SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that opresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

To Know and Behold Him

Can the human, finite mind comprehend who He is or the things He is capable of? Probably not completely, but God has provided us with His word, which He has magnified above His name (see Psalm 1:38). So, while His name is above all names, His word has authority above it. To think we know Him according to who we think He is, and not according to what His word says He is, would be trying to comprehend Him according to man’s intellect. The Bible tells us that man’s wisdom is less than God’s foolishness, which lets us know that man doesn’t have a chance against God when it comes to intellect. Anything we think we know, God has already thought of. God’s word tells us the Bible is the inspired word of God (see II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21). If we don’t believe this, Calvary and all else we might think we know about God is of no effect in our lives. This, “lack of belief”, will prove itself in the actions of individuals who have heard of God and His word, but don’t know Him. Moving forward with the assumption that the reader believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God, it should be kept in mind that scripture has one interpretation and many applications. Therefore, it can be applied to all areas of our lives, as well as our knowledge of God, in an effort to seek out the deep things of God. We do this keeping in mind that there could not be enough books written to tell us all there is to know about Him.

When we first hear about God in scripture, He is speaking the world into existence, bringing life to a place that was previously without form and void. “Void” is a word that not only signifies emptiness, but also an undistinguishable ruin in the Hebrew language. We first learn of His character when we read of how He was drawn to the destruction, and made it habitable again. We see God’s dealings with man throughout scripture, and how He is a father to the fatherless, a miracle worker, a provider, and much more; He is the great I Am. We see His goodness and righteous judgment throughout the Old Testament in His dealings with the children of Israel. We also see that He is a great Warrior, who went before His people in battle and brought them out victorious as long as they were on His side. While God is a God of unconditional love and great mercy; He is also the Lord of Hosts, a Man of War, and a righteous judge. He may have been a baby in a manger for a short time, but this was only so He could relate to man, who He created in His image, and fulfill His plan established at the foundation of the world. He had to have this plan because He knew man would fall the day He created him. Nevertheless; God’s own arm wrought salvation for us all, even though we didn’t deserve it.

Without God manifesting Himself in the flesh, salvation would not have been possible for us. God’s law says that the wages of sin are death---His own word---which, as previously stated, is greater than His name---dictates that this is so. God bought salvation for the church with His blood. Obviously, God being a Spirit did not have blood to shed for sinful man. Therefore, He (because of love) overshadowed a virgin girl. This gave Him the body He needed to shed the innocent blood needed to wipe away the reproach of sin forever. And to walk on this earth with mankind, knowing the things He would have to go through. He experienced humanity, becoming that High Priest who understands our human condition, infirmities, and iniquities. If we take a moment to consider what God did, it is really too much for us to understand. We all can claim to love somebody, but the kind of sacrifice God made is not one that can be fully understood by the human mind. In fact some may even be turned off by it because of their lack of understanding, and because it is so foreign to the “human” way of thinking. It takes something beyond our human ability to be able to even know how to respond to God. It begins with a desire to know who Jesus is, a heart to repent, the power of His Spirit, and to be covered by His blood through baptism in Jesus name.

Jesus is a great Man of War; above Him there is no greater, nor will there ever be. He conquered, and has the keys to death, hell, and the grave. He also blotted out the sentence pronounced, and the handwriting that was written against us. He has brought our enemies to defeat and open shame (see Colossians 2:12-15). He continues to do this as long as we stay on the winning side. To stay on the winning side we must know him according to His word, and do our best to live by it. Not according to any doctrine or tradition of man. We cannot reduce Him down to some baby in a manger or some far off father or some spirit that we heard about, but cannot attain unto. It is His desire to pour out His Spirit on all flesh. It is written, **“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:28-29).**

In the Spirit world it is understood that there is One God, and demons know and believe this. They do tremble at the name of Jesus because He is the Word that became flesh. And the Word has already pronounced sentence on them. They know that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow in heaven and on earth. If satan can get mankind to reduce God down to a baby in a manger, a prophet, or whatever man’s doctrine attempts to dictate that He is, which is something less powerful that who He really is---the power can be removed that God meant us to have. If we do not understand God’s power, we will not use it to our advantage when deception and adversity come our way. Without an understanding of who He is, we cannot be like Him. We cannot overcome by the word of our testimony and the blood of the lamb. If we are to behold Him or know Him, we must first understand who He is. It will take a lifetime to do this, but if we are diligent---one day we will behold Him as He really is. BMLR

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Inmates, family members, and those who are interested can now access the monthly newsletter. Please visit **http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/** .The site is still under construction, and will soon have all copies of the newsletter since the column **Words from Behind the Wall** was started in 2007.

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

THE LORD SHOWED ME

I feel all alone, no one knows my pain. Not a single person is around when I am in need asking, begging for a chance that man would not grant. Forgotten by past loved ones---alone I am to cry, to suffer, but the Lord showed me that I’m not alone in my pain. He gets angry when evil beats me down. Full of joy when I reach out to the Spirit for help; honored when I call out praises to our Lord. He provides each time I’m neglected. Gives me a push up when I struggle. He was, is, and always will be by my side.

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THE TRUTH FOUND

I finally allowed the truth to run my life, and it set me free. Lies begin to control my life when I thought it was getting me out of individual messes, instead those lies only took over my life, and any more time spent in that way of life would lead to more trouble. Those lies began to work more on me as I would think I could always get away with doing wrong. I could continue to be a slave to evil, but instead turned to repentance so I may be free from sin. When we deceive others, we are the ones being deceived into thinking our constant tricks will keep working. One lie leads to another. One truth stands alone and never changes.

**William Moctezuma**

FROM INSIDE MY CELL

Welcome to my home; please let me show you around. There are three solid walls, and one wall is bars. There is the ceiling above and the ground below. Above the sink on the wall is a very bright light that never turns off, not even at night. At times I try to break it, but it is very hard, I wish I had a hammer. There are no windows to look out of, and see any views. And all I know about the real world is what I hear in the news. Well, sometimes I will sit and just stare though the bars. I pretend that I can see the moon and the stars. In the daytime I see the sun and lots of living things. Strange creatures in the green garden, and fairies that sing; yes, it’s just a make believe world, but it’s very real to me because the world that you live in, I will never get to see. You know I can’t ever remember what a flower looks like. So I have to make up my own and hope that I’m right because the world that I see inside of my cell house is a world without dreams that’s full of anger and race. This place that I live in is not a happy home, but to the few of us who live here it’s the only place we’ve known. It’s a home full of colors; red, white, brown, and black. And it even has a playground where we watch our own back for entertainment. There’s no carpet or soft cushions or any place to relax. I know this sounds awful, but I’m just stating the facts. So look around and ask yourself, do you like what you see? Or do you like your own home better, and the things you have when you’re free? And if not, then I welcome you, but remember once you’re here, you can’t ever leave. **Manuel Malauve**

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THE CHOICE IS YOURS

*“Whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

When does salvation come? When we embrace Christ as our personal savior---Simple isn’t it? Christ the Savior and man the believer! But does that mean the old nature never rears its ugly head again or that we will instantly be able to resist any and all temptation? No, compare your new birth to a new born baby. Can it walk? Feed itself? Not yet, but someday it will. Is the mother in the delivery room ashamed of the baby? Is she embarrassed that it can’t spell or give a speech? Of course not! She’s proud. She knows that growth will come with time---so does God. Listen: “God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost” (II Peter 3:9). God is more patient with us than we are with ourselves. We assume that if we fall, we aren’t born again, or if we have old desires, we must not be a new creation. Paul writes: “God began doing a good work in you, and…he will continue it until it is finished” (Philippians 1:6). Your new birth is like your first birth: “God provides what you need, and someone else does the work. And just as parents are patient with their newborn baby, so is God patient with you. But there is one difference---the first time you had no choice about being born, this time you do. At the cross the work was God’s. Now the choice is yours! Why not receive Jesus, and make Him Lord of your life today? If you do, you’ll never regret it. **Brandy Holmes**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Rexford, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Ave, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009. Thank you.**