



The Ryburn Christian Clarion

BIBLICAL STUDIES RESOURCE

Upholding the Accuracy of the God-Breathed Word

Vol. V, No. 3

© Spr.-Sum., 2008

The Ryburn Christian Clarion, 420 Ryburn Avenue, Suite C-2, Dayton, Ohio 45405-2552, U. S. A.;
ryburnclarion2@sbcglobal.net; www.godslivingroom.com

Unless otherwise stated, all passages are quoted from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. All explanatory remarks by a writer within scripture verses are enclosed in brackets [].

INSIDE AT A GLANCE

WE WRAP UP our fifth year with a combined spring and summer edition. It will allow us to catch up on office work neglected due to rapid growth, and will stretch our dollars. Plus, we get to catch our breath.

“AN ‘ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY!’” concludes our three-issue look at the hope of Christ’s return. The numerous New Testament references to the topic demonstrate God’s desire for us to understand and anticipate it.

by Rick Heeter, Editor-in-Chief.....1

“GOD’S MATCHLESS WORD” shows how God, the Creator, is also concerned about fixing that which is broken. In the article **“Our Father’s Restoration Business”**, we see that God keeps His shop open 24/7.

by Ann Barrentine.....3

“INVESTIGATING CREATION SCIENCE” examines passages that, in **“‘Written In The Stars’ ”**, tell of a celestial counterpart to the Bible. Indeed, the night sky continually speaks to unaware humanity of God’s love and grace.

by Keith Jamison, Columnist.....5

“FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT” looks at an eclectic array of original Christian tunes, ranging from nostalgic to cutting-edge contemporary. **Lighting The World**, by Project One, has something for everyone.

by Rick Heeter, Music Reviewer.....6

“FROM THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT” routinely examines all kinds of things in God’s Word. This time, we take a look at “all things.” Not every thing, of course, only **“Some Things About ‘All Things’.”**

by Keith Jamison, Columnist.....7

Celebrating Five Years Of Biblical Accuracy!

An “ETERNAL WEIGHT OF GLORY”!

Anticipating The Hope

THOSE OF YOU WHO read the *Clarion* regularly know that the opening article of our last two issues dealt with the hope of Christ’s return. This is a marvelous topic, covering truths that are so tremendous that our finite, human minds can only grasp a mere hint of what they teach. Nevertheless, the Word of God is liberally sprinkled with such insights. It would seem that God, because of His great love for His children (Eph. 2:4), went the extra mile in generously revealing things that He knows most of His people will never understand or fully appreciate.

Needless to say, the “hope” is a major theme running through the New Testament and, most especially, the Church Epistles. In fact, it is commonly believed that the books of Thessalonians, which give such detail about the Lord’s return, were the initial revelations received and conveyed by the Apostle Paul. This is certainly sensible, if true, for the First Century saints would have needed the comfort and encouragement they offer if they were to

continued on next page...

boldly proclaim the Gospel in the midst of the pagan Roman Empire. They would need to be reassured that their labors were not in vain, and that future rewards and consolation would far outweigh the struggles and personal exertions that accompany a courageous stand for God in this fallen world.

It's plain that the writers of the New Testament believed in the return of Christ, and everything that goes with it. Peter, the once vacillating disciple and apostle, certainly came to believe in the saints' future glorified state. In I Peter 1:3 and 4, the apostle firmly announced that, "...the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...hath begotten us again unto a lively ["living"] hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you...." Well, if the future benefits to God's kids are "incorruptible" and if the inheritance "fadeth not away," then they will last as long as the glorified believer, namely, forever!

This revelation surely outstrips the troubles of this present life. In truth, as verse 6 notes, it should cause us to "...greatly rejoice..." even "...though now for a season...[we] are in heaviness through manifold ["multi-faceted"] temptations:..." Thankfully, God's Word does not leave us in "heaviness," but, in verse 7, again proclaims the blessings of eternity at "...the appearing of Jesus Christ:..."

What about John? Most believers are aware that this apostle recorded the visions that are disclosed in the Book of Revelation, including the pronouncements of a new heaven and a new earth, and all the particulars thereof (See chapter 21 and following.), but have you looked into his epistles? In I John 3:2, a verse quoted by many, the Scriptures declare, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and ["but"] it doth not yet appear what we shall be:..." With all the details God gives in His Word concerning our future condition, our minds simply cannot conceive of "...what we shall be:..." The passage, however, goes on to affirm that "...we shall be like [LIKE] him [Christ]..." which Paul also acknowledged in Philippians 3 and I Thessalonians 4.

How about the Apostle Paul then? Did he, indeed, agree with the other apostles in his scriptural portrayal of the truths relating to, as Peter called it, our "...living hope..."? The account in Philippians 3:21 echoes the observations of John, stating that Christ "...shall change our vile body, [in order] that it may be fashioned like [LIKE] unto his glorious body..." Furthermore, in I Thessalonians 4:17, we read, "Then we...shall be caught up ["away"]...in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so [or "in this

manner"] shall we ever be with [The text is "like."] the Lord." Wow! There certainly seems to be a common theme running through all these inspired disclosures. We shall have an "incorruptible" inheritance that "...fadeth not away..." as well as a "...glorious body..." LIKE that of the Lord, with which to enjoy and appreciate it everlastingly!

In II Corinthians 4, we have a verse that has drawn my attention for years. In many ways, it caps off much of what God has made known concerning the "second coming" of His Son. The chapter begins by counseling believers as to how they should conduct themselves in the outreach of the Gospel, but it soon becomes peppered with references to Christ's return.

In ministering the things of God, as verses 8 and 9 point out, we may find ourselves "troubled," "perplexed," "persecuted," and "cast down." The power of God, however, and the magnificent promises of eternal blessings sustain us, and we are "not distressed," "not in despair," "not forsaken," and, most definitely, "not destroyed." As verse 14 again reminds us, "...he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also..." How many times does God have to tell us?

Now, let's focus in on verse 17. For many years, this verse has thrilled my heart, carrying me through some tough situations. What first appealed to me is the extreme contrast that God reveals between the mundane experiences of this present life and the ineffable splendor of heavenly things to come. The difference between the two is stark, and God, in a spurt of hyperbolic inspiration, has accentuated the dissimilarity by employing the use of three *contrasting comparisons*.

II 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;

The verse contrasts, **1)** "affliction" with "glory," **2)** that which is "light" with that which has "weight," and, **3)** something that is for a "moment" with that which is "eternal." This literary representation of *divine completeness* should reach deep into our souls, for it is the Heavenly Father's way of bending over backward in order to get us to **SEE THE TRUTH!**

There is an old hymn that declares, "Just one glimpse of Him in glory will the toils of life repay." The "affliction," the mental pressure and hardships we endure now, is "light" when compared to the very substantial "weight" in everlasting blessings that

await us in “glory” at Christ’s return. Furthermore, our current distress is only “...for a moment...” The Greek word used here is actually an adjective, not a noun. The phrase literally declares that our present, unfavorable condition is only “momentary.” God contrasts that with something that is “...far more exceeding *and* eternal...” Are we beginning to wake up? The Almighty is *SHOUTING* His promise of reward! Do you hear Him?

Time and time again, our Father revealed to faithful ones a clear message of deliverance from this fallen world, culminating in perpetual exaltation. Even now, in our day and time, He continues to do the same, calling unto us from the pages of Holy Writ, or by the living testimonies of those brothers and sisters who join with us in the outreach of the Truth. Do you hear His voice?

With this installment, *The Ryburn Christian Clarion* fulfills five years of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a manner that, we pray, has been informative and intriguing. Our aim has been to publish articles and columns covering subjects we believe to be of interest to God’s people, and to do so accurately and with clarity. After all, the word “clarion” is a French term that literally means “clear.” We have done our utmost over these years to set forth a clear message of redemption and salvation, ordained by a loving Father, and purchased by Jesus Christ, His obedient Son. We have put our hearts into this work that you may come to know the One Who inspired, and inspires, this outreach. Can you hear His voice? We truly hope so.

-----by Rick Heeter, Editor-in-Chief

GOD’S MATCHLESS WORD:

A Forum For Presenting The Light Of Life

(This column features a wide range of subjects from God’s Word as they are set forth by a host of preachers and teachers from differing avenues of Christian thought and various areas of Biblical study and concern.)

“Our Father’s Restoration Business”

by Ann Barrentine

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER is in the “restoration business.” The Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the Almighty, our dear Father, has His “signs” out front! By them, He invites us into a relationship with Him, so we can discover all He has made available in Christ Jesus, including total restoration. We will look at the English word “restore” in the King James Version, but first, let’s note a few, wonderful repair “jobs” that He’s done for people.

- A kidnapped wife (Sarah) is restored to her husband (Abraham). (Genesis 20:7)
- The life of an elderly widow (Naomi) is restored to her. (Ruth 4:15)
- The Shunammite woman’s son is restored to life, and her house, lands, and the fruit thereof are restored. (II Kings 8:5 and 6)
- A soul is restored. (Psalms 23:3)
- Comforts are restored to the destitute. (Isaiah 57:18)
- Paths to dwell in are restored to those who have lost their way. (Isaiah 58:12)
- A man’s withered hand is restored. (Matthew 12:13)
- A blind man is restored and sees clearly. (Mark 8:25)

There are two primary Greek words translated as “restore” in the New Testament. The first one is

apokathistao, which is used six times in the Gospels. According to Ethelbert W. Bullinger’s *A Critical Lexicon And Concordance To The English And Greek New Testament*, it means, “to put back into a former state, re-establish, or reinstate.” The second Greek word rendered “restore,” *katartizo*, according to the same source, means, “to make fully ready, put in full order (especially of what is broken), to refit, repair, restore.” Its root word, *artios*, carries the awesome connotation of fitting together perfectly, or of being fully equipped for a journey or a task (See the word “perfect” in II Timothy 3:17.).

One might ask, “How have we come to be in such need of restoration?” Answer: because we were separated from our Designer/Supplier, and are suffering the effects of this breakdown! According to God’s Word, there is a “thief” who is in the “business” of stealing, killing, and destroying, BUT Jesus Christ came “...that [we] might have life, and that [we] might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10) Taking Him up on His “offer” means some quality *restoration*.

Other questions may arise about our Father’s *restoration business*. For instance, “Does He keep His shop down some back alley so it is really hard to find?” The answer is “NO!” In fact, He advertises like crazy! Consider the natural world. In the Midwest (where I

live), winter may seem to hang on, but God has ordered the seasons, so spring does come, and those millions of seeds and those billions of buds do begin to grow. The old plants die, then, given the right conditions, the beautiful, green plants and lovely blossoms are restored to us.

How about the life of Jesus Christ? Pretty top-notch advertising! Agreed? He didn't do too much lollygagging around, did He? Instead, He was extremely focused on His Father's *restoration business*, teaching, correcting, healing, reproofing, standing up for the rejected, befriending the outcasts, and backing off the oppressive, critical rulers of the day. God's purpose, in Jesus Christ, was to be declared, made known (John 1:18). In Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension, God revealed His nature, and His desire to have a restored, and restoring, relationship with us.

Consider the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. What a magnificent attention-getter! The apostles and company had been waiting in Jerusalem, and God finally said, "NOW!" Seated in the Temple, the twelve apostles were "...filled with holy spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4; literal translation) Many present chose to repent, to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, receiving the gift of holy spirit, and, thus, experiencing the spiritual restoration and wholeness that had been God's desire ever since the fall of man. In this manner, God began the Church Administration in which you and I could become His sons and daughters. Talk about a glorious, eye-catching advertisement of His love, power, and grace!

Now, let's note a final question that may come to our minds. Regarding God's *restoration business*, it is logical to ask, "Exactly how good is God at helping us with our ups and downs, with the needs on our hearts, and with our desire to walk with Him?" We may have issues, but we can go to the Great Heart Mender, the Great Healer, the Great Restorer of our souls.

In the Gospels, we see that many people heard the Lord Jesus teach about God's healing power, saw Him demonstrate that power, and dared to seek it for themselves and others. Then came a new age, a time when it became possible for a person to be "born" a second time, "...not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible..." (I Pet. 1:23) Our first birth gave us a body and a soul (with a mind, emotions, and a will), but we were as "...children, tossed to and fro..." (Eph. 4:14) The world and the sin nature caused damage, loss of control, and disease, BUT we decided to check out God's *restoration business*.

For starters, we learned about the greatest miracle of all, the new birth. Now, we've got totally new, spiritual "fuel," with all the changes it can bring (and God wants this new, living fuel to keep getting a lot of publicity)! The latest biodegradable stuff might be cool, but God's supply of new-life spirit for us is *way better!*

This spirit comes directly from God, so we can manifest His nature as our union with Him is restored and develops. In Galatians 4:19, Paul declared, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be

formed in you." Talk about transforming power! Talk about inner restoring and revitalizing! We have received the opportunity for a brand new start! His spiritual seed in us means total, new-in-quality growth. God will help us cast off the old ways, so the new can thrive. We have something to shout about, something to joy and rejoice in, something to advertise!

The new birth actually gives us spirit power far greater than anything we can imagine (Eph. 3:20). Broken piston? No problem for the master mechanic. Now, it might be problematic for a car, which cannot fix itself. Well, neither can we, but we can study the owner's manual, the Bible, and apply what we learn. We can pray, and we can practice operating the power that God has so graciously given to us.

In the New Testament, the first occurrence of *katartizo* is in Matthew 4:21, where it is used of the "mending" of fishing nets. In Galatians 6:1a, however, it is used of a *spiritual* restoration. "Brethren," it states, "if a man be overtaken [or "found out"] in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore [*katartizo*] such an one in the spirit of meekness..." Indeed, there are three other uses of *katartizo* in the Church Epistles that speak of the believers' wonderful opportunity to be complete, to lack in nothing, and to function together *perfectly*. (I Cor. 1:10; II Cor. 13:11; and I Thes. 3:10)

I Thessalonians 3:10

Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect [katartizo] that which is lacking in your faith?

In the Body of Christ, we can serve and help to *restore* one another, so together we all manifest the well-equipped completeness that God desires for His children. Truly, the greatness of God's *restoration business* lives in the heart of our Father. He has given us power to heal, deliver, and stand against the wiles of our adversaries. The new, spiritual seed inside us is greater than any defects of the flesh, including genetic flaws or weaknesses. The "new man" life that He gave us is more powerful than any "old man" experiences that might try to destroy us. (See Ephesians 4:22-24.)

Psychologists may say that some issues are too deeply rooted to reverse, but our Master Designer knows how to restore and repair us. As we turn to Him, He will teach and guide us. We, then, may truly say, as Galatians 2:20 affirms, it is not I who live, "...but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live...I live by the faith of the Son of God..." *

(Ms. Ann Barrentine became involved in Biblical research and teaching in 1974, eventually participating in missionary work in Louisiana, Delaware, and elsewhere. She has been involved in children's fellowship ministry, and now resides in Bloomington, Indiana, where she works in Special Education. Ann may be reached by e-mail at abarrent@gmail.com.)

Call the *Clarion* at.....(937) 275-3316.

INVESTIGATING CREATION SCIENCE

(In this column, which appears in every spring and fall issue of The Ryburn Christian Clarion, members of the Clarion's research team explore the timely and unfolding evidence that supports the Biblical assertion concerning the Divine creation of all things, visible and invisible. Join us as we take a journey into scriptures and science alike to investigate the latest, compelling proofs.)

“ ‘Written In The Stars’ ”

by Keith Jamison

IN AN EARLIER ARTICLE in this column, “ ‘To Give Light Upon The Earth’ ” (Spring, 2007; Vol. IV, No. 3), we discussed the sun, moon, and stars, noting that these are “light givers,” according to the Hebrew texts. We explored their purpose, namely, that they exist to “give light upon the earth.” (Gen. 1:15 and 17) This “light” (*owr*, in Hebrew; *phos*, in Greek) is radiance in all its aspects, visible and invisible, physical and spiritual. In this article, we will take a deeper look at this “light,” for, as Genesis 1:17 relates, “...God set them [the “light givers”] in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth.” **

Let's first consider the word “signs” from Genesis 1:14. The “light givers” (*maowr*, in Hebrew) were to “...be for signs...” The sun, moon, and stars exist, among other things, to show man spiritual matters. The Jewish day and calendar are examples of this. The Jewish day runs from sunset to sunset. Darkness precedes light, as expressed repeatedly in Genesis 1, for, “...the evening and the morning were the...day.” (verses 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, and 31) This is a “sign” of the hope we've been given. We are in relative darkness now, but in the future, we shall be in the fullness of light with our God.

The Jewish year is similar, beginning in the “evening” of fall, passing into the “night” of winter, continuing on through the “morning” of spring, and culminating in the bright “day” of summer. Jesus Christ was sacrificed in the early spring, taking us from man's long, winter night of darkness into the light of a never-ending summer day. By “signs,” then, and even in the Scriptures, God never leaves His people in darkness. Instead, He portrays them as delivered, and secure in the light, even if the reality of it has not yet occurred. (Heb. 2:8)

Other, more specific, signs have been noted in the stars. What we refer to as the “Star of Bethlehem” is a good example. Tradition says that it was a single, bright star over the manger where the baby Jesus slept, but what does The Word say? The wise men, as Matthew 2:2 states, traveled to Jerusalem in search of the Lord, because they saw His star “...in the east...” These astronomers, these Magi, had watched the stars for signs of the promised Judean Messiah, but what were these signs?

Most likely, these signs were a series of stellar conjunctions involving Jupiter, the *king* planet; Regulus (from which we get the word “regal”), known by the ancients as the *king* star; and the constellation Leo (in which Regulus is located), itself representative of *kingship*. These conjunctions, according to relevant data derived from science, historical accounts, and the Scriptures, occurred during the period of time when Jesus Christ was born. The Magi were the ones to see these signs, because they were the ones searching the stars for them. Even King Herod knew nothing about them until he met with the Magi. The Magi, some have conjectured, could have learned of the promised Jewish Messiah, and the signs of His coming, through instruction that had been handed down from the times of Daniel and the Babylonian conquest of ancient Israel. It was God, however, Who set, or arranged, the stars in the heavens (Gen. 1:17), long before the advent of His dear Son. By His foreknowledge, He put them all in a specific order and position, each having significance.

God's Word has not always existed as a written text. Moses, in fact, by divine revelation, wrote the first books of the Scriptures. Where was God's Word before Moses? It was, and is, “written in the stars.” In Psalms 19:1, we read, “The heavens declare [“make known”] the glory of God...” Verse 2 says that the night sky continually, “...uttereth speech, and...sheweth [“sets forth”] knowledge.” While the very existence of the heavens displays God's glory, having The Word “written” there loudly proclaims it. If we look at the twelve constellations of the zodiac that the sun passes through during the year, in respect to the Jewish calendar, we can see that they originally expressed the prophecies of man's redemption and salvation through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Going from early fall through late summer, from Virgo to Leo, from the beginning of the Jewish calendar to its end, played out in the night sky, we have the continuing declaration of man's completed redemption. Virgo originally represented Jesus' mother and His birth, and the lion, Leo, Christ's kingdom to come. Most intriguing is Aries, the ram. The Passover sacrifice was a male lamb, a ram. Isn't it interesting, then, that Passover generally occurs during the sign of Aries? Jesus Christ was, for us, the true atoning

sacrifice. Many other references in the Bible to stars and constellations convey even more of God's Word.

Why would God use the stars to express His Word? One reason would be to teach, or as Psalms 19:3 puts it, to give "instruction." The King James Version actually uses the word "voice," but the Hebrew texts denote "information" or "instruction." This is true also of the written Word. Both give us truth about God and this world, but the manner in which they express it differs.

Written texts, like the Scriptures, often express detail and precision through the use of a multiplicity of words. The stars, however, form constellations. These are actually stylized pictures, stellar pictographs, and, as we've all been told, "a picture is worth a thousand words." These images, and their arrangement in the heavens, clearly convey God's "instruction," but the knowledge of how to "read" them, practiced by the ancients, has been corrupted. It has almost been entirely lost to us, replaced by the bizarre trappings of astrology. Once you understand this, the awe-inspiring night sky takes on even greater majesty, for, although the written Word may be confiscated or destroyed, no power on Earth can change the arrangement of the stars.

The indelible nature of The Word in the stars brings us to another point. God's Word has power, and the power of The Word in the literal, physical existence of the stars serves a mighty purpose. II Peter 3:7 announces that, by God's Word, the "...heavens and the earth...are kept in store..." or preserved. Later, in the chapter, and in the Book of Revelation, we read about the destruction of the heavens, the stars. This will occur

when their purpose is fulfilled. For now, their number, their placement, and their magnitude hold the universe together. As the tangible representation of God's revealed knowledge and will, they establish an electromagnetic environment around Earth that sustains and promotes life. God's Word in the stars is spiritual, but it provides some very material benefits, as well. The two simply cannot be separated.

The importance of these incandescent, heavenly bodies is undeniable, for Psalms 147:4 declares, "He [God] telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by *their* names." God knows the name of every star. That they *all* have names is amazing, for we know only the names of those that are visible without a telescope, and these are names handed down from antiquity. We, in our ignorance and arrogance, have given number designations to the rest, but God gave them all names, making each significant.

God made the sun, moon, and stars, placing them in the firmament, or expanse, of the heavens. They were not randomly strewn across the night sky, but were named and placed in their proper courses. God did this that they might shine "light," both physical and spiritual, upon the Earth. He desired to make Himself and His will known, and to preserve the universe until the fulfillment of all the prophecies. The stars are there, every one of them, for our sake.*

(Mr. Keith Jamison is the director of The Ryburn Christian Clarion's Research Department. As such, he regularly develops material for the "Investigating Creation Science" and "From The Research Department" columns.)

FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Music Review

(This column offers our readers a variety of inspirational and edifying submissions. In this "grab-bag," appearing from time to time, you will find essays, book reviews, testimonies, poetry, compositions, letters, and other things designed to exhort and comfort God's people.)

Lighting The World

by Project One

WITH A VARIETY OF STYLES that reaches a wide range of people, Project One's *Lighting The World* could very well do just that: light the world, that is. "All people need to be listened to," says Terry Cameron, the major, driving force behind the musical composition and arrangements of the fourteen "cuts" that make up the CD. With that as a guiding philosophy, and the greatness of God's Word as the message, Project One serves up a musical smorgasbord to delight every taste.

According to Rhonda West, who sings lead on

many of the selections (and backup on a few), "It's wicked good!" This obvious *oxymoron* (or, maybe it's the figure *hyperbole*) seems appropriate for a collection of original Christian tunes that fits no particular pigeonhole. What we have here, in large part, is a decided departure from the traditional, and even the sometimes syrupy-sweet offerings of contemporary Christian singers, into the borderlands of cutting-edge Christian musical expression.

Certainly, there are several selections that "reach" old-timers like me, such as "Body of Christ." Even

“Comes God’s Love,” which is reminiscent of some haunting Renaissance canticle, stirs me deeply with its mood and message. On the whole, however, as Terry affirms, the music and vocal deliveries are aimed at younger Christians, the teens and twenty-somethings, who have grown up with the brashness of secular music. With similar grit, songs on the CD like “Meet Him In The Sky” and “More Than A Conqueror” musically speak to them.

Furthermore, Terry, who plays acoustic and lead guitar throughout the collection, demonstrates a modern versatility on the instrument in question. This naturally appeals to the rock ‘n’ roller. Several cuts aggressively reverberate with doses of “heavy metal,” as Terry coaxes electric emotion from his lead guitar. Rhonda’s vocals, too, often embrace a very direct approach to the listener, as they deliver up the message of salvation in a naked, unvarnished way.

Of course, there are others who have added their own special ingredients to this banquet. During its lengthy preparation, the concoction has been seasoned by the songwriting of Stephen J. West (Rhonda’s husband) and Debra Prugh. Additionally, Debra’s backup harmonies, and her occasional lead vocals, lend a sweeter tang to some of the selections, especially when accompanied by a dash of Rhonda’s “softer” approach. Then, there’s Kathy Cameron (Terry’s wife), who took on the challenge of making sure all the lyrics are “Biblically accurate.” Put them all together, stir briskly for about two and a half years, and you come up with a generous buffet of sublime and zesty treats. Like I said, something for everyone.

This collection contains something for just about

anyone looking for answers. Also, lest we not recognize it, *Lighting The World* boldly follows the example of the Lord and Savior, Who, as the original “light of the world,” shared the message of redemption by ignoring every cultural convention and tradition that stood in the way of reaching the lost. Likewise, Project One has followed the Master’s lead by breaking out of the mold of accepted religious expression in order to reach a segment of the population that many have thought unreachable.

All in all, Project One provides a journey through an eclectic array of original music and lyrics, with the Word of God boldly proclaimed throughout. Fourteen widely diverse tunes praise the Almighty, acknowledge the finished work of His Son, and express love for the One Who first loved us, all while waiting to be heaven bound. Rather than play it safe, *Lighting The World* largely rejects convention, adopting the technique of the great Apostle Paul by providing something for everyone, and becoming all things to all men. Through all means, then, some may be saved, and you can’t beat that with a stick.*

-----by Rick Heeter, Music Reviewer

*(To listen to snippets of selections from **Lighting The World**, please visit www.myspace.com/projectonelighttheworld. For additional information, or to book Project One for a personal appearance, contact Rhonda West at rhondawest@woh.rr.com. To order, send a minimum donation of \$15 by check or money order for each CD, payable to “Terry Cameron.” Include a note stating the number of CDs required, and mail to: Mr. Terry Cameron, 3618 State Route 49, Arcanum, Ohio 45304, Attention: Project One. Shipping and handling is included.)*

FROM THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

(This column, featuring the work of Keith Jamison, the director of The Ryburn Christian Clarion’s Research Department, examines God’s Word and how its application in our Twenty-First Century lives has been influenced by mythology, philosophy, and tradition.)

“Some Things About ‘All Things’ ”

THIS TIME AROUND, we’d like to share with you *some* things about “all things.” Since the Bible is so full of “all things,” we will have to narrow our investigation of this phrase. We will do so by looking at scriptures pertaining to believers under the New Covenant. Our aim is to gain a deeper appreciation of our importance to God, our Father.

First off, we need to understand what “all things” is. These two words in English are derived from one Greek word, *pas*. In the New Testament, *pas* is variously translated as “all,” “all things,” “all manner,” “every,” “everything,” “any,” and so on. It is literally *any thing* and *every thing* within the boundaries of the context in which it is used. Observe the following verses.

Romans 11:36

For of him [God], and through him [God], and to him [God], are all things [pas]: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Colossians 1:16 and 17

For by him [God] were all things [pas] created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things [pas] were created by him, and for him: And he [God] is before all things [pas], and by him all things [pas] consist [or “cohere”].

God is the source, the Creator and Maker, of everything (*pas*). All matter, all energy, all space,

all the forces and laws of the universe, and the entire spiritual realm are the result of Godly activity. It is, however, sometimes hard to see God as the source of the world we live in. Satan seeks to hide the knowledge of God, but the Almighty gave us a written disclosure of His nature and will, and minds with which to think, and free will by which to decide what to do with what we've been given.

Hebrews 1:2 informs us that God appointed Jesus Christ to be, "...heir of all things...[pas]." The Lord Jesus Christ is God's heir. He is heir to all creation, and so are God's children. Romans 8:17a declares, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;..." We are joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, sharing fully in all (pas) that God has bequeathed His Son. This is the magnitude of God's love for us.

We are heirs of "all things" through Christ, and it is a bigger deal than most Christians realize. God is not only willing to give us "all things" in the future, but also in the here and now. What we have access to *now* is in the context of our "walk" in Christ. Let's look at a few verses that make this point.

Romans 8:28, 32 and 37

And we know that all things [pas] work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

He [God] that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things [pas]?

Nay, in all [pas] these things we are more than conquerors ["super overcomers"] through him that loved us.

I Corinthians 3: 21 and 22

Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things [pas] are yours;

Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas [Peter], or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all [pas] are yours;

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things [pas] through Christ which ["who"] strengtheneth me.

God wants to "supply" everything (pas) we need (Phil. 4:19). In prayer, we go to God with our needs, trusting that our Father shall supply them. He will work, as our trust in Him allows, in every situation in order to bless us. Have you ever considered how many accidents He has led you to avoid, protecting you from unsuspected harm? I have known people who were upset that they did not get a job they really wanted, only to learn that the company folded within a year. Even so, in overt, obvious ways and, at times, in manners we

are unaware of, God is able to spread His loving influence throughout our lives to supply the "all things" we need in any circumstance.

As we noted in Romans 8:37, we are "...more than conquerors..." in "all" (pas) circumstances. This means the big and the small, each and every one of them. This is something we should see more clearly in our lives. For me, this is a greater reality than our inheritance, for it involves tangible, present evidence. Our future blessings entail more than we can understand now, but all (pas) that God provides in our earthly lives, and our walk with Him, can make our fellowship with our Father very personal and intimate.

"All things" covers the big miracles like walking on water, raising the dead, and major healings, as well as the little things like saying the right word at the right time, a helping hand when you need one, or just companionship with other believers. Then, there are the things that are in between.

Years ago, I was delivering pizzas on a night that was pouring down rain, and I didn't get wet! I told God that I did not want to get wet. I didn't ask for the rain to stop, only that I would not get wet. The whole night, when I was in the store, in my car, or on people's porches, it was raining hard, however, the moment I opened my car door and stepped out, it stopped. All night long, the instant I'd enter shelter, it would start raining again. As I made my deliveries, I did not wait for a break in the storm. I simply stepped boldly out into it, only to find it wasn't raining. Anytime I start to doubt that God will give me "all things," I remember that night, and believe.

"All things" is used throughout the Scriptures concerning many subjects. The context determines the boundaries of the "all things" under consideration. Because of limited time and space, we have looked at only a few uses of this expression in the New Testament. We have shared only *some* things about "all things," but the verses we've considered show God's great love for His people, and will help us to better trust in and believe Him.*

(Mr. Keith Jamison oversees The Ryburn Christian Clarion's Research Department, and regularly develops material for the "From The Research Department" and "Investigating Creation Science" columns.)

**Articles and columns submitted to The Ryburn Christian Clarion are edited to ensure correct spelling and punctuation, proper grammar, and clarity of expression. Furthermore, no article or column herein should be construed to be a comprehensive study of the subject under consideration.*

***Beginning with our next installment (Vol. VI, No. 1), the "GOD And Country" column will appear in every fall and spring edition of The Ryburn Christian Clarion, while the "Investigating Creation Science" column will be featured in every winter and summer issue.*

THE RYBURN CHRISTIAN CLARION: Celebrating Five Years Of Biblical Accuracy!