



“He Who Regards The Clouds...” (Cont. from pg. 3)

thing to have a realistic understanding of the possible challenges of the future, excessive anxiety will keep us from “reaping” the fruit the future may bring.

By Kyle Pope

What God Hath Promised

Annie Johnson Flint

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways,
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.

But God hath promised
Strength for the day,
Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love.

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Faithful Sayings

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Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
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“He Who Regards the Clouds...”

Ecclésiastes 11:14 reads – “**He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.**” (11:4). In a literal sense the wisdom of this is evident. The farmer who allows himself to become overly concerned with the threat of strong winds will not be busy working to plant his crops. Nor will he bring in a bountiful harvest if he is constantly worried about impending storm clouds. The wise farmer must sow and reap with a quiet determination. He must keep his mind on his work, without allowing possible dangers to distract him. Such a worker is not ignorant of the possibility of disaster, he simply keeps himself from being hindered by it. In a figurative sense the same is true in a number of other areas in our life of service to God. (Cont. on pg 2)



“He Who Regards The Clouds...” (Cont. from pg. 1)

OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL

Many a soul has died outside of Christ, having never been obedient to the gospel because they “regard the clouds.” They know what the Bible calls upon them to do in obedience to the Lord, yet they are overly concerned with what might lay ahead if they make the commitment.

Jesus does teach us about the importance of “counting the cost” in passages such as Luke 14:27-33 which uses the illustration of the king counting the cost of going to war or the builder the cost of building a tower. These teachings do not, however, alter the necessity of action. All who are obedient to the gospel will struggle with faithfulness. They will face periods of strength and periods of weakness. We come into Christ as “babes.” No one ever comes to Christ fullgrown. It is a



process of maturity. Even so, one should never allow the fear of future struggles to keep them from coming to Christ initially. “...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (II Corinthians 6:2).

EVANGELISM.

It is the duty of every child of God to try and win the lost to Christ. Sadly many Christians never act upon opportunities they have because they “regard the clouds.” They worry about being unable to answer certain questions. Or perhaps they fear that their answers may turn someone away.

The Bible does teach that few should be teachers (James 3:1). Yet, all are instructed to be prepared to give an answer. I Peter 3:15 tells us – **“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”** The responsibility of the child of God is (by and large) to

simply offer the Word of God to others. Not all will be touched by Scripture. Some will be offended by it. While we should do our best to present God’s Word in a way that is gentle, honest and simple; when we have done this we should not be overly burdened by the consequences. That is to say, if someone rejects the message of Scripture which you have given them, don’t “beat yourself up” about it. They are not rejecting you, they are rejecting God’s Word! Our task is to plant the seeds of truth, leaving it to God to work on the hearts of the hearers (through His Word) to bring about a change in their lives. The Apostle Paul said of his own efforts – **“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”** (I Corinthians 3:6).

LIFE’S UNCERTAINTIES

Changes in life are always unsettling. As Christians they are no less traumatic. The difference between the way the child of God may view the un-

certainties of life and the way the non-Christian must view life hinges upon the promises God has given to His people. The child of God can know that God is always present with them through good times and bad. (Matthew 28:20). They can have the assurance that God will not allow them to face circumstances that are too harsh for their faith to endure. (I Corinthians 10:13). The child of God has the promise that in seeking the kingdom of heaven they will have the necessities of life. (Matthew 6:33). God fulfills this through our own faithful work, through the faithful love of our brethren and through His own providence in supplying the materials and opportunities to meet these necessities.

Often, a Christian may face life’s uncertainties as one who “regards the clouds.” We worry and fret about what we will do when some hardship befalls us. Or we become depressed and despondent fearing some other remote disaster. While it is one (Cont. on pg 4)

