



Laborers Together Newsletter

Memphis School of Preaching Alumni Association

“For we are laborers together with God. . .” (1 Cor. 3:9)

Editor: Mike McDaniel, MSOP Alumni Liaison

Rick Lawson, President
Larry Powers, Recording Secretary
Volume 7, No. 1

Lee Davis, Vice President
Keith A. Mosher Sr., Treasurer
March 2012

Come To Memphis

Rick Lawson

One would have to be blinded not to see the current trajectory of our nation. Our leaders have convinced many citizens to look to the State to supply their daily needs rather than looking to God. The issue, however is not simply a matter of bad leadership (in both parties!), but the people who have chosen to follow. We all pray that voting for the right person will help the situation to improve, but the chances of getting “more of the same” are high. What will make a real difference? Only turning back to God!

The theme of this year's Memphis School of Preaching lectureship is “In God We Trust”. Lessons include covering topics such as commitment, endurance, submission, faithfulness, honesty, confidence, evangelism, and many more. Imagine the impact of hearing these kinds of topics preached by men like Garland Elkins, Robert Taylor, Tom Holland, Curtis Cates, Gary Colley, Perry Cotham, and many others! Souls will be strengthened; lives will be changed. The only

question is: will you be there?

I know you are busy. Good preachers always are. I know you could be doing many other things March 25th through the 29th. We all could. But, as always, most of us have a choice. It seems like we do the things that we really want to do. Come to Memphis. Fellowship with great brethren from all over. See friends you haven't seen in ages. Reunite with classmates. Recharge your spiritual batteries. Worship in spirit and truth. Seek out and listen to several preachers you've never heard before. I guarantee you will be better for it.

You are invited to join us for the Alumni and Friends dinner on Tuesday night, March 27th. Catering by Leonard's BBQ. Find out about Alumni Association projects and join us as we reveal the 2012 Alumnus of the Year.

ALUMNI AND CHILDCARE REGISTRATION FORMS NOW ALSO OFFERED ONLINE

Our excellent and capable webmaster, Joey Davis, has added the lectureship alumni registration form to the school website in hopes that graduates will go there and complete the form.

Please go to the website as soon as possible and complete the form. The address is www.msop.org. Click on the lectureship advertisement on the front page.

Along with the schedule, you will see [Alumni Registration and Information Update Form](#) and [Lectureship Childcare Registration Form](#). Child-care is offered by the MSOP student wives for children 0-5 years from 9:00 - 11:50 AM and 1:30 - 4:15 P.M. Monday through Thursday during the lectureship. Thanks again to brother Davis for his great work. **Please take advantage of it right now!**

A LIST OF LOCAL MOTELS

You May Make Your Reservations by Calling Them at the Numbers Listed
Please ask for Memphis School of Preaching Rates.

Hampton Inn, 1280 W. Poplar Ave - Collierville (901) 854-9400, King or Double \$89.00 plus tax, CUT OFF DATE: March 9th.

Candlewood Suites, 7950 Centennial Dr., Memphis, (901) 755-0877, 1 King or 2 Double \$62.00 plus tax, CUT OFF DATE: March 9th.

Holiday Inn Express, 4068 Stansell Court, Memphis, (901) 309-6474, 1 King or Double \$72.00 plus tax, CUT OFF DATE: March 9th.

Comfort Suites, 4090 Stansell Court, Memphis, (901) 309-3020, 1 King or Double \$62.00 plus tax, CUT OFF DATE: March 26th. *[I just called here (3/15/12) and made my reservation. Great stay last year with complimentary breakfast! Very hospitable! Also behind Cracker Barrel. MRM]*

Hyatt Place, 9161 Winchester Road, Germantown, 901-759-1174, 1 King \$94 or Double \$104.00 plus tax, CUT OFF DATE: March 16th.

Fairfield Inn, 9320 Poplar Pike, Germantown, (901)757-9100, 2 people \$72.00 plus tax, CUT OFF DATE: March 11th.

Hampton Inn, 3579 Hacks Cross Road, Memphis, (901) 754-8454. King \$79, Double \$69 plus tax. Use Code; CHXMSP. CUT OFF DATE: March 16th.

Forest Hill Youth Day – Saturday, March 24
Registration begins at 9:00 A.M.
Theme: “Winning The Game of Life

SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS

Jerry Martin

On Tuesday of the Lectureship each year, we conduct a Seminar For Prospective Students And Supporters. This year's presentation will be on Tuesday, March 27, at 2:30 P.M. in the Chapel Hall. Here, prospective students and congregations interested in supporting preacher students are given an introductory overview of the Memphis School of Preaching by the Director and faculty. Prospects have an opportunity to

ask questions, and also will receive a packet of information.

Your efforts to bring prospective students and supporters to the Preview presentation and to the lectureship are vital to our recruiting efforts. We are asking every alumnus, and every friend and supporter, to make a special effort to make 2012 the best year ever for student recruitment and support raised. See you at the lectureship!

ORDER YOUR COPY OF “IN GOD WE TRUST”

Brother Mosher has told me how excited he is by the manuscripts that have been submitted this year on the wonderful theme of “In God We Trust.” What a fitting topic this is in an election year, and especially so considering the degradation of American society at present! While many claim to believe in God, they are living as practical atheists. They refuse to trust in Him and to walk with Him daily.

I am sure that you will desire to obtain your copy of this book at the Christian Family Book Store display. Also, you may call 1-800-782-8175 or contact them at tyromw@comcast.net.

The cost of the 2012 book is just \$23. In addition, 2012 CDS have been produced which are searchable on your computer and include the text from all MSOP lectureship

books, the 2 volume set of Expositions of the Expositor ~ J. Winfred Clark which I edited, as well as many other valuable volumes. These CDs sell for only \$25! Or, you have the additional option of purchasing the 2012 book and the CD for only \$30. This is the best bargain for in doing so, you save \$18. Of course, if you order them by phone or online, there will be extra shipping costs added to your order.

Also keep in mind the lectures will be streamed live at this link <http://www.oabs.org/Archives/Lectures/msop2012.htm>. Past lectureships are also archived on the OABS web-site.

I have been told in the past that OABS has more viewers for our lectureship than any other they live stream and this is no doubt due to the viewership of our great alumni (MRM).

FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL LECTURESHIP
MARCH 25 - March 29, 2012
“IN GOD WE TRUST”
MEMPHIS SCHOOL OF PREACHING

3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2012

9:30-10:20 A.M. “The Christian’s Dual Citizenship”.....**David Sain**

10:30-11:30 A.M. “In God We Trust”.....**Barry Grider**

5:30-6:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

6:00-7:00 P.M. “Therefore: We Believe In Christian Education”.....**Joe Wiley**

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: “For Salvation”.....**Dave Wood**

9:00-9:50 A.M. “Whatever Happened to Commitment”.....**Perry Cotham; Stephen Sutton**

10:00-10:50 A.M. “Proverbs 25:2: A Good Leader Searches For Right Answers”.....**John DeBerry**

*LADIES** “As Bible Teachers” (Women Only).....**Celicia Grider**

11:00-11:50 A.M “Court Decisions: Are They Affecting Christian Values.....**Ken Ratcliff**

*CLASS** “Therefore We Endure”.....**Bob Knox**

11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30-2:20 P.M. “For the Right Church”.....**Roger Jones**

*LADIES** “To Endure In Crises” (Women Only).....**Jane McWhorter**

2:30-3:20 P.M. “Therefore: We Give Him Our Children”.....**Mark Mosher**

*CLASS** “Therefore: Submit Yourselves to Every Ordinance of Man”.....**Brandon Jackson**

3:30-4:15 P.M. “The Basis of Our Confidence”.....**James Andrews**

4:15-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION

6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00-8:00 P.M. “Reproach: The Humiliation of a Nation”..... **Dan Winkler**

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: “For Truth”.....**Byran Hatcher**

9:00-9:50 A.M. “Whatever Happened to Honesty?.....**David Williams**

10:00-10:50 A.M. “For He Has Ordained the Powers That Be”.....**Michael Light**

*LADIES** “For Confidence to Be Faithful (1 Pet. 3:1-7)” (Women Only).....**Janet Sanders**

11:00-11:50 A.M. “Liberation Theology: How Does It Affect America?”.....**Melvin Sapp**

*CLASS** “Therefore We Are Ready to Every Good Work (Titus 3:1)”.....**Wayne Cox**

11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30-2:20 P.M. “Spiritism and the New Age Movement”.....**Curtis A. Cates**

*LADIES ** “The Educational Values” (Women Only).....**Annette Cates**

2:30-3:20 P.M. “What Does America Owe God?”.....**Dan Cates**

*CLASS** “For Freedom in Christ”.....**Josh McCrary**

SEMINAR FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

AND SUPPORTERS (MSOP CHAPEL)

3:30-4:15 P.M. "Deuteronomy 4:5-8".....Eric Owens

**4:15-6:30 P.M. ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DINNER
(FELLOWSHIP HALL)**

6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00-8:00 P.M. "Righteousness: The Exaltation of a Nation"Tom Holland

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012

8:30-8:50 P.M. CHAPEL: "For Mercy".....Tony DeBerry

9:00-9:50 A.M. "Whatever Happened to Loyalty and Common Courtesy?".....Russell Kline

10:00-10:50 A.M. "Lessons Learned in Other Nations".....Larry Reynolds

*LADIES** "So We Share Our Lives" (Women Only).....Denise Martin

11:00-11:50 A.M. "It Takes a Church in the Middle of a Village".....Dale Jenkins

*CLASS** "Therefore: We Oppose Abortion and Homosexuality"Riley Nelson

11:50-1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:30-2:20 P.M. "Therefore: We Love Our Neighbors!".....John Ferguson

*LADIES** "So We Evangelize" (Women Only).....Tish Clarke

2:30-3:20 P.M. "Therefore: We Derive Lessons from Ancient Israel".....B. J. Clarke

*CLASS** "Therefore: We Recover from War!".....Bobby Gayton

3:30-4:15 P.M. "Therefore: We Train Preachers".... Bobby Liddell

4:15-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION

6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00-8:00 P.M. "Repentance: The Salvation of a Nation".....Keith A. Mosher, Sr.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012

8:30-8:50 A.M. CHAPEL: "For Grace".....Norman Spann

9:00-9:50 A.M. "Will God Always Bless America?".....Paul Sain

10:00-10:50 A.M. "Not Humanism: The Battle for the Mind".....Garland Elkins

*LADIES** "For His Blessings" (Women Only).....Irene Taylor

11:00-11:50 A.M. "Therefore: We Build Up the Local Church".....Cliff Goodwin

*CLASS** "Therefore: We Love Our Brethren".....Denver Horton

11:50-1:30 LUNCH

1:30-2:20 P.M. "For Eternal Life".....Tom Meade

*Ladies** "For the Promise of Heaven" (Women Only)Maggie Colley

2:30-3:20 P.M. "His Providence: The Basis of Trust".....Gary Colley

*CLASS** "His Love: The Constant in Our Trust".....Mike Hixon

3:30-4:15 P.M. "Therefore We Ought to Obey God Rather Than Men (Acts 5:29)"Ed Rodgers

4:15-6:30 P.M. INTERMISSION

6:30-7:00 P.M. CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

7:00-8:00 P.M. "Revival: The Restoration of a Nation Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

***Men's Classes meet in the School Building Room 405**

****Ladies Classes meet in the Fellowship**

ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

Voluntary Alumni Dues

As you all know, the more resources that are at our disposal the more good we can do. If you haven't paid your \$25 dues this year (or in a while), please give them to brother Mosher at the lectureship. If you are unable to attend the lectures, please send brother Mosher a check: MSOP Alumni Association c/o Keith Mosher, 3950 Forest Hill-Irene Road, Memphis, TN 38125. As always, the dues are voluntary and greatly appreciated.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors of the MSOP Alumni Association which is comprised of our elected class representatives is scheduled to meet in the second year classroom on Tuesday, March 27th, at noon. All class representatives should attend so that their class may be represented. Brethren, to be on campus yet fail to attend or to fail to ask your alternate to attend if you have one, is to fail in your responsibilities to your class as a whole. For the most part, our attendance has been splendid for the last several years. New class representatives were elected at our dinner last year. Our secretary, Larry Powers, will have the list of all representatives posted on the school building door. Please check it for your name and attend if you are listed. Our meeting will be conducted by Alumni Association President Rick Lawson.

We extend our sympathy to **Bill (1982) and Mary Noblin** who lost their adopted son Michael Noblin (age 27) on December 27, 2011. They were his legal guardians for 25 years. Because of Michael's handicaps, no insurance company would cover him. Thanks to all who answered our

plea for help. Their financial need has now been met! We received the following from Bill: "Thanks and deep gratitude to you for placing our plight regarding Michael's death before the Alumni. Thanks to the Alumni, congregations and individual members of the Lord's church across the brotherhood. We have received the majority of Michael's funeral costs. Words are inadequate to express appreciation so I will just say, "Thank You!" "Thank You!" "Thank You!" to everyone who helped...."

Mike (1985) and Martha McDaniel suffered the loss of her mother, Carolin Wallace, who lost her lengthy battle with cancer but gained the victory in Christ on December 9, 2011. She lived with us for two years while undergoing treatments.

Eugene (1980) and Luvenia Jenkins continues their work through CAMPAIGNS FOR CHRIST THROUGH WORLD MISSIONS, overseen by the elders of the Trenton church of Christ, Trenton, Missouri (where **Dustin (2008) and Kara Wilson** labor). They just returned from a 2 ½ week stay in Jamaica, where they planned for the summer's work, and preached and taught in several congregations. After Luvenia conducts a ladies' day in Eagleville, Missouri (where **Caleb (2010) and Emily Jacobs** labor), and Eugene speaks in a Gospel meeting in Higginsville, Missouri (where **David (1992) and Lisa Long** labor), they will head back to Jamaica for a little over seven weeks . . . We hope to do other work in the USA, as well as possibly in Trinidad-Tobago, and Grand Cayman as the year continues.

C. Stephen Law (1985) writes, “I have moved back home to Crossville, TN and started preaching at the church of Christ in the Glade in the Fairfield Glade Resort. July 3 was the start of this work.”

Rod Rutherford (1974) writes, “Our work at Gatlinburg is moving along well. We've nearly completed the repairs and improvements on our building. We are moving toward paving the parking lot for the first time in the congregation's fifty year history. We broadcast the gospel every Sunday morning at 8 AM on the local ESPN Radio station. Our Sunday morning sermon is shown on Channel 4, the local cable station on Sundays at 8 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. We have added a third camera and additional equipment and hope to have our Sunday morning services ready for showing on GBN soon. Mark Teske from GBN will be coming in April to do a TV workshop for us. Steve Higginbotham and Gary Hampton will speak in our gospel meetings this year. In August, I will be going to Zambia with Ron Gilbert (MSOP alumnus). We will teach in the Zambia School of Biblical Studies in Livingstone and preach in gospel meetings in that area. We invite MSOP alumni and their families to worship with us when vacationing in the Smokies. We appreciate the work you do on behalf of the alumni.”

Tim Wilkes II (2006) and his wife, Rachel, had a daughter born February 7. Her name is Abigail Lynn. They now have residence in Senatobia, MS and are traveling to teach the Fishers of Men evangelism training course and are working in foreign missions, primarily with Open Door Ministry. If you are interested in having an FOM class you can contact Tim at 901-277-3577.

After four years in Melbourne, Australia, the **Patrick Swayne (2005)** family will be relocating to Singapore, where Patrick

will take up a position as Dean of Academics at Four Seas Bible College, starting in August of this year. Four Seas trains men and women from all over Asia to become preachers, teachers, and faithful members in their local congregations and currently has 22 students from seven countries. He will work there with **Peter Chin (class of 2006)** as well as other local brethren. The work at Church Street in Melbourne will be continued by Charlie and Mary DiPalma, formerly missionaries to Malaysia. The Swayne's will lose the support they receive from the Church Street congregation, who will redirect their funds towards the DiPalma's as well as towards paying off two shop buildings acquired over the past two years. The Swayne's are looking to replace this support (nearly 1/3 of their total support) when they come to the United States in June and July on a reporting trip. If you can help out, or think that your congregation may be able to take on a new work, please contact Patrick at swayne@gmail.com.

Mac Ballard (1981) has just moved to Crossville, TN. He is laboring with the Lantana Church of Christ.

I received the following from Sherry Harendt: “My husband, **David E. Harendt (1998)** died on October 19, 2011 from pancreatic cancer. He found out he had terminal cancer on his birthday in Feb 8, 2011. He was told he would only live 6 months, but he survived 10 months before he died. I am his wife, Sherry. My two children are married and I have 4 grand-kids. I am taking this in stride but at times it is very hard on me. I am grateful the Lord let me have 35 years of marriage with him. He was a wonderful preacher for the Lord and everyone misses him greatly. Please keep his family in your prayers.”

A GENUINE GRATITUDE FOR GRACE

Mike McDaniel

Presented in Chapel at MSOP - February 23, 2012

Paul wrote in Colossians 4:2-4, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak." Paul labored fervently because of grace. The word gratitude comes from the same root word as grace. If we enjoy the grace of God, then we ought to be grateful to God. When he was Saul of Tarsus, the crusading rabbi, Paul knew little of the grace of God. He persecuted the church and sought to destroy it. "And I *thank* Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 1:12-14). Paul was grateful for the grace that saved him and grateful for the grace that put him to work as an apostle of Jesus Christ. "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me" (1 Cor. 15:10). Paul knew that it was the grace of God that made him what he was. He never lost sight of his undeserved blessings from God and would do all that was within him to serve the one who continually blessed him. In deep humility, we need to apply these words of Paul to ourselves. "By the grace of God, I am what I am."

This is really the secret to a happy and productive life. I firmly believe that a genuine gratitude for grace can change or transform your life. What it did for Paul, it can do for you. When you have a genuine gratitude for grace, some things will happen. You will find yourself ready to do some things like Paul did.

First, when you have a genuine gratitude for grace, you will be ready with supplications for others. "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving" (Col. 4:2). When you are grateful for grace, you will seek to commune with God by continuing in prayer. *(1) There must be persistence in prayer.* Let us not be slack in scheduling regular times of prayer with God. Sometimes we allow ourselves to be caught up in activities that take all of our time and energy, and we just do not have time for praying. While God expects us to pray, we ought to see it as a privilege and recognize the value and good that comes from prayer and communion with God. Nehemiah was a busy man. Yet, he made time for prayer. "Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them" (Neh. 4:9).

(2) There must be alertness. Paul says, "Watch in the same." A constant awareness in our prayers of our needs and the needs of others and a concentration upon our heavenly Father is vital. As the Lord took Peter, James, and John into the Garden of Gethsemane, He said, "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt. 26:41).

(3) There must be Gratitude. Paul says, "Watch in the same with Thanksgiving." Paul

wanted believers to be more thankful in their prayers. The grace of God in our lives should cause a reaction of thanksgiving in our hearts. Blessings never cease; therefore, thanksgiving should never cease. One Thanksgiving Day on a Thursday in November is not enough. "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and *supplication with thanksgiving* let your requests be made known unto God" (Phillippians 4:6). That is not always easy. I heard about single preacher who was asked to thanksgiving dinner by one of the families of the church. He knew that the lady of the house was a very unkempt housekeeper. When he sat down at the table, he noticed that the dishes were the dirtiest that he had ever seen in his life. With all the politeness he could muster, he asked his hostess softly, "Were these dishes ever washed?", running his fingers over the grit and grime. She replied, "They're as clean as soap and water could get them." He felt a bit apprehensive, but remembering the words of Phil. 4:6, he gave thanks for the food anyway and started eating. It was really delicious and he said so, despite the dirty dishes. When thanksgiving dinner was over, the hostess took the dishes outside and shouted to her dogs, "*Here Soap! Here Water!*" That story should help us to give thanks for our daily bread and a clean dish on which to eat it and a dirty dish AFTER we are done! Thanksgiving is an oft neglected element in our prayers. Many times we are more concerned with expressing our wants than in expressing our thanks for what God has already done for us.

(4) There must be concern for the needs of others. Paul desired their concern and their prayers for his work. "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance..." (Col. 4:3). There may be times in the church when we emphasize the individual and his personal

responsibility to such a degree that we may fail to properly emphasize the "body concept" of Christianity. There are circumstances which tie us all together. We all experience birth, pain, death, sorrow, joy, and countless other experiences. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Rom. 12:15). There are some occasions when nothing we can say or do can help quite like interceding for another before the Father. In fact, there are times when such praying is the **only** thing we **can** do! How thankful we should be that we are blessed with the privilege of intercessory prayer. When you have a genuine gratitude for grace, you will be ready with supplications for others.

Second, when you have a genuine gratitude for grace, you will be ready to speak forth the mystery of Christ. Colossians 4:3 states, "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, **to speak the mystery of Christ** for which I am also in bonds." Paul strongly desired opportunities to teach the gospel. Even in prison and constantly chained to a Roman soldier, Paul desired to find an open door of opportunity to preach the gospel. To Paul every person was, if not a potential convert, at least an audience to listen to the gospel message. As J. M. McCaleb wrote, "Where sin has gone, must go His grace ..." Friends, are we praying for doors of opportunity to be opened? Are we taking advantage of them when they do? We must be faithful to him and see the opportunities, not the obstacles. Fear, unbelief, and delay have caused the church to miss many God-given opportunities! Instead of complaining about the obstacles, we must take advantage of the opportunities, and leave the results with the Lord. Let us realize that we possess the greatest message possible, but it is worthless to those around us unless we seize opportunities as Paul did.

Colossians 4:4 says, "That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak." There is a way in which the Word of God ought to be spoken and there is a way in which it ought not to be spoken. Paul was determined to make it manifest. To make manifest is to make clear or evident; to show plainly; to prove. "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (Eph. 6:19-20). If you were in jail for preaching, would it make you timid about speaking? There may have been the temptation to speak soft words of compromise. But this soldier of the cross asked for prayer on his behalf that in speaking to outsiders, the message would be made manifest and that he would speak out boldly. Remember how Paul preached boldly unto Felix and Agrippa? He made the message plain. When you have a genuine gratitude for grace, you will be ready to speak forth the mystery of Christ.

Third, when you have a genuine gratitude for grace, you will be ready to suffer for His name. Colossians 4:3 says, ". . . to speak the mystery of Christ **for which I am also in bonds.**" Paul was in prison because of Christ and Christianity. Yet, he was ready to suffer if need be because of his genuine gratitude for grace. Even in the midst of trials and burdens of life, we can be thankful we have God's Word to sustain us, to give us comfort, friends to help us bear our burdens, and to know that we can cast our cares upon Him for He cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). There are times when the Devil seeks to move in on us, but a genuine gratitude for grace and thanksgiving in the heart defeats the Devil and glorifies the Lord. Even in the worst of circumstances, we can lay hold on what the

Bible teaches about the grace and mercy of God and keep the totality of things in view. As Paul said in Second Corinthians 4:17, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Are you making a difference in the lives of those closest to you by the way you respond to your circumstances? Are others inspired by your faith or are they discouraged by your fears? Can they see in you a genuine gratitude for grace? Maybe its time to make a change. We will be ready with supplications for others, ready to speak forth the mystery of Christ, ready to suffer for his name, when we have genuine gratitude for the grace of God.

An appropriate way to conclude these thoughts is to mediate on the words of the song written by Asa Palmer called "Ready to Suffer." "Ready to suffer grief or pain, ready to stand the test; ready to stay at home and send others, if He sees best. Ready to go, prepared to bear, ready to watch and pray, ready to stand aside and give, till He shall clear the way. Ready to speak, alert to warn, ready His way to learn; Ready in life, no fear of death, ready for His return. Chorus: Ready to go, or ready to stay, Ready my place to fill. Ready for service, lowly or great, Ready to do His will." Are you ready to His will?

**For The Christian,
Heaven is spelled
H-O-M-E.**