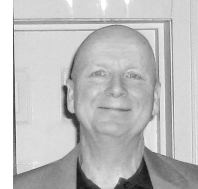


# Lo The d Ou Righteousness

## Wait Three Days

Elder Charles Moore



The story is told of a mother of a nine-year-old boy named Mark who received a phone call in the middle of the afternoon. It was the teacher from her son's school. "Mrs. Smith, something unusual happened today in your son's third grade class. Your son did something that surprised me so much that I thought you should know about it immediately." The mother began to grow worried. The teacher continued, "Nothing like this has happened in all my years of teaching. This morning I was teaching a lesson on creative writing. And as I always do, I tell the story of the ant and the grasshopper: "The ant works hard all summer and stores up plenty of food. But the grasshopper plays all summer and does no work. Then winter comes. The grasshopper begins to starve because he has no food. So he begins to beg, 'Please Mr. Ant, you have much food. Please let me eat, too.' Then I said, 'Boys and girls, your job is to write the ending to the story.'"

"Your son, Mark, raised his hand. 'Teacher, may I draw a

picture?' Well, yes, Mark, if you like, you may draw a picture. But first you must write the ending to the story.' As in all the years past, most of the students said the ant shared his food through the winter, and both the ant and the grasshopper lived. A few children wrote, 'No, Mr. Grasshopper. You should have worked in the summer. Now, I have just enough food for myself.' So the ant lived and the grasshopper died. "But your son ended the story in a way different from any other child, ever. He wrote, 'So the ant gave all of his food to the grasshopper; the grasshopper lived through the winter. But the ant died.'

"And the picture? At the bottom of the page, Mark drew three crosses." We are like the grasshopper. The grasshopper was helpless, hopeless and ungodly and his predicament was his own fault, just like our predicament is yours and mine - but Someone was willing to die for us to save

us from ourselves and to save us from our folly, failures and sin.

"For while we were still helpless, at

the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (Romans 5:6-10) Jesus died so that we can be reconciled back to the Father. Jesus lives and so that we too can live eternally. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "The fact that Jesus Christ died is more important than the fact that I shall die, and the fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead is the sole ground of my hope that I, too, shall be raised on the Last Day. Our salvation is 'external to us.' I find no salvation in my life history, but only in the history of Jesus Christ. Only

*(Continued on page 2)*

he who allows himself to be found in Jesus Christ, in his incarnation, his cross, and his resurrection, is with God and God with him."

We cannot save ourselves; salvation lies outside ourselves, in events that have happened in history, particularly the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Look what God the Father has done for us through His son Jesus.

If we trust in Him, we have a present living hope but also a future inheritance; we have present protection and a future full salvation. **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)**

Warren Wiersbe says, "Believers are not kept by their own power, but by the power of God. Our faith in Christ has so united us to Him that His power now guards us and guides us. We are not kept by our strength, but by His faithfulness. How long will He guard us? Until Jesus Christ returns and we will share in the full revelation of His great salvation."

We truly are kept by the gift He gave us through His death on the cross. A story is told about a man who learned this from an unlikely source.

Sitting in her usual place inside a small archway was an old flower lady. At her feet corsages and boutonnieres were parading on top of a spread-open newspaper. The flower lady was smiling, her wrinkled old face alive with some inner joy. A man started down the stairs and on impulse, he turned and picked out a flower. As she put it in the man's lapel, he said, "You look happy this morning." She said, "Why not? Everything is good." She was dressed so shabbily and seemed so very old that her reply startled him. "You've been sitting here for many years now, haven't you? And always smiling. You wear your troubles well."

"You can't reach my age and not have troubles," she replied. "Only it's like Jesus and Good Friday ..." She paused for a moment. "Yes?" the man prompted. "Well, when Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, that was the worst day for the whole world. And when I get troubles I remember that, and then I think of what happened only three days later—our Lord arising. So when I get troubles, I've learned to wait three days ... somehow everything gets all right again."

When your life gets hard give God a chance. Remember God has done, is doing or will do all that is necessary for your good. Trust in Him and wait on Him -- wait three days.

## At-Large News Diane Begeman



Sadly on March 1 Norma Ripley passed away. Funeral services were held on March 5. Elder David Charles officiated. Dave & Terrie Fedor and Charlie Moore and Kathy Smeltzer were able to attend.

I received a call from Lenny Weedon. He wanted to let everyone know that his mother Jean, passed away in February. She was 87. Lenny told me that Norma Ripley was one of her bridesmaids. Elder Roger's was also Jean's father.

Sally Smeltzer had knee replacement surgery and is doing well.

Kane, Jennie, Ainsley and Everett Begeman moved back to Michigan from Arizona. They are currently looking for a house to rent. They have temporarily moved in with Tim and I.

Berty Lane has secured a job working full time.

A birthday party was thrown for Dale Begeman celebrating his 84th birthday. Most of the family was able to be there. He enjoyed watching a hockey game with his boys.

Let no one ever come to you  
without leaving  
better and happier

Religion is hanging around the cross,  
Christianity is hanging on the cross.  
— Stephen Hill

## Michigan Report

Tim Begeman



James M. Gray (1851-1935) was one of the most famous Bible teachers of the early 20th century. He was a key player in the generation that established the Bible institute movement, serving as dean/president of Moody Bible Institute for more than two decades. He had worked alongside Dwight L. Moody, and was academically qualified to lead an educational institution into the twentieth century, institutionalizing his signature "Synthetic Bible Study" method. He wrote a little book in 1904 called "How To Master the English Bible". The fundamental idea he suggests in his book is to pick one book of the Bible and read it over and over. And over. And, yes, over again. There are many ways to study the Bible, but Gray isn't interested in studying it, he wants to MASTER it. Study could involve detailed analysis, careful observation, and thoughtful comparison on many levels, all of which are worth doing, but none of them would necessarily put you in the position of saying, "I've got that book, I've mastered it." He borrows a farming analogy to illustrate this:

How to master the English Bible! High-sounding title that, but does it mean what it says? It is not how to study, but how to master it; for there is a sense in which the Bible must be mastered before it can be studied, and it is the failure to see this which accounts for other failures on the part of many earnest would-be Bible students. I suppose it is something like a farm; for although never a farmer myself, I have always imagined a farmer should know his farm before he attempted to work it. How much upland and how much lowland? How much wood and how much pasture? Where should the orchard be laid out? Where plant my corn, oats, and potatoes? What plot is to be seeded down to grass? When he has mastered his farm he begins to get ready for results from it. (p. 13)

If you have never tried the method that James Gray recommends, you should begin immediately. Pick a book, pray for God's guidance, and then start reading and re-reading it constantly. Give yourself a month if you have to, but focus on that one book. By about the fifth time you read it, you'll probably be dreadfully bored. Stick with it. Somewhere around the eighth time you'll go through a wall and find riches of meaning you had not glimpsed before. When you reach the point of saturation and mastery, you'll know. There's a kind of click in your consciousness, and you feel the whole mass of the book shift as it is transformed in your understanding from a set of verses and disconnected lines of argument into one whole. I recommend starting with a short book, between 4 and 12 chapters, not much longer. Ephesians is great. Try it.

March 1<sup>st</sup> we started our first pastor exchange by worshiping with the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day. Elder Charlie Moore kicked off our exchange which was under the topic of "Jesus is" He led us through the thread of scripture which referred to Jesus as the Christ.

March 8<sup>th</sup> I spoke at our church and my topic was Jesus the Son of God. I talked about the attributes of God and theorized, speculated and hypothesized how Jesus could be truly human and truly God and still have all the attributes as God. At the same time Paul VanderHorst talked at the Petersburg Church of God Seventh Day and his talk was entitled "Jesus is Lord".

After church we all went over to Magnum Nursing Home for our bi-monthly visit for a short worship service. We sang and prayed with many of the residents there including my Dad, Dale. Part of our abbreviated service Elder Moore gave a talk on we should reach and take hold of something with substance and we should trust God in everything.

We had out our annual "Ladies Tea" soiree this month and the ladies of the church searched the world for the most influential and prominent communicators of our age. This year's speaker was Karla Coll of The Echoes of Happiness fame. She had a slide show and a short ornithology lesson (study of birds) and gave a talk entitled "Under His Wings". It was a lesson on how we reside under the wings of God and we can take refuge, rest and comfort in everyday life with that assurance. Also, the ladies had the tables decorated in such a way that the attendees felt like they were quite literally bathed in the extravagant lap of luxury.

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## Computer's Down

Our new office computer system was down as much as it was working. My co-worker Cathy decided to stay late one evening to catch up on the work that had accumulated. On her way home, a police officer stopped her for speeding. "What a perfect end to an awful day!" she exclaimed. "Our computer is up, then down -- up, then down. I stay late to catch up, and now this!"

The officer was unaffected by Cathy's griping and he went to his car to prepare a citation. After what seemed an eternity, he returned with her license and registration. As he handed them to her, he smiled and said, "Our computer is down."

# Norma Ripley



Norma Ripley, a much beloved charter member of the United Church of the Lord Our Righteousness, passed away on 1 March 2014 in her home town of Roanoke, Virginia. Norma and "Rip" were very active in the Metro Church of LOR. Norma served as the treasurer for over 20 years and even helped out with the piano playing at the Church. Norma always added a touch of class to any effort she undertook. Many of the church socials were coordinated by Norma.

Norma and Rip were active at the Virginia Youth Camp of the UCLOR. The camp was held at the home of Elder Richard and Laura Cooke on the shores of the Shenandoah River. Several times the rising waters of the Shenandoah flooded the Cooke's home and each time Norma was part of the clean-up crew. Eventually, to everyone's delight, the Cookes had their home moved up the hill and away from any additional flooding.

As a young girl Norma came to Washington DC to work with her sister in the Department of State's Passport Office. While employed at the State Dept, Norma met and fell in love with Jerome "Rip" Ripley. They were married in December of 1949.

Norma and Rip had one son, Robert. As Robert began his training in medical school, Norma and Rip elected to move to the area at which Robert was attending school. Robert and his wife Adrina raised four children and Norma and Rip always managed to live close by. Adrina said that during those years of childrearing Norma's constant support and love made her life as a working mom much easier. This is a job which Norma dearly loved.

The grandchildren reflected their love and appreciation of all Norma's care over the years at the funeral service. Each shared favorite memories of their life with Norma.

In addition to Robert, Adrina and the grandchildren, Boyd, Brett, Dana and Demi, Norma is survived by two sisters, Mary (Gabe) Padillo and Ollie Meadows and one brother, Robert (Ruby) White.

-Written by Deborah Layton Stoner