

The Servant



Newsletter for Under-Shepherds and other Servants of God /5523 Newberry Drive/Raleigh, NC 27609

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The purpose of this newsletter is to pass along information and ideas to help the Lord's servants as they minister to others. Feel free to use any of it in your ministry

Him

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20

*Where- That's the Place of God
Two or Three- That's the Grace of God
There am I – That's the Face of God*

It is important to find the Place. The place we worship is not on this corner or on that. The right place is not "our" church or chapel building. The place is a spiritual place and it can only be found by those who have the right spirit. *"The hour commeth, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him." Jn. 4:23*

It is important to know the Grace of God. The church is pure grace. That any of us are included in the "two or three" is astonishing. It is amazing, amazing grace. And the fact that we, being so different, and so diverse are "together" is even more a miracle.

It is important to see the Face of God. "There am I," said Jesus. He is the one we look for. If he is not present, if he is not there, we have something less than the church. Without this one "I" in our midst we are left with just "us" or as it seems today, "us and them." We are nothing, you are nothing, without him. If he is not in our "midst" the church is just a "mist." ☹

The Ninth in Symphony

It is the smallest of all the letters. It is the "runt of the litter." It is the little letter "i." Like most in the alphabet, it has great potential. It usually gets along and plays well with others. It is most often found bringing consonants closer together and helping others to make sense or to sound good. It is small, but it is not insignificant. Although only one of five vowels, only it along with the "a" is able to stand on its own. It is the most independent of all the characters. It always becomes larger when it is alone. When it is by itself, perhaps because it is so small, or perhaps because someone was afraid that it would be overlooked, if left in the lower case, it always becomes a capital when separated from others. And while the "i" appears to lose its head when capitalized, and it suddenly becomes larger than other letters, it is only obeying the rules of English grammar. There standing like a Corinthian column when wearing its serif, or like an Egyptian obelisk rising above the average letter when standing erect, it sometimes, when in script and in flourish, resembles a yacht under full sail, leaning with the wind. Those who knew the letter "i" when it was just a "yota" in Koine Greek know that the "i" is all *ego*. Socrates encouraged us to know it, and we know it all too well. It is not found in *Good*, but it is always found in *Evil*. That is because it is also found in *Sin*. And yes, if we look, we can find it in *the Bible*. There is hope however. There is also a place for it in *faith*, but best of all, there is room in *Christ* as well. That is where I want to be. To do so, I must humble myself and remain so, if I would wish to stay in *Him*. Therefore may "I" remember that "i" is not the first or the last; it is the ninth. "I" would also do well to remember that it is neither the Alpha or the Omega. In that regard, there is only room for one who is both the beginning and the end. That one alone is called the WORD. May every life and letter bow before *Him*. Why, you may ask? Because the meaning of life is not found in U or I, which are nothing without the WORD. He alone is the great "I AM." ☹

ALL I HAVE IS NOW

Although we're sons, we're servants
As our LORD himself did show
And no life was e'er as brilliant
As the one He lived below

Although we're free for eternity
Before his will we bow
He gave us so much in charity
The least we can give is NOW.

Candles

Every man is an unlit taper until he is ignited by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ. The tripartite nature of man consists of body, soul, and spirit. We are all familiar with the body part of man, and it is most easily seen as a tabernacle. But man also has an inner court of the soul, where the white robed priests of mind, will and emotion perform their sacred duties to life. They think, they feel, they choose. Then there is a third part, an inner sanctum, a place where God is supposed to be; but until a man is born again, it is an empty place. Without God the Holy of Holies in Israel's tabernacle was dark. There was an awesome phenomenon known as the Shekinah Glory that filled it with an unearthly light. It was the flaming energy of God's presence.

The spirit of man exists without God, but it is like a candle without a flame. It is in the New Birth that one suddenly exclaims that now they "see the light." Solomon spoke of this in Prov. 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inwards of the belly." It is not until the taper is lit that man gets a good look at himself. Without God and the new birth man is groping in the dark, or at best, like a bat in a cave flying about relying on an echo from sounds generated from himself which bounce back from his environment. With the new birth a man's life is suddenly flooded with light, a light from above and then, by grace, a light that burns within.

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Col. 1:13

Jn. 8:12 Jesus said "I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." You don't have to be in the dark, you don't have to grope and feel your way through life.

Jesus gave a warning to those who lived in, became accustomed to, and loved darkness that they were in danger of missing the sunrise of his incarnation. He said "Yet a little while is the light with you; Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you; for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not wither he goeth. While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." Jn. 12:35-36. Believing in this light, is what ignites the taper in the spirit of man. It is the new creation that begins when God calls out to your darkness, "Let there be light."

God lights us, sets us on fire, and illuminates us for a purpose. Men do not light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candle stick that it might give light to all that are in the house. Matt. 5:15

We are like candles, all of humanity, some are tall and tapered, some are short and stout, some are colored, some are not. Some are intricately and beautifully designed and formed. Some are in expensive candelabras or of exquisite taste, some are in the mouth of a bottle- but until a man is born again- he is in the dark- never being what he was meant to be. He must be born again. Some pulpits have trained men in paraffin, but they too await the spark of heaven. This spark is the Holy Ghost. It is the Spirit that ignites man's spirit. Rom. 8:16 "The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."

Jesus said of John "He was a burning and a shining light" Jn. 5:35. John said of himself that he was not the light, but only a witness to that light- in other words, Jesus is the Sun, that fire in the heavens. Let him touch the taper of your spirit- and come alive with a trembling flame of energy that begins to dance within the veil in what is called the new life.

A wick is flexible and soft. Don't be hard. A wick of itself does not burn, and should it be touched by fire when it is dry, it would quickly become a cinder (like so many false professions). Like those in the holy tabernacle, it must sit in a pool of pure olive oil, soaked with an element more precious than itself, and then, only then it becomes a conduit upon the end of which a flame may dance and burn. It does not scream, it does not yell, it does not strive- it does not even call attention to itself- it just illuminates- Shine Jesus Shine!

Mt. 12:20 "A bruised reed he doth not break, a smoking flax he doth not quench." His gentleness hath made me great. (Ps. 18:35).

On Candlesticks

(Mt. 5:16)

Although it stands in Silver
or is held up high by Gold
our life is an empty salver
like some candle, dark and cold

Although we have the paraffin
and are awesome works of wax
Flesh and blood and breath within
our dreams and hopes are flax

Something else is missing here,
'though a thread runs through our core,
we have much, and yet somehow we fear,
surely there must be more.

Then came Christ, Himself the light,
who alone can make the taper bright,
and set the flax of faith on fire
Yes, we were made for something higher



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