

GOSPEL / INCORRUPTIBLE SEED

A Gospel Message by George Bates. The Meeting House. Randalstown. Co., Antrim. Northern Ireland. UK.

Preached on 18th JULY 1999

READING:- 1 PETER 1 : 23

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

So much of these everyday lives of ours are consciously lived on A HUMAN LEVEL, but with little or no thought of eternity.

Augustine said, "When the Scriptures speak, God speaks".

And God's Word says, "The things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal". II Corinthians 4:18.

We can see our clothes in the wardrobe, and our cars in the garage, and our furniture in the house, but they are all temporal and transient and passing away with the using thereof. (They come and go). But it's only with "The eye of faith" that is opened by the Holy Spirit, using God's Word (the Bible,) that we can see the things that are taking place on the other side of eternity.

Things such as the Joys of Heaven and the Torments of hell.

Our Lord Jesus Christ's stepbrother James said that our lives are only a vapour, appearing for a little time and then vanishing away.

They are only a blip on the screen of Eternity.

*That is why our Wonderful Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ challenged humanity by asking the question, **"What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"**.*

Dear unsaved one, God has AN ETERNAL AGENDA for your individual life, but you could miss it completely.

The life that Almighty God has given to you, has A VERY POWERFUL PLAN AND PURPOSE attached to it, as far as He is concerned, but that plan and purpose can never be revealed to you, (or through you), until your soul is saved, and your life is being lived according to God's will.

That is why, (whether you realise it or not), the Holy Spirit of God has been operating in your life for many years, seeking to single you out from the ungodly crowd, and to convict you of your sins, and lead you to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yet some of us have given no more thought to it, than some pagan heathen in the jungle, who has never even heard God's Word, or the Gospel.

You know full well what you have done, don't you?

You know that you have left God out of your life, and you have grievously sinned against Him.

As He looks with languid eyes upon you in this meeting, He sees your whole life spread out before Him on block, from beginning to end.

He knows that there are times when you wonder if this is hell, that you are already in!

YOU know what it's like to be sick with worry, stress, fear, heartaches and regrets.

Despair and depression are conditions that you know only too well.

Have you come in here tonight wondering "Is this all that there is too life?", let me tell you the good news, "No it is not".

Now before I even open this amazing book, which we call "THE HOLY BIBLE", ...

there are a few things, that I want to bring to your mind, concerning "THE DIVINE INSPIRATION" of the Holy Scriptures, for "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" 2 Timothy 3 vrs 16.

THIS BOOK IS ALIVE!

*It's not like any other book on earth! IT IS A LIVING BOOK!
It's the most valuable commodity on the entire planet, more precious than gold or diamonds!*

*I remember thinking to myself, as an ungodly man,
"Wouldn't it have been fantastic if it really had been, a book that was given to us, by our own Creator!"*

I made the most Surprising Personal Discovery, whenever I came back to The Saviour at 28 years of age, that shook me to my very foundations.

It was to know beyond all shadow of doubt, that it is true, but also that it is THE MOST POTENT POWER IN THE UNIVERSE THAT HUMANITY CAN ACTUALLY HANDLE!

ITS EXISTENCE IS IMMUTABLE! Infinite and unchanging.

ITS TRUTH IS INCORRUPTIBLE!

"We can do nothing against the truth but for the truth". (II Corinthians 13:8.)

ITS AUTHORITY IS INFALLIBLE! (for it is The Word of God.)

ITS LIFE IS INVINCIBLE! and will never be vanquished or conquered!

ITS ETERNAL EXISTENCE IS INDESTRUCTIBLE!

If you are a broken hearted slave, in the fetters and chains of sin!

ITS LIBERATING POWER IS UNQUESTIONABLE!

ITS ORIGIN IS SUPERNATURAL!

Now looking at it outwardly, on a human level, after the manner of men, we see that it is a library of 66 completely separate books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament!

The entire library consists of:-

22 books which are HISTORICAL

18 books which are PROPHETICAL

5 books which are POETICAL

And 21 letters which are INSTRUCTIONAL - they are the epistles.

These books and letters were written by at least 36 different people, and those 36 people lived in many various countries covering 3 continents.

They are written in three different languages!

And in completely different periods of history!

They are separated by time... HISTORICALLY!

They are separated by space... GEOGRAPHICALLY!

They couldn't confer with one another about what they were going to write.

They are separated by culture... INTELLECTUALLY!

For some of the writers were kings, farmers, scientists, lawyers, generals, fishermen, priests, servants of God, Tax collectors, doctors, rich, poor, countrymen and city dwellers!

They couldn't pop into a Bible shop and compare notes.

Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit of God was at work in every generation.

Yet the amazing thing about these 66 books, whenever we put them all together as a library, is the fact that they are all 1 book!

One book, written by one mind, one author with one plan and one purpose and one person in mind... THE INCOMPARABLE LORD JESUS CHRIST! (from Genesis to Revelation)

No matter WHERE we go in this astonishing literature, which claims to be God's revelation to all mankind, we are face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ!

For although Mary's Boy Child Jesus, was born just 2000 years ago, we can see promises that THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD WAS COMING TO EARTH, that date right back to the beginning of time!

In Genesis 3:15 from the very hour that Adam disobeyed God's Will for his life, and brought the curse of the broken law of God upon all humanity. God told the serpent that "the seed of the woman" would one day crush his head.

Even Job said in the oldest book in the Bible that he knew that his Redeemer would stand upon the earth one day.

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me." Job 19:25- 27.

*Indeed our Lord Jesus Christ Himself speaks of
"THE UNBREAKABILITY OF GOD'S WORD"*

He says, "The Scripture cannot be broken" John chapter 10 verse 35.

*And He goes on to speak of
"THE UNSHAKABILITY OF GOD'S TRUTH"*

"It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail" Luke chapter 16 verse 17.

HEAVENLY TRUTH IS MORE SOLID THAN HEAVENLY BODIES.

*We have a greater foundation for our faith in Gods Word, than we have for our feet on this planet!
For Jesus said,*

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away" Matthew 24 verse 35

*And because it came out of the mouth of God and has Almighty authority behind it, we can talk of
"THE IMPREGNABILITY OF GOD'S WORD."*

No Hitler can burn it. No Communist can stamp it out,

No demoniac or Satanic power can fetter it.

Paul told Timothy "The Word of God is not bound" 2nd Timothy chapter 2 verse 9.

THE WORLD WILL DO ANYTHING WITH THE BIBLE - BUT READ IT!

They give it for presents ... prizes ... They swear on it in courtrooms ... Use it as an ornament ... carry it at weddings ... photograph it ... make banners of it, and wooden replicas of it in processions.

And those who actually do read it, twist it to suit themselves at times.

It creates faith in God in our hearts as we read it -

"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God".

It guides us through life "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119 verse 105)

God's Word will give you light concerning THE DIVINE AGENDA for your daily life! ("A Lamp unto my feet" that is up close,) and for the road up ahead. ("A Light unto my Path.")

Dwight Moody said "The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible."

IT EMANCIPATES AND LIBERATES "ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free".

In John chapter 5 verses 39 - 40 As the Jews are harassing the Saviour, Jesus says to them, "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: And they are they that testify of me, And ye will not come to me that ye might have life".

*He still wants to save His very persecutors! ("the Lord willeth not the death of any.")
But their traditional attitudes have brain washed and blinded them.
Only Jesus Christ Our Saviour and Lord can give you eternal life, but you can refuse to come to Him!*

*You can know the Scriptures intellectually and be Lost!
You can know the Scriptures religiously and be doomed and damned!*

*You will remember that the rich man in hell cried to Abraham to send someone back from death to tell his 5 brothers to repent in case they end up in hell with him, and Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them".
What have Moses and the Prophets to do with it?
Well they were inspired by the Holy Spirit of God to write the scriptures.
In other words, they had the Scriptures in their possession and if they won't believe God's Word, then nothing else will convince them.*

*You can know the Scriptures argumentatively and be prepared to debate with Jesus Himself about doctrine (like these Jews,) but the Saviour wants you to know the Scriptures experientially and experimentally in your very life.
You may say "BUT SURE IT IS ALL ONLY WORDS"
The Angel told Cornelius, the Roman Centurion, in Acts 11:13-14, "... Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved."*

HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY GET SAVED?

You hear God's Precious Word being brought to you by the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven, (in a meeting, or as you read the Bible, or perhaps a tract, or maybe a friend witnessing to you of your need), and you believe it, and act upon the Divine promises that are in it, and repent of your sins, and in simple childlike faith embrace God's Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, as your own and personal Saviour:

Our Wonderful Lord Jesus said in John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

Take your eyes off most of what is being presented to you today as being christianity, because so much of it is absolutely false and is totally unscriptural.

Read God's Word (the Bible,) and see for yourself!

*Our Lord Jesus Christ said in **Matthew 4:4**,*

"... It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Some people say to me "SURE IT WAS ONLY WRITTEN BY MEN."

*That is true! The Holy Spirit of God took up those men, and used them to write His Word, and Peter the apostle says in **2 Peter 1:21**, "**For the prophecy (the Holy Scriptures) came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**"*

REMEMBER THAT NO MAN MANIPULATED THIS GREAT SUPERNATURAL BOOK!

Read it, - believe it, - and obey it! Feed it into shoe leather in your life, and stand fast by faith in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

DON'T MISS GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE!

Don't remain in bondage to sin and to the devil, in satan's Spiritual "Alcatraz".

*There is "**abundant life**" in Christ for you, if you will call upon Him for it!*

HE IS THE ALMIGHTY BONDAGE BREAKER, and nothing can stand in His way.

I want to ask the question again tonight,

"HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY GET SAVED?"

For if we don't even know that, then we are really in trouble!

For everything that God has provided through Christ at Calvary can never become ours.

Now right away, if you look to men and their man-concocted religions, you will see that they have corrupted the answer to this simple, basic, fundamental question.

*They won't listen to the apostle Peter telling us how to be "**born again!**"*

*They won't listen to the apostle John telling us how to be "**born again!**"*

*They won't even listen to the Son of God Himself telling us how to be "**born again!**"*

Because they think, that they have developed their own system of making you a "Child of God" and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven" by throwing a few drops of water over you as a baby.

This is called BAPTISMAL REGENERATION.

But it is totally foreign to the Holy Scriptures!

There is not a word about it in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

As a matter of fact God didn't even make any form of adult baptism into a way of Salvation, never mind babies!

*Lets us turn together to **1st Peter chapter 1**, where Peter mentions*

3 INCORRUPTIBLE THINGS in connection with our Salvation, as He writes to those who are already saved by Grace and know it.

*In **Verse 4** he speaks of AN INCORRUPTIBLE INHERITANCE that becomes ours at the moment of Salvation. He tells us that we come into "**... an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in Heaven for you**".*

You can't corrupt it! You cannot defile it!

You cannot have it one minute and then loose it the next!

(We are KEPT by the power of God! That is ETERNAL SECURITY).

It won't fade away! It is reserved in Heaven for you!

It is not deserved in Heaven for you! But by Grace, (the unmerited favour of God,) it is reserved in

Heaven for you!

ITS AN INCORRUPTIBLE INHERITANCE that becomes ours at the moment of Salvation.

Secondly Peter speaks of *THE INCORRUPTIBLE REDEEMING BLOOD OF CHRIST* that saves us, in **verses 18-19**,

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation, (or your aimless manner of life,) received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"

We Believers are redeemed by the Sacrificially Shed Blood of God's Lamb!

We are bought out of the slave market of sin and set gloriously set free!

"And the Blood shall never loose its power"

Because it is incorruptible blood in the Eyes of Almighty God!

Thirdly, in **verse 22 to 25** Peter speaks of *THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED OF GOD'S WORD* that actually saves us.

Verse 23

Do you see what Peter is teaching us here about our new birth and how it actually takes place?

Can you see how Peter says we get saved?

Just as OUR EARTHLY FATHERS implanted and imparted physical life to us with their seed, so also OUR HEAVENLY FATHER implants and imparts Spiritual Life to us with the incorruptible seed through the Word of God, and we receive A New Nature with Eternal Life.

THIS IS NOT BAPTISMAL REGENERATION, IS IT?

This is faith in God's Eternal Word that saves you, by simply believing it, and relying upon it, because He said it.

(Sunday School Chorus:- "Faith is just believing, that what God says He will do")

*The Father is THE MAKER Who initiates and implants and imparts the life, **James chapter 1 and verse 18** says, "Of His Own Will begat He us with the word of truth, ..."*

The Holy Spirit is THE MEDIUM of the life that He imparts.

*(**1 Peter 1:12** talks about men who preached the gospel "with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven").*

*Jesus said in **John chapter 3 verse 6**, "...that which is Born of the Spirit is Spirit"*

The Word of God is THE MEANS, or THE INSTRUMENT used, through which The Life of God is received.

Dear unsaved one, all that you really need to know is, that you get saved by accepting the truth of the Gospel message, that if you repent before God of your sins, and receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then at that moment you are forgiven and redeemed by the Precious Blood of the Lamb.

1 Peter chapter 1 verse 23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Maybe you are saying in your heart, "But I couldn't keep it!"

Friend that's exactly what Peter is saying here!

If you were already saved for 50 years (like some in the meeting,) you still couldn't keep it!

1 Peter 1:24-25, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass.

The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:"

THE FOUNDATION OF THE FLESH IS DOOMED TO FAILURE.

Grass is something that springs from the soil and covers the Earth in its freshness and greenness, but all too soon, it withers and decays and perishes and decomposes back into the Earth again.

*The Psalmist says with regard to evildoers and the workers of iniquity, in **Psalms 37:2**,
"For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb."*

As you drive along the Motorway or look across the fields, you will see the odd flower dotted here, there and yonder.

Just as there are those who are naturally gifted with beautiful looks, or great intellect, or vocally, or physically, in sports, or musically, or financially, or whatever.

But so quickly the Flower fades and falls away!

Just think of Elvis or Marilyn Monroe, or John Lennon or Jimmy Hendrix, Or Princess Di, young John Kennedy, Paula Yates and Michael Hutchinson.

*It does not matter who you may be or who you think that you are, for **Isaiah** and **Peter** say,*

"... all flesh is as Grass, and all the glory of man as the Flower of grass ..."

All the Pomp and Vanity of this wicked world, is Empty and Futile and Temporal and Passing away, along with all our possessions and achievements and accomplishments!

***"Ye must be Born Again"** with Supernatural Life from God, or you cannot even see the Kingdom of God, never mind enter it!*

I know fine well you could not keep it even if you were already saved for a lifetime, but although there isn't a Christian in the world who can keep it, thank God that we still can't lose it either! ...

FOR PETER GOES ON TO SAY

"But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the Word which, by the gospel is preached unto you"

In 3000 million years time, the Word that Christ promised you will not have changed a blink, and never will!

IT IS THE LIVING WORD OF GOD! Not the dead letter!

But the Holy Spirit taking up the Word and making it Living Water for thirsty souls!

God has given unto us exceeding great and precious promises that by these we might become partakers of the Divine nature.

*We must be born of water and of the Spirit. **"Sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth"** (2 Thess 2:13)*

*Peter also says, in **1 Peter chapter 1 verse 23 - 25**,*

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the Word of the Lord endureth for ever.

And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

There is a dynamic power resident in the God breathed Living Word, that imparts eternal life to the hearer who repents and responds to Its call.

*Our Lord Jesus Christ said, in **John's Gospel chapter 6 verse 63**,*

"The words that I speak unto you they are Spirit and they are life".

*Notice that He didn't say "the words that I have spoken unto you," but rather **"the words that I speak unto you."***

For He re-speaks His words unto us by the Holy Spirit of God, whenever He so desires.

I think that it's wonderful to think that as the Saviour Himself, sought to tell the very man who will take Him down from the cross that He is the Person on the Cross.

John 3:14, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up:"

He will be the sacrifice! (John chapter 3 Verse 16).

Would Nicodemus not remember all this as he and Joseph of Arimathaea remove the crown of thorns and the nails?

The Lord has a future plan for this man's life, and I believe it's the same for you.

Jesus said, "I if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto Me"

Not all men without exception. But all men without distinction.

"This He said signifying what death He should die" (a sacrificial death, by crucifixion)

Each one of these redeemed believers who read this letter that Peter sent to them, could remember the Word of the Gospel coming to their hearts and minds for the very first time.

They heard from The Written Word of God how that the Son of God was born of the Blessed virgin Mary and was made flesh and dwelt among us as the Living Word.

We have the written Word of God and the Living Word of God.

He lived a sinless, spotless, faultless, flawless life on earth for over 33 years, and then having fulfilled the Law of God, in every point, He willingly and voluntarily gave His life, as a sacrifice on the old blood-stained rugged cross.

He became a Substitute for us who believe in Him.

The substitutionary victim under the condemnation and wrath of God against your sin and mine, (for He had no sins of His Own).

So that we receive Him and trust in Him as our Saviour.

God is fully satisfied with Christ's offering on our behalf and reckons us to be eternally righteous in His sight.

He raised Jesus from the dead, for it was not right that He should remain dead.

"The wages of sin is death..." But He had no sin wages to collect.

In other words they heard the Gospel, as the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven singled out those who were to be saved that night from the rest of the crowd and convicted them of their sins and brought them to believing faith in the Saviour.

THEY DIDN'T NEED TO LEAVE THE MEETING.

They got saved there and then. They obeyed the Gospel call and appropriated God's Salvation into their hearts by simply accepting Jesus as their own and personal Saviour and the amazing Grace of God saved them for all eternity.

1 Peter chapter 1 verse 23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

OH POOR BACKSLIDER!

HOW CAN YOU TURN YOUR BACK UPON ONE WHO LOVES YOU SO DEARLY?