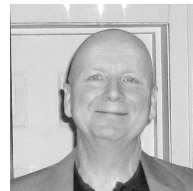


# Lo The d Ou Righteousness

## Overcoming Sin

Elder Charles Moore



possessed, not just conquered. The really difficult battles had been won and now the mopping up work

I was talking to someone about addiction and I told them about my own problem with alcohol. I began with the fact that my whole social life was centered on the consumption of beer. I never went anywhere unless I could drink. I rarely went to weddings but I always went to the receptions so that I could party for free.

God changed that, not all at once, but still miraculously. God changed my thinking about drinking. Everything that I thought drinking did for me, He showed me was a lie. God also showed me the consequences of my drinking - not just the hangovers and the regrets about what I did or said while I was drunk, but how I hurt people and how drinking was my god.

When I turned to the true God through His son Jesus, God slowly loosened my grip on the beer bottle until after a wedding in which I consumed a relatively small amount of alcohol, I just gave it up and let it go, never to return it as my god again.

I also told this person that on the other hand I still struggled with certain sins, day after day, month after

month, year after year. Maybe you have had the same experience, in which the big obstacles to your ability to have a relationship with God have been removed but where seemingly little things get in your way of having a deeper and growing relationship with God. This has often puzzled me and it puzzled me again after talking to this person.

I gained some insight into this problem after we completed a study in the book of Joshua. In Joshua, it describes how Israel took possession of the land that God had promised Abraham. Joshua describes battle after battle where God goes with them, defeats their enemies one after another. **"Now Joshua was old and advanced in years when the LORD said to him, "You are old and advanced in years, and very much of the land remains to be possessed." (Joshua 13:1).**

They had fought many battles and the Lord had been with them but the land stilled needed to be

still remained. Thankfully, the Lord promised to be with them for that. **"...I will drive them out from before the sons of Israel" (Joshua 13:6).** The story then goes on to describe how The land *was* divided between the tribes of Israel. **"So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass." (Joshua 21:43-45).**

The Lord is faithful to keep His promises to His people at all times and in all ways. At this time of year in which we celebrate the keeping of God's greatest promise of all, the sending of the Messiah, a Savior of the world, we know that He is faithful. Jesus did not just come to us as a little baby but He grew to

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adulthood, He showed us the character and heart of God through His life. He died on the cross to save us from the penalty of our sins. He rose again from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, even now interceding for us.

But towards the end of his life, Joshua warned the Israelites in **Joshua 22:5 "Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**

**"So take diligent heed to yourselves to love the LORD your God."** (Joshua 23:11). God had done everything that He said He would do, He had brought them into a land that they could possess and He had given them each an inheritance in that land and yet they failed to fully possess the land.

You may be discouraged about yourself in your walk with the Lord. You may see those stubborn sins that you have not been able to break loose from. Rest assured that the Lord is still with you to help you fight your battles, even if you have reached a ripe old age. And if you rely on God, you will see that He is gradually changing you - little by little, every day and in every way. You may die before you see total victory. No, I take that back - you WILL die before you see total victory! But, again, rest assured. Do you remember that little baby, who came, lived and died for us and rose and even now intercedes for us? He has paid the penalty for your sin already. It has been dealt with in God's presence. Do your best not to sin. But when you sin, and you will, take it to God and ask for His forgiveness. Ask Him to help the people your sin has harmed. Know that just like God's people failed to win total victory over the land of Israel, He remained with them. He sent them a Savior. He has won the victory over sin and death for us all.

## At-Large News Diane Begeman



Boy, where has the year gone! It doesn't seem possible that another year has passed. Does this mean I'm getting old?

Traditions - the dictionary defines this as an inherited or customary pattern of thought or action. I love the tradition that our church has of having an annual Christmas Eve service. For many that attend it is a tradition. If they were to miss this event their Christmas just wouldn't be the same. I agree. We had a great turnout for our service this year. We saw some new faces and some old ones. One of the new ones we saw was a neighbor of the church's, Jim. It was great to see him. He said he's always wanted to come and it was wonderful that he was finally able to. He watches out for our church when we aren't there. It was nice to see Echo Johnson and her family. Mick and Wendy Vargas and their clan was there, along with Wendy's sister and kids. I heard the kids enjoyed our "interactive" play we put on. The Lentner/Bemus clan was also there, with Garrett coming from the west decked out in his service uniform. Anthony and Daniel Sottile were a very nice surprise. The rest of the Sottiles' were home as Leah wasn't feeling well. Daniel brought his violin and accompanied Kathy Smeltzer with the prelude music. It's been great to hear the progression of his musical ability.

I heard that the "Layton" clan got together again and a great time was had by all. We're hoping to see Deborah and Jim in February at our winter retreat.

Kathleen Johnson sent news that they had a great Christmas. Their family is expanding and they have little ones to make it that much more exciting.

Kane and Jennie Begeman were able to make a trip home at the beginning of December. They came to celebrate and surprise her dad for his birthday. The plan was a success, because he was very surprised. It was great to see them!

Jon and Berty Lane made a trip south from Washington to Arizona to spend Christmas with SheaLyn and Scott.

Rip and Norma continue to "plod along" as Rip says. We pray for his safety as he makes that daily visit over to see Norma.

I leave you this month with this final thought - Are you walking the walk with Jesus at your side? Make time for a daily walk with Him, get back to the traditions of your youth. Get back to church and getting your "Jesus" boost-meeting with fellow believers.

## Michigan Report

Tim Begeman



This month we were all thrilled to hear Zacharias Moore graduated from his school's D.A.R.E. program, after having to compose an essay. There was a ceremony which he is very proud to have qualified for. He hopes (now) to be a policeman someday, which is a noble aspiration from a very capable and precocious young man, so in about 20 years if you are in critical need of top notch law enforcement give Zach a call.

Di and I got a visit this month from our two grandchildren Ainsley and Everett, accompanied by parents Kane and Jennie. We got to help celebrate Ainsley's third birthday and an early Christmas. Her poor tiny hands got extremely raw from tearing paper from the copious amount of tightly, brightly wrapped expensive gifts. From this experience she may have developed early onset of carpal tunnel syndrome.

My dad, Dale Begeman, moved early this month to our local Magnum Nursing facility. He seems to be adjusting well and seems to have better mental clarity as he's getting acquainted with fellow residents. He ended this month with a slip out of bed and he complained of chest pains so he had a field trip to the local hospital to get the once over. They kept him over night and checked out with a relatively clean bill of health.

The Smeltzers drove many miles to feast their eyes on almost an infinite amount of Christmas lights accumulated between the Creation Museum in Kentucky and the Toledo Zoo.

We had a great turnout of attendance to our Christmas Eve's service this year. Some people came for the first time while others have come every year for many years. It started out with some prelude music performed by Kathy Smeltzer on piano and an unexpected guest musician, Dan Sottile on violin which added an extra special ambiance. Second on our program was Jeff Begeman singing a solo entitled "It's Still the Greatest Story Ever Told". Third, we had a congregational skit called "The Night Jesus was Born". We invited the audience forward to play various characters in the Biblical story in the birth of Jesus narrative. About half the audience ended up on stage playing Mary, Joseph, stable animals, shepherds, angels and Magi from the East. One of the highlights was that young David Moore manned the sparkly star on a stick as he spearheaded the many Magi to our crowded live Nativity scene. Aurine Moore and Kathy Smeltzer both sang solos to introduce Elder Moore's talk that summed up the meaning and significance of the Christmas story. The whole Christmas Eve service was efficiently and charmingly hosted by the very capable Dave Fedor.



Kerry and Kathleen Johnson wanted to wish the Newsletter readers "Happy New Year". Included in our Christmas photo is our new grandchild, Katelyn Lily Huang, born November 1st to Leanne and Jon. Brother Max celebrated his second birthday in November. Casey and Erin are getting married in September 2014.

"There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you  
it's going to be a butterfly"

R. Buckminster Fuller

**CHURCH OF THE  
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**FAITHFUL FOR A PROMISE**

**A promise from God is a statement we can depend on with absolute confidence.  
Here are 12 promises for the Christian to claim.**

God's presence -- "I will never leave thee" (Heb. 13:5)

God's protection -- "I am thy shield" (Gen. 15:1)

God's power -- "I will strengthen thee" (Isa. 41:10)

God's provision -- "I will help thee" (Isa. 41:10)

God's leading -- "And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them" (John 10:4)

God's purposes -- "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord,  
thoughts of peace, and not of evil" (Jer. 20:11)

God's rest -- "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28)

God's cleansing -- "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)

God's goodness -- "No good thing will He withhold from them that work uprightly" (Psalm 84:11)

God's faithfulness -- "The Lord will not forsake His people for His great name's sake" (1 Sam. 12:22)

God's guidance -- "The meek will He guide" (Psalm 25:9)

God's wise plan -- "All things work together for good to them that love God" (Rom. 8:28)

SOURCE: Our Daily Bread, January 1, 1985.