"So the last shall be first, and the first last; for many are called, but few chosen." (Matthew 20:16)

Recently, I was thinking about the large number of children of Israel and indeed the mixed multitude that left Egypt, crossing the Red Sea and going into the wilderness. It is said that the entire number of those in the entourage numbered somewhere around two million people, which seems almost an impossibility to me.

However, we must realize that it was indeed a very large group of people under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. As we follow the children of Israel through many exigencies and difficulties, as well as battles for forty years on route to the Promised Land, we are quite amazed to find that only two of the original group, Joshua and Caleb, cross the River Jordan into the land flowing with milk and honey.

Today, here in America, there are a tremendous number of people in our nation who profess and call themselves Christians. These people are of various denominations but taken together, both Protestants and Catholics, as well as Orthodox believers, the Christians exemplify a huge multitude. Were a survey to be taken of these people, it would be doubtless, without adverse comment, that most would feel that when Jesus returns at the time of the Rapture, or when one by one they leave this life into the life beyond, the majority will go into the Heavenly Sphere, which would very well be called our Promised Land.

It could very well be that this is an extremely optimistic view even though there is a vast multitude of believers, who truly believe that Baptism and Confirmation or the acceptance of Jesus Christ, guarantees their being welcomed into the Heavenly Sphere, the Kingdom of God in its Heavenly Domain.

One wonders if it is possible that someone who believes in “once saved, always saved”, having committed instances of adultery and fornication or having broken other of God’s commandments, would actually enter into Heaven based upon his having accepted Christ as his personal Savior during his youth.

Of course, we realize that all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God, and that there is the avenue of repentance.

Doubtless, these questions are of absolute import as we come to the end of this century and look forward to the millennium ahead. Alexander Solzhenitsyn has written an article, “The Smatterers”, in his analysis of the Soviet Union, which early in this century were mostly Orthodox Christians, in which he states, “A Society so vicious and polluted, implicated in so many of the crimes of these last 50 years – by its lies, by its servility either willing or enforced, by its eagerness to assist or its cowardly restraint – such a society can only be cured and purified by passing through a spiritual filter, and this filter is a terrible one, with holes as fine as the eye of a needle, each big enough for only one person, and the people may pass into the spiritual future only one at a time, by squeezing through, by deliberate – voluntary sacrifice.”

He then goes on to say, “There is no way left to us to pass from our present contemptible amorphousness into the future except through open, personal, and predominantly public (to set an example) sacrifice. We shall have to rediscover our cultural treasures and values, not by erudition, not by scientific accomplishment, but by our form of spiritual conduct, by laying aside our material well-being, and if worse come to worse – our lives.”

Solzhenitsyn rests the hope for the future in Russia upon the people whom he calls “the righteous”. We in the United States and in the Western world like to think that we are righteous, and that everything is alright with us. However, I know from my own personal experience and the experiences of fellow Christians in the scientific world, that the truly righteous are persecuted and that those who attempt to practice Christianity in our materialistic society are pushed aside and often ill treated simply because of their standing for Jesus, for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, for the total truth of the total Word, and for Scriptural righteousness.

It is my belief that we in America must apply the rule of Solzhenitsyn’s filter to our situation and that as Russia must repent, so must the Western world. The term “revival” has the prefix “re” connected with it, which means that we once were alive and we have come back to life again.
Years ago I wrote that we should not be looking for revival, but "vival". In other words, we must come alive through Christ and through the power of His Resurrection.

This is beginning to happen in Medicine. It recently happened in the conference in Lubbock, Texas where the Covenant Health System conducted its Third Annual Conference on "Incorporating Prayer into Medical Practice". The President of the American Medical Association, Dr. Nancy W. Dickey, spoke at this conference, as did other committed Christians. This kind of thing is happening across America and also in Canada and across the Western world.

The great spiritual awakening is starting to come about, and those of us who see the truth must truly begin to fan the flames. We will not do this on a denominational level or only in the churches. It must be in the totality of our society. Yes, in Medicine, even in the operating rooms, the clinics, and in the doctors' surgeries.

To save our society, our youth, and our families, the righteous must arise, pass through the filter through deliberate sacrifice, being willing to stand for Christ, no matter what the cost. It cannot happen soon enough.

Dr. Reed Receives Honor

Journey In Faith sponsored their First Annual Washington Summit meeting in Washington, D.C., on March 15 and 16, concerning the hope of vital Christian faith to withstand the mounting assault upon traditional American values.

Journey In Faith is an inter-denominational Christian fellowship whose mission is following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and studying the leadership lessons He taught and practiced. In attendance were senators, congressmen, ministers, and officers of the armed services.

At a banquet on March 15, Dr. Reed was given an Honor Award for his pioneering endeavors in the establishment of Christian Medical Foundation International. Gene and Nancy Bradley, Journey in Faith founders, and Brandt Gustavson and Kenneth Starr were among those attending. Dr. Reed stated that, "Nominal Christianity will not solve the problems we face as we enter the 21st Century."

NEW LOCATION

27th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Christian Medical Foundation
CHRISTIAN HEALING IN MEDICINE 1999

Kanuga Conference Center
Hendersonville, North Carolina

CONTACT: Lyn Thornton
(813) 930-0714

Calendar

Apr 9 Belleville, Ontario
Apr 11 CMF of CANADA
Speakers:
Balfour Mount, M.D.
William Standish Reed, M.D.
and others
Contact: Bruce Cronk, M.D.
(613) 968-9100

May 2 Hendersonville, NC
5 Speakers:
Dr. Reed and others
Women’s Health Conference
Kanuga Conference Center
Contact: Frank Ballard
(828) 692-9136

May 14 Osprey, FL
Speaker: Dr. Reed
Ramada Inn
Sarasota FGBM Chapter
Contact: Joe Swallow
(941) 951-2513

May 27 Ellenton, FL.
29 Speakers: Dr. & Kay
and others
School of Pastoral Care
Day Spring Episcopal Ctr.
Contact: Sally Wiley
(813) 259-1570

Kay’s Corner

I have missed my little visits with "Dear Friends of the Littlest Angel". We continue to carry Bibles and books for the entire family as well as cards.

The Tuesday Auxiliary Bible Class is currently in a study, “The Seven Basics of Our Faith” based on II Peter 1:3-11, to help create a family and home filled with peace and happiness, in spite of trying circumstances and conditions beyond our control. The tape series is available. If you are interested, call and we will send it to you.

Bill and I have had a wonderful year with transitions in many areas of our lives, but all exciting because Jesus is in control. I would love to hear from you.

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