



# WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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## FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you November 2020 edition of "Watchman's Trumpet". This month, our theme is "From Glory to Glory"

Oxford English Dictionary describe glory as "high fame" and "honour" won by greatest achievement; something that will make us earn other people's respect and honour, something that will make those related to us or associated with us to be happy and be proud of us. To be glorious is to be illustrious (greatly distinguished), honourable, splendid and magnificent. The new open Bible added to these array of adjectives the concept of "being renown" or "reputable". Glory originates from God. He is the king of glory. It is conferred by Him Daniel 2:37. But lost by sinning Romans 3:23.

All the sufferings in the world today is a reflection of man's loss of God's glory and abandonment to sinning and sinfulness. Restoration to relationship with God through repentance and forsaking of sin is the beginning of restoration process to the glory of God- because "Christ in you is the hope of glory". Jesus himself stated that without me ye can do nothing. Life without Christ is a life full of crisis. The steps towards recovery of lost glory start with repentance and salvation in Christ.

Paul the Apostle in 1Corinthians 15 refer to the human body as possessing glory at varying degrees. There is the natural earthy body with one kind of glory; there is also the spiritual, heavenly body with a different surpassing glory.

*We who belong to Christ and have borne the earthly, natural body with its limitation shall one day be privileged to put on immortality in God's presence, which is the real glory. Discovering the path to this and committing ourselves to it is the reason for November 2020 edition of Watchman's Trumpet" We have the privilege as we read to determine how glorious we want our remaining days on earth to be as well as decide where we want to spend our eternity.*

*As we read, our lives and ministry will never be the same again. We shall be reformed and transformed, new and renewed believers who will impart positively on our generation to the Glory of God. I pray that it will be so in Jesus Name. AMEN!*

## THE KING OF GLORY AND THE GLORY OF OUR KING

*"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory" Psalms 24:7-10.*



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Jesus is the king of glory. He is the Glory of the Lord and he is the glorious king. Everything about Christ is great and glorious; ranging from His Name, to His existence, His birth, His life on earth, His death and resurrection, His ascension, His eternal ministry and priesthood, His headship and leadership of the church and universality of his influence in the world. This Jesus we have been called upon to accept, believe in, follow, obey and identify with in everything we do is our link and our connection to present earthly and future eternal glory.

What can you do without Jesus? How fast or far can you travel on life's road without him by your side? What can we achieve in life, what is the best that human ingenuity, wisdom, resources or strength can achieve outside Christ? Jesus is the answer for the world today. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God (John 3:18), He is the first born of every creature (Colossians 1:15). He is the Son of

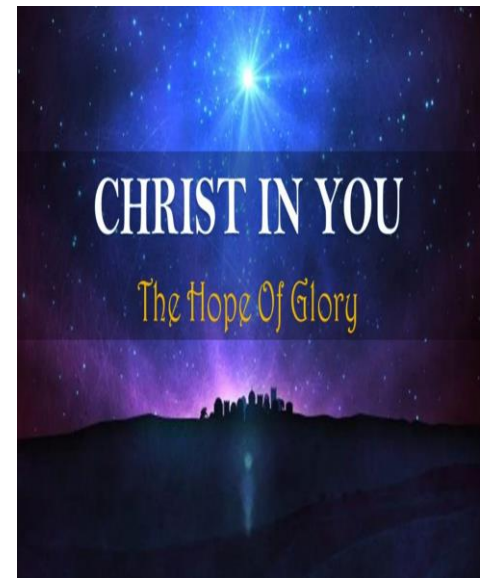
the Highest (Luke 1:32), the Son of the blessed (Mark 14:61). Jesus is the Son to the Most high God (Mark 5:7). Jesus is God manifested in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16), He is Emmanuel, God with us (Mathew 1:23). He is the Almighty Revelation 1:8 Jesus is the creator of all things (Colossians 1:6), the upholder of all things (Hebrews 1:3), the everlasting Father (or the father of eternity) (Isaiah 9:6), Jesus is the beginning and the ending (Revelation 1:8), the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8) the first and the last (Revelation 1:17), Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:16) without Him no one can come to the Father. He is the Word of God (Revelation 19:13), the Word of life (1 John 1:1). He is the brightness of God's Glory (Hebrews 1:3) the image of His person (Hebrews 1:3), He is the wisdom of God (I Corinthians 1:24). Jesus is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:24), the messenger of the covenant (Malachi 3:1) Jesus is the prophet of Nazareth (Mathew 21:11), the man of Galilee, the Lamb of God (John 1:29) the Christ of God and the Lord's Christ (Luke 9:20, Luke 2:26) He is Christ the Saviour of the world (John 4:42).

Jesus is the Root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:10), the Root of David (Revelation 5:5) the Branch of the Lord (Isaiah 4:2), the Branch of Righteousness (Jeremiah 33:15) the true Bread from heaven (John 6:32). Jesus is the Bread of life (John 6:35). He is the living bread (John 6:51). Jesus is the true Vine (John 15:1), the Lily of the valleys and the Rose of Sharon (S.O.S 2:1) Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness (Malachi 4:2), the Light of the world (John 8:12) the Bright and

the Morning star (Revelation 22:16) He is the Day-Spring from on High (Luke 1:78) Jesus is the Hope of his people (Joel 3:12-13), the Desire of all Nations, He is the Horn of our salvation (Luke 1:69) Jesus is the Rock of ages (Isaiah 26:4) the sure foundation (Isaiah 28:16) the chief cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6). Jesus is our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14), our Advocate (1 John 2:1) Our Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5), the Minister of the Sanctuary and of the true Tabernacle (Hebrews 8:2) He is our Redeemer (Isaiah 59:20) and the consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25), He is the first Begotten of the dead (Rev 1:5) the Captain of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10) the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev 5:5). Jesus is the Prince of peace Isaiah 9:6, The Faithful and true Witness (revelation 3:14) the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14). Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). All the glories of Godhead and beauty converge in Jesus. In us Jesus is the hope, our hope of glory. Jesus is the way. He is the solution to all life's problems. Jesus is eye to the blind, limbs to the lame, voice to the deaf, the way to the lost, life to the dead or dying, the light to those in darkness, the truth to those held in falsehood of erroneous beliefs and superstitions. He is the shepherd of the sheep, Redeemer of the redeemed, the Saviour of the saved, the Strength of Israel, the desire and hope of all nations.



The only barrier to effective relationship with Christ and His glory which He offers is SIN (Satan's identity number, Self Indulgent Nature) Romans 3:23. Repent of your sins, forsake them and accept Jesus Christ today for a new life and a new beginning leading to a glorious future and end. If you have accepted Christ, endeavour to live holy and remain faithful to him, he is the only true friend that will be there for you all the time and bring you to glory eventually.





## ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parables said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

## WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



### *Prayer Points - For November 2020*

1. Impartation of divine glory upon our lives.
2. Whole-hearted submission to Christ the King
3. Removing from our lives every barrier to effective relationship with Christ and connection with His glory.
4. Help to make and retain decisions that will preserve in us hope of participation in Christ’s glory.
5. God to grant us enduring glory, honour, immortality and eternal life
6. Grace for consistent walk in the Spirit and preservation from backsliding
7. Shekinah’s presence inside our heart to turn our heart into a Holy, Royal Temple for God’s worship
8. God’s presence to abide with us till the end

*“..... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” Luke 18:1*

***May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!***

***Watchman Prayer Hour*** holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State. You can also follow us live on any of our Social media platforms during the prayer session and send inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

# THE DECISION OF GLORY SEEKERS

*“And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me”* **Ruth 1:16-17.**

*“Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God”* **John 6:67-69**

Men's future are determined daily by little series and sequences of decisions; sometimes by “a little” of what we should not do that we are doing and “a little” of what we should do that we neglect doing. History is made whenever we make decisions. Sometimes a single decision may make or mar your life forever. The pictures of our future are painted today using the brushes that we ourselves hold.

The places we go, the friends we keep, what we eat, where we sleep and when we sleep, what we wear, what we read, the kinds of games we play, our spending of leisure times, our sense of duty, our commitment to hard work or duty or otherwise will eventually add up to give us not the futures we desire now but the future we deserved dictated by the manner and pattern of life that we have chosen and are addicted to living. Whatever a man sows he will reap.

Consider the decision of the following people and its implication on their means and ends:

Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit, Joseph's decision to run away from Potiphar's wife, Job's refusal of his wife's suggestion to curse God and his prayer for his friends. Jacob's decision to get his brother's blessing by deception, Aaron and Miriam's decision to gossip about Moses' leadership, Achan's decision to steal Babylonish garment and wedge of fifty shekel worth of Gold, Elimelech's and Naomi's decision to forsake the land of promise to sojourn among Moabites at the time of famine as against Ruth's steadfastness to return with Naomi to the land of promise. Consider the decision of Lot's wife to look back, Nehemiah's decision in the face of enemy threats not to abandon the project of rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem.

The decision of Dinah daughter of Leah to visit the Canaanites, the decision of Annanias and Saphira to deceive church leaders, the decision of Judas Iscariot to betray his master, the decision of David not to avenge himself when being persecuted by Saul, the decision of the disciple to leave all and follow Christ, the decision of Daniel not to defile himself with food sacrificed to idols, the decision of the Rechabites not to drink Temple wine offered by National Prophet, the decision of the three Hebrew children Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego not to worship king Nebuchadnezzar's idols.

As you consider the consequences of these decisions, think about your own life and the decisions you have been taking in recent times; to what extent have they threaten to make or mar your future?

If it has been rough and tough till now because of the bad and wrong decisions you have taken in the past, and your life is almost wrecked, you can turn a new leaf today by starting a new life filled with heaven approved and God honouring decisions.

The series of decisions that will bring you to a great and glorious future and to everlasting glory includes: the decisions to become converted, to gain and retain victory over sin and self, the decision to end and renounce sinful pleasures such as fornication, uncleanness, lying, cheating, disobedience to parent, smoking, cultism, drinking, smoking, cultism, backbiting,

the decision to put your body, soul and spirit under the control of the word of God and His Spirit.

The decision to allow the word of God and the Spirit of God to direct and control your desires passion and appetites; the decision to regularly and consistently study the word of God, fellowship with genuine, sincere, heaven bound, serious minded and committed believers and forsake all evil and sinful companionship, associations and friends; the decision to observe daily quiet time and personal devotion, the decision to serve God and continue in His service till the end of your life. All these, if you will begin now will bring you a future full of great and glorious achievements and eternal happiness.

Roman 3:7 assured us that if by well doing we seek glory, honour, immortality and eternal life, this is what God will give to us. *“He will give glory, honour and peace to everyone that worked good....”* **Roman 3:10.** *“For there is no respect of persons with God”* **Roman 3:11.** Today, you can decide and determine the kind of future you want by connecting with Jesus the *“hope of glory”* Colossians 1:27 and by strong determination to walk in the narrow way for the rest of your life Mathew 7:13, 14.



## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT – KEY TO BELIEVERS’ PRESERVATION FROM BACKSLIDING

*“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” Galatians 5: 16-17.*

Walking in the Spirit describes a life wholly yielded to and controlled by the Spirit of God. It is God’s leading programme for His children.

However, you cannot walk in the Spirit if you do not have the Spirit. All natural men have not the Spirit of God abiding in them. You must be born again before the Spirit of God can come and live inside you. Christian experiences of salvation, sanctification and Baptism in the Holy Spirit; total submission to God, commitment and consecration; and continuous surrender are essential to experience and enjoy fullness of God’s Spirit and His influence.

The Holy Spirit will not force you to do what you are unwilling to do. Partnership and cooperation with Him are therefore essential for a hitch-free relationship and walk with the Holy Spirit. We must carry around us acute sensitivity and consciousness of His prompting, urging and restraints. He desires and delights in being consulted in every aspect of our daily lives **John 14:26.**

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The foundation of Christian walk in the Spirit
2. Scripture’s command for Christians to walk in the Spirit
3. The Blessings and benefits of Christian walk in the Spirit.

### 1. The foundation of Christian walk in the Spirit

*“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” John 3:5-6.*

Salvation is the foundation of Believer’s walk in the Spirit. The call to salvation is a call to a lifelong relationship and fellowship with the Spirit.



At New Birth, the Holy Spirit and His power comes into the believer John. 1:12 and effects the work of regeneration and justification. The Holy Spirit transforms the believer into a new creature in Christ. The Spirit of God works in the believer to facilitate spiritual growth, to grant him revelation to God’s specific plan and purpose for his life and help him carry it out I Corinthians 2:9-12, 14-15.

### 2. Scripture’s command for Christians to walk in the Spirit

*“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” Galatians 5:16.*

The scripture commanded that the believer should be active participant in his walk in the Spirit. Having the Spirit is one thing but submitting to Him is another. Many people’s lives become ruined not because they don’t have teachers or instructors, parents or guardian, pastors or Bibles but because they are resolved to do their own thing in their own way. It is the same with walking in the Spirit.

Effective walk in the Spirit demands submission. The Spirit of God will not force us to do what we don’t want to do because God created us as free moral agents. He wanted us to exercise our power of choice in our submission and relationship with Him. Success in our walk in the Spirit varies proportionately with the level of our submission to His influence.

Crucifixion of self and relinquishing of the self-life Romans 8:13, unceasing prayers every time, for everything, in every situation. Living a praying and prayerful life Luke 18:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, soberness, vigilance, patience and spiritual sensitivity, diligent study of God’s word of God which is the sword of the Spirit Ephesians 6:17, childlike disposition, courage and determination Acts 20:22-24; are the ingredients that will protect us from distraction in our walk with God and in the Spirit.

Walking in the Spirit is descriptive of a walk in the fruits of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, meekness, faith, longsuffering, gentleness and temperance Galatians 5:22, 23. There is a definite call and command in the scriptures for believers to walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16, 25. The grace to obey, God will give to us in Jesus name!

### 3. The Blessings and benefits of Christian walk in the Spirit

*“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” James 4:7-8a*

Benefits of walk in the Spirit include:

1. Divine presence, closer relationship and better intimacy with God.
2. Unity of mind, heart, thoughts and intentions with God. 1 John 1:7
3. Spirit’s guidance in every decision
4. Abide in the narrow way and consistently following the path that leads to life eternal Isaiah 33:15-17.
5. Growth and progress in our spiritual and secular endeavors
6. Preservation from evil snares and backsliding Psalm 23:4, Isaiah 59:19
7. Constant victory over temptation and dominion over the devil and the powers of darkness Acts 13:6-12.
8. Victory in every battle, trials and temptations; deceits of the enemy and wicked men. II Kings 6:8-12
9. Accomplishment of God’s purpose and achieving of our full and maximum potentials
10. Sufficiency, satisfaction and contentment
11. Abundant, fruitful, profitable labour in God’s kingdom Acts 10:38.
12. Readiness for rapture and making heaven our home eventually Genesis 5:24

**DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF A  
GLORIOUS BELIEVER/CHURCH  
AND WARNING AGAINST  
BACKSLIDING**

*“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” Ephesians 5:25-27.*

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14*

Jesus is the king of Glory. He is the glorious Lord and king. Everything about the Lord is simply glorious. He is the shekinah of God whose presence adorns the inside of our heart and turns our heart into a Temple for God’s worship. He is the prophesied glory of the latter house that is greater than the former. The presence of His Spirit in us, transforms our being;-body, soul and spirit into the temple of God where we offer sacrifices of praises and thanksgiving continually unto God 1Corinthians 3:16, 17, 6:19-20.

Furthermore, the blessings here on earth that we receive and enjoy by conversion to Christ is just a fore-taste and a little of the greater glory God has reserved for us in Heaven. 1Peter 1:3-4 Only a small fraction or instalment of believers rewards are made available here on earth. The best is yet to come. Eternity of Glory is ahead and waiting for us. Therefore, if we have the best that life here on earth could afford but cannot make heaven, we have cheated ourselves.

We shall consider three subtopics

1. Distinguishing marks of a glorious believer/Church.
2. Warning against Backsliding
3. Watching for the Lord’s Second Coming

**1. Distinguishing marks of a glorious believer/Church**

*“Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” 1 Corinthians 6:15, 19-20*

We must carry our body with dignity, respect and honour, if indeed we believe what the scriptures stated that the king of kings by his Spirit dwells within our hearts. If we are always careful not to do anything silly, noisy, dirty or sacrilegious within a physical Temple or church, how dare we introduce into our bodies thoughts and acts of “evil, adulteries, fornication, murder, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye (envy) blasphemy, pride and foolishness” (Mark 7:20-23) which according to the scripture brings defilement to our bodies.



God’s sentence or judgment is clear, whether we defile our bodies ourselves or we allow others to defile us; there shall in no wise enter into heaven anything that defiles or is defiled (Revelation 21:27). Whosoever defiles the temple of God (the human body) shall be destroyed. 1Corinthians 3:16, 17; the temple of God is Holy which we are and are expected to be. No wonder the Lord commanded *“Be ye holy, for I am holy”* 1Peter 1:15, 16. The standard of God and the path to glory is very clear: All true believers in Christ are expected to be holy and live holy.

Holiness of life and purity of heart is imperative for anyone who hopes to see God manifest His power and presence in his/her life while on earth or see God in heaven at the end of his earthly life. Mathew 5:8

When believers gather together in a place for fellowship or worship, they are expected to strive for holiness as a congregation if they want to see the manifestation of the presence and power of God in their church or fellowship and in all they do; and if they want majority of their members to partake in the Rapture of the saints. Jesus is coming for a glorious church *“not having, spot or wrinkle or any such thing but that it should be holy and without blemish”*. **Ephesians 5:25-27.**

In the days that Israel sacrificed lambs during worship, they were mandated to ascertain that those lambs that they bring to the altar are without blemish. It was a picture of what God will accept and what He will not. Jesus is the Lamb of God, slain for the sins of world. He is a sinless, spotless lamb. Hence, His sacrifice for our sins is acceptable to God and by His blood through faith, we all can be cleansed from all filthiness after we have repented from our sins 1John 1:7, Much more than the blood of bulls and animals, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from within and purges our heart and consciences when we ask Him to do so by definite and deliberate act of consecration and prayer Romans 12:1-2, Hebrew 9:13, 14.

**“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”.**

**2Corinthians 3:18**

But we have a responsibility to keep ourselves pure after we have been purged and cleansed of every dead works. We are expected to go out to serve God and follow Christ in newness of life Roman 6:1-4. We are not to return to the sins we have confessed and forsaken

True believers as individuals or as a congregation have a future or destiny that is linked with Jesus. Jesus in us is the hope of glory (Colossian 1:27). The glory that God gave to Him He wanted to share with us John 17:22, 24. As we daily with open face behold his glory like Moses upon the mount, we are transformed and changed into the same image from glory to glory. Regular fellowship with Christ through personal and corporate Bible study, prayers, righteous living and a life obedience will make us lose all kinds of spots, wrinkles and blemishes that came with us from the world and get us ready for the coming of the Lord.

The major responsibility of ministers of God in the church is by prayer and preaching to bring the people in their congregation to perfection through preaching of the word. Ephesians 4:11-13, Colossians 1:28. This cannot be achieved except by Pastors' and leaders' are themselves committed to holy and exemplary living. 1 Timothy 3:1-16 The blessings of Christ-likeness and holy living begin from this world and continue till we see the Lord face to face. Holiness and righteousness gives strength to our prayers James 5:16, righteousness delivers from death and all troubles Psalm 34:14-17, 19-20, Proverbs 10:2, 11:4. God builds a wall of protection around us so that the evil one will not touch us 1 John 5:18. Angels of God encamp around us Psalm 34:7. The Lord will give us grace and glory; He will withhold nothing good from us if we walk uprightly Psalm 84:11. God reveals His presence and power in the generation of righteous Psalm 14:5.

Psalm 1:1-3 describes the total and complete blessedness of those who live godly lives and guarantees divine blessings upon them and whatever they do. The greatest and climax of these blessings is the privilege of living and reigning with Christ at the end of our lives 1 John 3:1-3. Revelation 19:6-9;

*"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God"* Mathew 5:8.

## 2. Warning against Backsliding



*"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless"* 2 Peter 3:10-14.

Our relationship with Christ today is what will determine what will happen to us in eternity and where we will spend our eternity. If we turn away from following Christ, if we go back into the sins we have confessed, we cannot see the Lord or live with Him in eternity.

To backslide is to turn back from God-approved standard of life.

It is to draw back or apostatize in matters of religion, it is to retrogress from lofty ideals, diminish in value and virtue, to become cold and lukewarm in love for God and redirect one's affection from pleasing God to pleasing self and other persons. That was the case with Samson. It was the case with Judah Iscariot and Annanias and Saphira. Those who backslid loose the glory and presence of the Lord on earth and are deprived a place in eternity if they die in that condition. The Bible repeatedly warns against backsliding. We are to take the Bible's warning serious and keep our faith till the end.

## 3. Watching for the Lord's Second Coming

*"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch"* Mark 13:33-37.

The imminent return of Christ is the next stage of God's plan for the world and for His church. We must like Scout's motto *"Be prepared"*. We must not sleep like the foolish virgins in Mathew 25:1-13 but heed the Lord's warning to watch and pray. Let us be ready to meet the Lord in the air. Maranatha!



**John Wesley** was born on the 17th of June 1703 (The 28th of June in the modern calendar). He was the 15th of 19 children born to Samuel Wesley, Rector of Epworth, and his wife Susanna. Epworth was isolated and poverty-stricken. Only a few could read or write and the people were deeply suspicious of outsiders. But together with Susanna, Samuel Wesley campaigned for social justice and particularly the care of widows and orphans.

He believed that Christian living depended on acts as well as faith. This puritan parental influence would be the inspiration for John Wesley's work, and that of his brother Charles, who went on to write over 6000 hymns. John Wesley was baptized at his father's Church, St Andrew's in Epworth, and worshipped there as a child. The Old Rectory in Epworth was the Wesley family home until 1735. It was rebuilt after fire destroyed the original building 1709. It is suspected that this fire was an act of arson perpetrated by opponents of Samuel Wesley. The fire could have killed the six year-old John, but he escaped from a first floor window. He was afterwards referred to by his mother as "*a brand plucked from the burning*".

After attending Charterhouse school in London, John Wesley went on to Christ Church, Oxford, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1724 and a master's degree three years later. He became a fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford in 1726, where he helped establish the Holy Club, dubbed '*Methodist*' due to their prescribed method of studying the Bible. He was ordained a deacon in the Church of England in 1725 and then ordained as a priest in 1728.

He became Curate to his father in the parish of Wroot and remained in the post for two years before returning to Oxford. Wesley was vocal about ordinary people being excluded from the church. And although he was always fiercely loyal to the established church he was often ostracized from the pulpit for his opinions. So, beginning in Bristol, he began to address the public in open areas, giving rise to '*Field preaching*' as a feature of

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

**JOHN WESLEY**  
1805 - 1898



of Methodism

During visits to Epworth he would deliver sermons from the Market Cross in the centre of the town. For the rest of his life Wesley would preach to crowds, often numbering many thousands, throughout Britain and Ireland. He is said to have preached 40,000 sermons and travelled 250,000 miles. Until his death, he continued to tirelessly campaign on social issues such as prison reform and universal education. His last known letter described black slavery as '*that execrable villainy*'. Wesley famously said "*I look upon the whole world as my parish*"...

Wesley died on 2 March 1791, at the age of 87. As he lay dying, his friends gathered around him, Wesley grasped their hands and said repeatedly, "*Farewell, farewell*." At the end, he said, "*The best of all is, God is with us*", lifted his arms and raised his feeble voice again, repeating the words, "*The best of all is, God is with us*." He was entombed at his chapel on City Road, London.

Today there are 300,000 members of the Methodist Church in Britain. Worldwide, it is estimated that there are around 70 million Methodists. So, from small beginnings in Epworth, John Wesley's influence has indeed reached every corner of the globe.

### SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly".

1 Corinthians 15:49

## SONG OF THE MONTH

### OH! TO BE LIKE THEE

1. Oh! to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer,  
This is my constant longing and prayer;  
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures,  
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.

Refrain:

*Oh! to be like Thee, oh! to be like Thee,  
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;  
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy  
fullness;  
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.*

2. Oh! to be like Thee, full of compassion,  
Loving, forgiving, tender and kind,  
Helping the helpless, cheering the fainting,  
Seeking the wand'ring sinner to find.
3. Oh! to be like Thee, lowly in spirit,  
Holy and harmless, patient and brave;  
Meekly enduring cruel reproaches,  
Willing to suffer, others to save.
4. Oh! to be like Thee, Lord, I am coming,  
Now to receive th' anointing divine;  
All that I am and have I am bringing,  
Lord, from this moment all shall be Thine
5. Oh! to be like Thee, while I am pleading,  
Pour out Thy Spirit, fill with Thy love,  
Make me a temple meet for Thy dwelling,  
Fit me for life and Heaven above.

**Author: Thomas O. Chisholm**

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