10 AM • Jimmy Swaggart
6 PM • Carl Brown

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE!

IYC 2018
AN EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

JOIN US FOR
JULY 25-29, 2018

Please call 225.768.3438 or visit www.jsmcampmeeting.org for information, or to PRE-REGISTER for Thanksgiving Campmeeting 2018.

FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER • 8919 World Ministry Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70810-9099
Dear Evangelist,

I saw my sister this past weekend, and she told me that she purchased an Expositor’s Study Bible, and she loves it. She and her daughter share it. She told me that she has never been able to understand the Bible, and this has helped her tremendously. Praise God! I may be purchasing another Bible so they will not have to share the one she purchased, but they will both have one. Thank you for the work of God that you do.

—EMAIL

Dear Evangelist:

I wanted to thank you and the panel for the comments to your first caller this morning! Your comments were used by God in my heart. I am saved and baptized by the Holy Spirit, but there has been a stronghold in my life for many years. Your comments this morning—God used them to make it sink in and make me realize that I had been trying to defeat this stronghold in my own strength. I just prayed and asked God for forgiveness for this and have surrendered my will to Him and asked Him to help me with my faith. I feel like a huge weight has been lifted from my shoulders.

—EMAIL

“I’ve been following Jimmy Swaggart Ministries forever!” I’ve heard Pastor Gabe talk about healing and trusting God to do what He promised He would do. My daughter was diagnosed six months ago, and she has been seeing the doctor since her diagnosis as they wanted to observe the growth of the tumor. Today God showed up and showed out. I’ve been praying for a healing for my daughter, Tisa, because she was diagnosed with a large cantaloupe-sized tumor in her stomach. She was scheduled for pre-op today at 2:30, and her doctor called to say, “There’s no tumor.” It’s gone! God healed my child! Thank you for your guidance and leadership!

—CALIFORNIA

Dear Evangelist:

Greetings in the name of the Lord. I’m hoping that somehow this little comment makes its way to the top. Every time I see Brother Swaggart on SBN, I look into his eyes and say, “God bless Brother Swaggart!”

—NEW MEXICO
Keep Up the Great Work!

Dear Evangelist: I just started watching SBN! I love SBN. The music is very uplifting. I used to be a Catholic and attend church, but I stopped going and now I can watch church on TV. Your programs are wonderful! My favorite show is Frances & Friends! Thank you, and God bless you all! Keep up the great work!

—MASSACHUSETTS

The Holy Spirit Opens Eyes and Heart

Dear Evangelist: Blessing and good tidings to SBN! Thank God for your ministry and your Message of the Cross. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit through SBN, and Jesus got ahold of my life, and He won't let me go. God is blessing me and changing me every day. The Holy Spirit has opened my eyes and heart to receive the Word of God. I have the Expositor's Study Bible, and I have gotten some commentaries and wow—the doors of heaven opened up for me and the Word of God became real! What a mighty God we serve! You're always saying, “If you don't quit, God won't quit.” I thank Brother Swaggart and all of your ministry for the anointing on everyone there. I am living a new life in Christ. Blessings to all at SBN.

—COLORADO

Growing Up With JSM

Dear Evangelist: I just wanted to let you know just how much my family and I enjoy watching your Sunday service. I'm now 37 years old, and I can remember as a young child watching Brother Swaggart with my dad on Sunday morning. Praise God, I am able to still enjoy it with my dad as well as my wife and four children.

—TENNESSEE

SBN Brings the Message of the Cross

Dear Evangelist: Hello! I send this email from the south of Brazil, in the state of Santa Catarina, and I would like to thank SBN for the television program we have. My family is very happy to be able to attend the services and all the programs. Here in Brazil, it is very difficult to find a church that preaches the Message of the Cross, but thanks be to God, we can have access through you. We love you and the Swaggart family!

—BRAZIL

“King Jesus”

Dear Evangelist: I was watching your church service this morning, and I wanted you to know that as you all were singing “King Jesus” I felt the move of the Holy Spirit. I just wanted to jump up and down with joy in my heart, and as I sat there watching I could hardly contain myself. I also felt inspired. We need what you guys have in our churches today. When I first became born again, it was like that up until about 20 years ago, but I feel that we have lost that joy and excitement of knowing the King of kings and the Lord of lords in our hearts. We need to get back to getting excited about Jesus. As a worship leader, I use to jump around under the power of the Holy Spirit when I was leading worship, and now I realize I need to have that excitement back. I love your church, and sometimes I think how great it would be to be there. The music is awesome and the preaching is like a large piece of steak—meat for my spirit—not a cold cup of milk. We need this in our churches because the people are hungry for the Word of God. Keep doing what you are doing, and I just want to encourage you all at Family Worship Center. God bless to everyone. Love you guys.

—AUSTRALIA

Ministry Impact Spans Generations

Dear Evangelist: While getting our taxes done by our new tax person, we told her that we were supporters of Brother Swaggart. She told us that she used to listen to him in the 1980s in the Ukraine. She is a sweet Ukrainian immigrant, and she loves the Lord. We thought that you would like to know what kind of impact your ministry had and is still having. God bless you all.

—WASHINGTON

“Here in Brazil it is very difficult to find a church that preaches the Message of the Cross, but thanks be to God we can have access through you.”
SOME, IF NOT MANY, reading this article have probably never heard of the term “cessation doctrine” (or cessation theory). Most who actually believe in it have never heard of the term. There are many ways to define it, but the one I will use is this: The cessation doctrine is the belief that the Pentecostal working of the Spirit in the book of Acts passed away with the original apostles, and that it should no longer be expected, sought after, or seen in the church.

The Pentecostal working of the Spirit would include, primarily, the baptism with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, but also includes the gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:4-11), the laying on hands for healing, and asking God to perform miracles to confirm His Word (Acts 4:23-33). This doctrine is mainly believed by non-Pentecostal groups such as Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Church of Christ.

Having been raised in a Baptist home that later became Pentecostal when my mother and stepfather were baptized with the Spirit, I am very familiar with the mindset of those who believe in the cessation doctrine. Growing up, if there were any family members who were saved, they were independent conservative Baptist. I attended a very conservative Baptist school from the age of 13 until I was 18. Words fail to say how thankful I am to the Lord for the fundamental biblical soundness lived out by my grandparents on both sides of my family, and for the Christian school I attended. The Lord used these greatly in my life.

Even though I am very thankful for my Baptist roots, when my mother and stepfather were baptized with the Spirit, and we started attending a Pentecostal church, I immediately saw the difference between a non-Spirit-filled church and life and that of a truly Spirit-filled church and life. I was only 6 years old at the time. I would eventually receive the baptism with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues at the age of 16, and it changed my Christian life. The best way I can describe it is that Jesus became so big in me that I couldn’t hold Him in. The Holy Spirit always glorifies Jesus. It changed every aspect of my walk with God—prayer, worship, reading the Word—and the call of God on my life became clearer than ever before. So I can say that I’ve lived the non-Spirit-filled life, and I’ve lived the Spirit-filled life. The Spirit-filled life is so much better!

It seems I’ve heard all of the arguments or “biblical proof” that the Pentecostal working of the Spirit passed away with the original disciples. The most used “proof” is in I Corinthians 13:8-10 which says, “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they will fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”

Those who believe in the cessation doctrine believe that “when…it has come” refers to the 66 books of God’s Word. In other words, when John finalized the writing of the book of Revelation,
the “perfect” had come, and the working of the Spirit as seen in the Book of Acts passed away. Yes, it’s true that God’s Word is perfect (Ps. 19:7), but it was perfect before John finished writing Revelation. The “perfect” that Paul is referring to is the resurrection, or rapture. When believers are resurrected, all of the working of the Spirit as seen in Acts will be done away with; there will be no need for it anymore.

There is no scriptural evidence that the Pentecostal working of the Spirit passed away with the original apostles—zero! On the contrary, the Bible clearly tells us that the outpouring of the Spirit recorded in the book of Acts will continue until the second coming of Christ, which follows the seven-year tribulation period. In Acts 2, Peter quoted from Joel 2:28-32, which states, “It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh…[until] the great and notable day of the Lord come [second coming of Christ].”

The “last days” began on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, and now we are in the last of the last days. What does this mean? It means that God is still pouring out His Spirit upon believers as He did in the book of Acts. It means that the baptism with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues is still for today. It means that we as believers should ask God to confirm His Word with signs and wonders as was done in the book of Acts. Jesus hasn’t changed! He’s the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Jesus is the baptizer with the Spirit (Matt. 3:11). The baptism with the Spirit is a gift that God intends every one of His children to receive. What’s it for? It’s to receive the power of the Spirit to accomplish the work that God has for you. The main work is to be a witness (Acts 1:8). It’s not just power to do, it’s power to be a witness to others—a witness of the reality of Jesus Christ and all that He accomplished on the Cross. If you haven’t received the baptism with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, I encourage you today to ask God to fill you to overflowing just like He did for believers in the book of Acts.
Defining The Grace Of God

The term, “the grace of God,” is often bantered about carelessly. However, I have found that many believers do not accurately understand its meaning, its purposes, or the grandiose overwhelming benefits that can be reaped when grace is properly understood and scripturally attained.

For most, the definition for grace is simply “unmerited favor.” While this is surely an accurate and precise definition, it falls woefully short of displaying grace’s true meaning. Brother Jimmy Swaggart has given us a definition for grace that opens up the many facets that accompany this marvelous word when he declares that “Grace is simply the goodness of God given to undeserving people.”

Webster takes us to a more definitive definition when, in his dictionary, he defines grace as “unmerited divine assistance in one’s regeneration and sanctification.”

The apostle Paul ties one aspect of God’s grace to the individual receiving specific aid from the Holy Spirit pertaining to one’s growth or ministry when he describes God’s grace as the “effectual working” of the Holy Spirit. If one will simply combine all of these definitions together, we would start to receive a clearer picture of what God’s grace truly is, and what it can do.

Saved By Grace

I use the term “umbrella grace” to describe the attitude of God on display toward the world in which we live and all that it contains. The world exists today, not because the world or the people in it deserve the long-suffering, mercy, or goodness of God, but just because God allows these entities to exist. Much if not all of the world and that which is in it stands opposed to the things of God. So God in His mercy is displaying His grace toward a world that doesn’t even recognize it.

When an individual in the world is brought to the revelation that he or she is a sinner, separated from God by sin, and stands in need of a Savior, it is then that the believing sinner experiences the saving grace of God. Ephesians 2:8-9 declares the way that God has chosen to save every man from eternal separation from Himself. Here the apostle Paul declares, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and
that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.”
This verse not only faithfully declares
the only means by which a person might
be saved, but it also reveals the only way
that God works with humanity. He never
supplies His grace to those who labor
for it. For then His grace could no longer be declared as grace but rather, would
be seen as a payment for a labor or effort
made by the one being saved. A man
could earn salvation if this were true.
But God clearly declares that salvation
is by means of faith that provides for the
reception of God’s grace. That faith must
be specifically placed in Christ alone, ac-
knowledging that His death on Calvary
paid the full price for the grace that the
believing sinner will hereafter receive.
God never gives anything to a man be-
cause he has earned it. This would indicate
that God has somehow become beholden
to man. It is our sin that stands between
us and God. Only what God has provided
through Christ’s sacrifice on Calvary can
remove the penalty of sin.

Changed By Grace
Grace is not just for salvation. Grace must
be understood relative to our transforma-
tion. Sanctification is both instantaneous
and progressive. The moment the believ-
ing sinner accepts Christ as His Saviour,
he is set apart for God. He is holy and
righteous in God’s sight. He is no longer
his own; he has been bought with a
price—the price of Christ’s life—which
He offered for us on Calvary.

In this sense, a believer is instantly sanc-
tified. However, even though we are new
creations in Christ Jesus, there still re-
mains many “clinging vines” of the fall to
be dealt with. Some are learned attitudes
and actions, all of which stem from a heart
that still needs to be changed, renewed,
or both. This process of renewal is one of
progressive sanctification, which will be
part of a believer’s life until his death or
the return of Christ for His church.

Once again, the body of Christ fails to
understand that grace and faith are the
only biblical routes by which a man, wom-
an, boy, or girl can be successfully changed
into the image of Christ. Righteousness
is not just imputed to the believer, as
marvelous as that truth is, but his or her
life should display attitudes and actions
of righteousness, which can only be done
as God’s grace supplies the power to do
so. Once again, faith precedes God’s grace.
As the believer continually and exclusively
looks to Christ as the singular means by
which grace to be conformed to the im-
age of Christ might be received, God the
Holy Spirit accomplishes a task that man
can never perform on his own.

Paul would say in Colossians 2:6, “As
ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the
Lord, so walk ye in him.” This verse plainly
declares that the way a person is originally
saved is also the way by which a believer
should face every day. The way of faith
and grace is not only the way that a person
is originally saved, but it is also the only
means or way by which a Christian might
be conformed by the Holy Spirit into the
image of his Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Part II
Time and space does not allow me to
complete this article on God’s grace. Next
month, we will look at two other areas
of God’s grace connected to the glorious
gospel of Jesus Christ. The first is the bap-
tism with the Holy Spirit. We teach and
believe that the baptism with the Holy
Spirit is a second subsequent work of the
Spirit that is available to every born-again
believer, and that its primary purpose is
to provide supernatural power for minis-
try. The Spirit-filled experience is another
aspect in which God’s grace enables
the believer, and we’ll discuss the need
for this grace in the believer’s ministry.
Until then, “Grace be to you!”

“Umbrella Grace”... So God in His mercy is displaying His
grace toward a world that doesn’t even recognize it.
For instance, I am often asked how the veneration (worship) of Mary became so popular in the Roman Catholic Church. When you read through the writings of the early church fathers up to AD 250, you won't get even a hint of Mary worship. The Roman Catholics like to point to an anonymous manuscript that is dated to about AD 250 that mentions praying to Mary and it calls her “Mother of God.” So it’s possible, even likely, that veneration of Mary began that early. I will add that Roman Catholics also like to lean on a chapter in Irenaeus’ book, Against Heresies (book 5, ch. 19, c. AD 185) that talks about “recapitulation.” It talks about how Jesus undid through obedience what Adam caused through disobedience. It also says that Mary, obeying while a virgin, undid the disobedience of Eve who disobeyed while a virgin. It’s interesting, but it’s hardly an endorsement of praying to, venerating, or making images and statues of Mary.

**False Teaching**
False teachings and misinterpretation of Scriptures during the early church years would later become rules and regulations that first legitimized the errors. Eventually, some made the erroneous false teachings their foundational doctrine.

Oftentimes their rules became so stringent and enforced by religious authorities who gained political power that individuals were tortured and executed for not adhering to the finest detail.

In the case of the Roman Catholic Church—it held both religious and political power. It then used its power and influence to control the masses. The majority of the reformers who rose up out of the Roman Catholic Church were not trying to destroy the Roman Catholic system but sought to expose its corruption and moral debauchery. The likes of Savonarola, Luther, and Calvin, to name a few, were trying to “reform” the church and not intentionally trying to destroy it. They were seen as enemies and heretics by the Roman Catholic Church. Savonarola was executed while Luther was excommunicated at the Diet of Worms. Prince Frederick seized Luther and brought him to hide at Wartburg Castle. Otherwise, Luther would have found the same fate as Savonarola.

**Modern Day False Teachings**
Today there are many movements that embrace aspects of the false teachings from the early church era. These modern-day leaders claim to have received divine revelation by God, or an angel, or a dream to validate their claims. Some of the old erroneous false teachings that have similarities to modern movements include:

- Jehovah’s Witnesses, known as the Watchtower Society, are a re-creation of Arianism. Arius of Alexandria Egypt and his followers denied the true divinity of Jesus Christ taking various specific forms, but all agreed that Jesus Christ was created by the Father, that He had a beginning in time, and that the title, “Son of God,” was a courtesy one.

- Sabellianism is the belief that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three
JOHN ROSENSTERN

Characterizations of One God, Rather Than Three Distinct “Persons” in One God. The modern-day Pentecostal Oneness teaching adopted this erroneous view and made this error the seedbed of its doctrinal teachings.

- The Ebionites were a Jewish sect that insisted on the necessity of following Jewish law which they interpreted in light of Jesus’ expounding on the law. They regarded Jesus as Messiah but not as divine. Today, the Hebraic Messianic movement embraces either all of this concept, or at least the portion that requires its members to embrace the rites of the old Jewish law. The celebration of the Jewish festivals and holidays are kept with adherents understanding of Jesus keeping the law and so should they, like Jesus.

- There were many forms of Gnosticism during the time of the early church. Aspects of these heresies have been embraced by the Word of Faith movement. The Word of Faith movement—co-joined with metaphysics and philosophy—made it a cocktail of unbiblical nonsense.

Many Christians do not realize that these types of questions were asked throughout the church age. Synods and councils debated the nature of Christ. To the Gnostics, all matter was evil, therefore Jesus Christ could not have taken on human flesh. The church tried to counter the errors with creeds. To a limited extent, it became a means, but in the end, the creeds were quoted and memorized more than the Word of God.

The Cross was not the centrality of the false teachings. Either the Cross was ignored or misunderstood. The role and responsibility of the believer, adherent, was identified by obedience to the rules and beliefs of the false teachings. Works would become more important than faith. As more error was introduced to the church, the idea of making disciples of Christ was deemphasized. Instead of making disciples of Christ, false teachers sought to make converts to their false teachings.

Exposing Error
Solomon said that there is nothing new under the sun. Satan has done a good job of using his same old lies to afflict humanity, especially the church. He knows that as a roaring lion, he can be easily spotted. He comes as a wolf in sheep’s clothing but can be de-cloaked by faithful believers. However, as an angel of light, he is not so easily detected. He will use error mixed with truth to distort the purity of the gospel message. He will raise up another object of faith to render the church powerless. All error and false teaching is leaven and eventually corrupts the whole lump. To the Calvinist, it is the debate over the five points. To the Word of Faith movement, it is the idea we are little gods who can speak like God and create with our words. To the Hebraic movement, it is the keeping of the Old Testament laws.

It does not matter to Satan what is chosen so long as it’s not the Cross. For those of us who believe, it is the Cross. It is the means of all the good things that God has for us. Jesus Christ, the God-man, is the source. The Holy Spirit works through our faith in the finished work of the Cross to give us all that Jesus has for us. The Message of the Cross is the apostolic message to the church in this age. Go back to the Cross. The Cross is the foundational doctrine upon which all other doctrine is built.

“Instead of making disciples of Christ, false teachers sought to make converts to their false teachings.”
WE ARE TOLD IN LUKE of an incident when Jesus was 12 years old. “And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it” (Luke 2:42-43). They traveled along, assuming Jesus was with other relatives who had made the trip. Eventually, they began the search for Jesus.

Found In The Temple
“After three days they found him in the temple” (2:46). That should have been the first place they looked. They had searched for Jesus only to find Him in the most logical place to find Him—in the presence of His Father. What about today?

The Search For Jesus In America
There is a search across the nation for true followers of Jesus. As you look at this nation’s history, you find that fewer are willing to let their light so shine before men. The aggressive tactics of the enemies of the Cross have had an effect on the faint-hearted believer. “One nation under God” is soon becoming “One nation without God,” and could ultimately end up as “One nation under God’s judgment.” But it’s not too late.

The Search For Jesus In The Home
Morning prayers before putting your child on a school bus is a thing of the past. There may be a token prayer said before a meal, but few parents take time to read the Bible to their children. Jesus seems to be relegated to Sundays only. No wonder we have so much trouble with teenagers on drugs, drinking alcohol, and teen pregnancies.

The Search For Jesus In The Schools
There was a day long, long, ago when schools started their day with the national anthem followed by the Lord’s Prayer. Some schools were brave enough to read prayer needs over the intercom and then pray over them. Sad to say, Christ is not welcomed in most schools today. If He were, we would have less need for prison ministry.

The Search For Jesus In The Church
There is a search for Jesus in the church. Am I suggesting that there are churches who claim to be Christian and trying to operate without Jesus? Yes, I am. The church needs to be less “seeker sensitive” and more “Spirit sensitive.”

Another Jesus
Paul was concerned about the church in Corinth following another Jesus. “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.” (II Cor. 11:3-4). In the search for Jesus in the church, we have found many “other” Jesuses.

The Search For Jesus In The Sermons
Will we find Jesus in the sermons preached across America this Sunday? Or will we find a larger percentage of sermons dealing with self-help methods, positive mental attitude quotes, and how to invest your money rather than hear preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2)?

If It’s Not Cross-Centered
It’s Not Christ-Centered
Let me borrow from Pastor Curtis Hutchinson, taken from a sermon given here during a chapel service at Jimmy Swaggart Bible College. He said, “If you are not Cross-centered, you are not Christ-centered.” Our nation, our schools, our homes, and our churches need to search for Jesus until all become Cross-centered.
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GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH you YET

“A bruised reed shall he not break, and a smoking flax shall he not quench.” —Isaiah 42:3

THERE ARE MANY BELIEVERS who have failed God, but He has been able to restore them (Gal. 6:1) because they have repented and not stopped believing God. That does not mean that God overlooks or excuses sin, but that He forgives. Some examples from the Word of God are Samson and David.

Samson was one of the judges of the Israelites who helped deliver them from the control of the Philistines. He was born, miraculously, and raised as a Nazarite which symbolized his special relationship with God. The Spirit of the Lord moved him to kill a lion with his bare hands (Judg. 14:6), to kill 30 Philistines (Judg. 14:19), to slaughter many Philistines (15:8), and to kill a thousand with the jawbone of a donkey (Judges 15:14-16).

However, Samson allowed himself to be manipulated by three ungodly women which caused him to lose his relationship with God and resulted in him being blinded, weakened, and enslaved. He was shown off and used like a farm animal to thresh grain, but God was not finished with him yet. God certainly did not condone his sin, and He allowed his failures, but there was still a spark of spiritual desire in his heart that God saw and continued to fan as Samson repented and drew closer to God. Eventually, God strengthened him so he could push down columns that were holding up the roof where 3,000 Philistine leaders were partying and mocking him. Their deaths were the greatest victory of Samson’s life in liberating Israel. He is honored in God’s faith hall of fame (Heb. 11:32).

David started out as a shepherd who believed God to help him kill a lion and a bear to protect his sheep, and then to kill Goliath to win a victory for Israel over the Philistines. He was a great musician and became the captain of Saul’s army. When Saul got jealous and tried to kill him several times, David fled.

After Saul died, David was anointed king of Judah, and seven years later, the king of all Israel. He brought back the ark of God to Jerusalem, solidified his kingdom, and wanted to build a temple to honor God. But then he sinned by committing adultery with Bathsheba, and he tried to cover it up by having her husband killed. David repented and God forgave him, but he suffered the consequences of it the rest of his life. The baby died, Absalom, his own son, rebelled against him; God was dishonored, and there were continual wars. But God was not through with David. Although David was banished from his kingdom for more than 10 years, he was eventually restored as king and ruled for almost another 10 years.

Satan knows that if they leave God, they frustrate His grace (Gal. 2:21) and make the Cross of none effect (1 Cor. 1:17)—like it never happened. But God’s message to believers who have sinned is that God is not through with them if they will keep trusting God. They cannot go back and change the past (Phil. 3:13), but from this point on, God has a perfect plan and purpose for their lives. Though the world—and much of the church—would throw them away and cast them aside, God will not break a bruised reed, and He will not quench a smoking flax (Isa. 42:3).

Next month, we’ll examine some other examples of people in the Bible who failed, but God did not forsake them as He still had a plan for their lives.

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Please Read
A few days ago, the head of our computer department and the head of our television department called Frances, me, Donnie, and Gabriel, plus a few others into our boardroom and presented to us what they have been investigating for some two years now. It is the “playout system”, which we must have for television.

As I have stated in the past, what we do is entirely different from what a local television station does. We are literally sending signals all over the world, and it takes very sophisticated equipment to get this done and done right.

Some may ask as to what we have been using up until now. To be frank, we have been running the system on duct tape and bubble gum. Of course I am joking, but I’m not far wrong.

This is something that we have to have, but here is the clincher: It costs $750,000, and it’s not something that we can pay out over several months of time. It has to be paid out immediately.

I am asking for your help. I would also ask that you pray about the situation as to what the Lord would want you to do, and whatever that would be, we would so very much appreciate it.

You must understand, and I know that many of you do—your calling is the same as mine. When the Lord brought you into this ministry, most of you had little idea as to what it meant, and I speak of touching the entirety of the world. Many of you know much more now than you did some time ago. And I believe that many of you, hopefully all of you, understand what this ministry actually means to the world. What we are doing is what God has called us to do, and I’ll say it again: He has called you for the same task.

Yes, I implore you not only for your financial help, but as well that you would pray for us daily. We need that, and we would appreciate it so very, very much.

Foreign Countries
As many of you know, the programming goes into most of the world. What thrills me are the emails and testimonials that we’re getting from these people all over the world. For the first time, they are beginning to pay their way. It’s always been that America would foot the bill, but nowadays that is changing, and how we thank the Lord for that.

We are starting to air in certain countries in Europe, and then another cable system in the same area will hear about our programming and will ask if they can air it, which of course they can. I thank God for this. It means the Lord is working and moving.

Books
We put out a new book approximately every two months. To be sure, these books are easy to read and that which every believer needs to read. It is that which will teach us how to live, how to walk with the Lord, how that we are to conduct ourselves. In other words, how to have victory over the world, the flesh and the Devil.

So what am I saying?
I am saying that every book we put out, especially considering that we lower the price down to the proverbial bone, that you make sure you get a copy, and that you read it. I think these books will open your eyes, because what we are doing with them is literally teaching believers the meaning of the new covenant. Even though these books deal with many things,
this is basically the real purpose of our efforts. So, whatever you do, take advantage of these books. They will teach you about the Word of God in a greater way, I believe, than ever before.

The Message Of The Cross
The Message of the Cross is actually the meaning of the new covenant. In other words, if we don’t understand the Cross of Christ, then we really don’t have an understanding of the new covenant. Regrettably, that’s the position in which most modern Christians find themselves. They know so very little about that which is so very important—that for which Jesus died.

I want our viewers and listeners to understand—every single thing that we receive from God, and I mean everything, all and without exception is made possible by the Cross of Christ. In other words, what Jesus there did. If you can understand that, and if you believe that, it will answer most of your questions. I realize that some will blanch at my statement concerning everything, but it happens to be the truth. One cannot receive anything from God, other than by the Cross. That is what made it all possible, and which continues to make it possible, and so much so that Paul referred to it as the “everlasting covenant” (Heb. 13:20).

That’s the reason we urge you to get our books, because they will help you to understand the greatest message ever known to man, the Message of the Cross.

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*Pastor Adilson Pereira*

Conferência Reviver – Curitiba/PR (Igreja Aliança Bíblica de Avivamento)
R David Tows, 1372
Xaxim, Curitiba – PR
Coordinator: André Schalitt
PH: 047 999 054 353 (Whatsapp)
Email: andreschalitt.pr@gmail.com

- **SAT 10 AM & 7:30 PM**
- **SUN 9 AM & 7 PM**

**SPECIAL EVENT: AUGUST 10, 2018 – NEW HAVEN, CT**

*SBN Presents Donnie Swaggart*

John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts
501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515
www.donnieswaggart.org

- **FRI 7 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM**

**AUGUST 24-26, 2018 – BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**

*Pastor Ángel Pedelhez*

Hosting Organization: Asociación Evangélica Internacional
Cumbre Mundial Del Los Milagros (ex cine “Roca”)
Avenida Rivadavia 3755 Caba
PH: 00598 92078033
Email: asociacionevangelica.inter@gmail.com

- **FRI, SAT, SUN @ 5 PM (1700)**

**Bob & Sharon Cornell**

Office: 225.768.3887
Email: bobc@jsm.org

**JULY 14-15, 2018 – CROSBY, TX**

*Pastor Ronnie Mitchem*

Victory & Praise Worship Center
21907 FM 2100, Crosby, TX, 77532
281.324.9033 | www.victoryandpraise.com

- **SAT 6 PM**
- **SUN 11 AM**

**JULY 21-22, 2018 – CAVE CITY, AR**

*Pastors Jimmy and Sheila Limbaugh*

Rejoice Fellowship
39 Misty Lane, Cave City, AR 72521
870.793.8030 or 870.612.2767

- **SAT 6 PM**
- **SUN 10 AM**

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**JULY 20-22, 2018 - NORTHFIELD, MN**

*Pastor Steve Roberts*

Gospel of Life Family Church
2010 Jefferson Road, Northfield, MN 55057
For details call: 507.259.2644
gospelolifefamilychurch.org

- **FRI 7 PM**
- **SAT 11 AM - 12:30 PM (Teaching Service)**
- **SAT 6 PM**
- **SUN 10:30 AM**

**JULY 8, 2018 – LAFAYETTE, LA**

*Pastor Joey and Sister Lacy Dugas*

Jesus Worship Center
208 Cadillac Street, Lafayette, LA
337.852.3658

- **SUN 10 AM**

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**GABRIEL SWAGGART**

Office: 225.768.3072
Email: crossfire@jsm.org

**SPECIAL EVENT: SEPTEMBER 7, 2018 – HOUSTON, TX**

*Gabriel Swaggart Rally*

Stafford Centre Performing Arts Theatre
10505 Cash Road, Stafford, TX 77477
www.gabrielswaggart.org

- **FRI 7 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM**

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**LOREN LARSON**

Office: 225.768.3890
Email: info@jsbc.edu

**JULY 20-22, 2018 - PORTIA, AR**

*Pastor Steve Alexander*

Faith Worship Center
3105 Hwy. 63, Portia, AR 72457
For details call: 870.869.1134
gospelolifefamilychurch.org

- **FRI 7 PM**
- **SAT 7 PM**
- **SUN 10 AM | 5 PM**

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**CARL BROWN**

Office: 225.381.8388
Email: cbministries@aol.com

**JULY 8, 2018 – LAFAYETTE, LA**

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Jesus Worship Center
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- **SUN 10 AM**
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