



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

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THE ESCHATOLOGICAL HERESIES OF HAROLD CAMPING AND HIS WRONG DIVISION OF THE WORD OF TRUTH

By Wayne Camp

TEXT: 2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (10) And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. (11) And for this cause God shall send them strong

delusion, that they should believe a lie: (12) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

INTRODUCTION

At the root of most false doctrine that is taught in the so-called **Christian** world is a failure to rightly divide the word of truth. I should say in the beginning that Paul's admonition to Timothy suggests clearly that there is the **(Continued Page2, Left Column)**

STEADFASTNESS OF PURPOSE AND THAILAND REPORT

By Wayne Camp

**Luke 9:51; Luke 12:50
Acts 20:22-24; Acts 21:13
1 Corinthians 15:58**

INTRODUCTION

If you read the Scriptures that have been presented you will see that they show a determination to steadfastness. The first group of Scriptures shows the determination of Jesus Christ to fulfill his mission on earth even to the death of the cross. The second group of Scriptures shows the determination of the apostle Paul to finish the course which God had given him even unto death. The final Scripture is an admonition to God's people to be like-minded in steadfastness. Note that we are to **always** be abounding in the work of the Lord.

There are three basic thoughts that I will set

forth in this message. First, ***I will call your attention to the holy determination of Jesus Christ to complete the work which God had given him to do.*** Second, ***I want to call your attention to the dedication of Paul to his divine call to the ministry and his steadfastness in fulfilling his work.*** Third, ***we will look at some admonitions that we have the same holy determination to press on steadfastly with an application to our calling in Thailand missions.***

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS CHRIST IN STEADFASTLY PURSUING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE CAME INTO THE WORLD

When it came time for Jesus to be crucified, to rise again, and ascend back to heaven Jesus **(See DETERMINATION Cont. P. 7, L. Col.)**

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possibility of wrong division of the word of truth. There is some heresy among Christians so-called that is founded in the personal opinions of those who propagate this false doctrine. But in the main, false doctrine is the result of wrong division of the word of truth.

There are a number of reasons why men do not rightly divide God's word. Sadly, some wrong division is because of the sheer ignorance of the interpreters of Scripture. It is not because they desire to teach heresy but because they simply do not know how to apply

the simple rules of interpretation when they read the word of God. Some people use more sense when they read a newspaper than they do when they read the word of God. Let me use a simple illustration that I've used over the years on this matter. By using wrong division of the word I can prove that it is wrong to split wood. Scripture says, ***What God***



DISAPPOINTED FOLLOWER OF HAROLD CAMPING SPENT LIFE SAVINGS OF \$140,000 ON BILLBOARDS

has joined together let not man put asunder. I think all will agree that God causes trees to grow and therefore joins the wood in the tree together. If I totally ignore the context and simple rules of interpretation I can prove that one should not split that wood apart. Of course any Bible student knows that that command refers to marriage not to splitting wood.

I was in a home one time and was discussing doctrine with a person who'd visited the church I pastored. She made some statements that were utterly untrue based on wrong division. I explained to her that she could not correctly interpret Scripture in the manner she was using. I told her that using her method of interpretation I could prove that she ought to kill herself. She challenged that statement. I told her that Scripture says that ***Judas went out and hung himself.*** It also says ***go thou and do likewise.*** She immediately began to backtrack on some arguments she had made. This may sound absurd but it is no more absurd than many false teachers in their interpretation of Scripture.

More often than not, however, heresy is the result of one form of deceit or another. More than one inspired writer declared that one of the means used by false teachers is deceit. False teachers may be interested more in making money than in preaching the truth. One classic



CAMPING'S DOOMSDAY BUS

example is Harold Camping, an 89 year old retired engineer who has built a multi-million dollar "nonprofit" ministry in which he has specialized in eschatological apocalyptic preaching. From my research I have come to the conclusion that some false teachers are simply cold, calculating, moneygrubbing deceivers. In this article I will focus especially on Harold Camping.

In 1992 he predicted that Jesus would come on September 6, 1994. When that day came and passed he said that it was a mathematical error that caused him to miss the date. When asked by a reporter for the Associated Press if he was embarrassed by the failure of his prediction he said that he was not. He passed it off as a simple mathematical error. He assured the reporter that the new date that he set of May 21, 2011, was absolutely certain. He said, "God has given sooo (sic) much information in the Bible about this, and so many proofs, and so many signs, that we know it is absolutely going to happen without any question at all." He predicted the rapture would take place on May 21, 2011, two hundred million people would be in the rapture, and then all the unsaved would begin to be destroyed by a terrible earthquake and then other earthquakes and plagues and on October 21, 2011, the world will be destroyed in a big bang.

Now we know that the rapture did not happen. Camping now says the rapture did take place on May 21, 2011. He says it was not a bodily, physical rapture of 200 million people but

a spiritual rapture. The bodily rapture is now actually scheduled for October 21, 2011. "It won't be spiritual on October 21st," Camping said, adding, "the world is going to be destroyed all together, but it will be very quick." Camping speculated that perhaps a merciful God decided to spare humanity five months of "hell on earth."

Did Camping reap any monetary benefits from his false predictions? Indeed he did! Reports are that he raked in \$80 million. In addition to these funds, followers of Camping have spent millions of dollars putting up billboards and using other means to advertise the coming rapture which did not come. One man spent his life's savings of \$140,000 on billboards and other means of announcing the coming rapture. **2 Peter 2:1-3 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2) And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. (3) And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.** Harold Camping is truly making merchandise of his followers.

There is so much heresy in Camping's eschatological blunders and wrong division of a number of scriptures it's almost impossible to know where to start. First, he ignored the clear teaching of Jesus about the time of his coming. **Matthew 24:36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.** It is clear from this verse that there is no way that Camping could have known the time of the second coming of Christ.

Another Scripture which Camping wrongly applies is **Amos 3:7. Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.** He wrongly applies this verse to himself even though he has twice predicted the rapture and it did not come. Camping may be a prophet, but he is a false prophet who prophesies lies.

He argues that since Noah knew the time that the flood would come he knew the time that the rapture would come. **Genesis 7:4** *For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.* He is too blind to see that Noah was truly a prophet of God and that he was right the **first** time.

Camping also argues that Abraham knew when Sodom and tomorrow would be destroyed. He forgets that Abraham was a prophet of God while he is not. **Genesis 19:15** *And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.*

Camping even has the audacity to use the actions of Jesus to prove his ability to tell when the rapture would come. **Luke 24:45** *Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.* On his website he has the Scripture noted. <http://www.wecanknow.com/> It is not unusual for such false prophets to place themselves on an equality with Jesus Christ.

On the website given in the last paragraph Camping sites a number of other Scriptures to justify his claim that he knows the time of the second coming of Christ and of the doomsday that will follow. I will only mention one other verse at this time. **Jonah 3:4** *And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.*

What Camping carefully does not note in his writing is that these things came to pass at exactly the time that God had declared through his prophets they would come to pass. He needs to study the Scriptures which tell of what happens if a prophet prophesies and it does not come to pass. He needs to study Scripture which tell us how to identify false teachers. **Deuteronomy 18:22** *When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of*

him. Two times Mr. Camping has prophesied that Jesus was going to return at a certain time. Two times it has not come to pass. What does that say about Mr. Camping? First, it tells us that the Lord did not tell him either in the Bible or in his own corrupt mind that Jesus would return on those dates. Second, it tells us that Camping has spoken presumptuously. Third, it tells us that we should not be afraid to expose his heresy.

I once preached a sermon in which I exposed the error of several false teachers. A person who was in the audience said to me, "Brother Camp, aren't you afraid to do things like that?" I assured the person that I was not afraid to do such things. False prophets are not to be feared. I was even accused one time by Pentecostal of committing the sin of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost because I spoke disparagingly about Oral Roberts and pointed out some of his fake miracles. It is plainly stated in the word of God that we should expose such heresy and that we should not be afraid of speaking out against false prophets. **1 Timothy 4:1-6** *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of...If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. Deuteronomy 13:1-3* *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, (2) And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; (3) Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

On more than one occasion people have asked me why God doesn't just kill such false prophets as Harold Camping. On occasion God has done that as I will show a little later. But, as may be seen from the last Scripture, God allows false prophets to prove his people. Will we

follow the teachings of such heretics as Harold Camping? Or will we search the Scriptures to see if what they are teaching is the truth. In the case of a person such as Camping all we have to do is to see if what they say comes to pass as they said it would.

Under the Law of Moses Israel was to put to death false prophets that rose up on some occasions. **Deuteronomy 18:20** *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.* Yet, the ecumenical spirit has so invaded even some true churches that there are those who oppose the exposure of false teachers and their false doctrine.

On at least one occasion God killed a false prophet himself. A prophet rose up and disputed the word of Jeremiah which God had told him to speak unto Israel. I would encourage you to read the 28th chapter of the book of Jeremiah. But the truth is that God did not let that prophet live. In the last three verses of chapter 28 of Jeremiah we find the following. **Jeremiah 28:15-17** *Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. (16) Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD. (17) So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the sev and enth month.* The words of Hananiah did not come to pass. The words of the prophet Jeremiah did come to pass including the death of Hananiah. Israel could thereby know that Hananiah was a false prophet and Jeremiah was the true prophet of God.

When Harold Camping prophesied in 1992 that Jesus Christ would return in 1994 his followers should have known that he was a false prophet when that prophecy did not come to pass. But here we have a case of the blind leading the blind. When he prophesied that Christ would return on May 21, 2011, and it did not happen one would think that his followers would have easily recognized again he was a heretic and false prophet. But, it appears that

they still gullibly follow him. He has now moved the date forward to October 21, 2011. I wonder, when that day comes to pass and nothing happens if they will finally see that he is a heretic. Perhaps, they have such a strong delusion that they will continue to believe his lies. **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (11)** *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: (12) That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.* It is rather ludicrous that Camping makes the following application of the second chapter of Second Thessalonians. He wrote, "When we study 2 Thessalonians 2 we realize that as a result of the churches' desire to cling to their doctrines without continually re-examining them, God sends them strong delusion to keep them in their lies." He is so blind that he cannot see that the very thing that he sets forth is much more applicable to him than the others. Each time he is wrong he continues to cling to his lies. Each time he is wrong most of his followers continue to cling to his lies.

There was some extreme disappointment among the most ardent followers of Harold Camping after May 21. The following is from an article from the Washington Post:

Retired MTA worker Robert Fitzpatrick, who spent his life savings spreading the message, said to Reuters after the promised event failed to manifest:

"I do not understand why..." as his speech broke off and he looked at his watch.

"I do not understand why nothing has happened."

The Associated Press also reported on the Camping aftermath, speaking with Keith Bauer, a Maryland tractor-trailer driver who drove his family cross-country to witness the Rapture at Family Radio's California headquarters. "I was hoping for it because I think heaven would be a lot better than this earth," Bauer said.

Adrienne Martinez, 27 and pregnant, gave up medical school and her family's life savings to spread the message of May 21. Her baby is due next month.

The Family Radio station airwaves, which were often filled with the sonorous voice of

Howard Camping, went quiet on May 21. It played pre-recorded church music, devotionals and life advice throughout the day. Camping says he will be back at work at the station Monday.

Family Radio also redesigned its Web site after the Rapture failed to occur. Leading up to May 21, their site led with a line from the bible that said: "blow the trumpet...warn the people," and a guarantee that the Rapture would occur that day. After May 21, the site was redesigned to show a globe and a headline: "Sound of a New Life."

One Family Radio follower and board member, Tom Evans, told NPR, "I don't know where we went wrong other than that we obviously don't understand the Scriptures in the way that we should." Evans says he does not want Family Radio to recalculate and announce a new date for Judgment Day, and that he hopes the organization will repay people who gave money to the cause.

Another man NPR (National Public Radio) interviewed, "his voice quavering," said he was still holding out hope that they were one day off.

Camping is now declaring that what he had prophesied happened. But, following the example of other date setters he said that he was wrong to expect it physically. It actually happened spiritually. This is not an unfamiliar explanation for failed predictions. When William Miller predicted that Christ would come in 1843 and he didn't come Miller claimed that he had miscalculated he would actually come on October 22, 1844. When that failed, he claimed that what he had predicted actually did happen but that it happened spiritually and in heaven his followers continued and established what is known today as the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When the Jehovah's Witnesses predicted that Jesus would come in 1914 and that failed they offered a similar mis-explanation. They say that he really did come and set up his kingdom. On the official website the Jehovah's Witnesses claim, "1914 indeed marked the birth of God's heavenly Kingdom."

Others have predicted the end of the age, the second coming and other related events. Some readers will remember Hal Lindsay's 1970 book,

The Late Great Planet Earth, or his follow-up book, *The 1980s: Countdown to Armageddon*. In the latter book Lindsay predicted, "The decade of the 1980s could very well be the last decade of history as we know it"?

These so-called "spiritual" explanations contradict Scripture. They contradict the words of Jesus himself in the Revelation he gave to John on the island of Patmos. ***Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.***

They contradict the words of Job. ***Job 19:25-26 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: (26) And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.***

They contradict the words of the Apostle Paul. ***Philippians 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (21) Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.***

They contradict the words of the prophet ***Zechariah. Zechariah 14:4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.***

When Jesus left the earth he ascended from the Mount of Olives and was seen by several of his disciples. Shortly thereafter the angel declared he will return in like manner as you've seen him go into heaven. ***Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*** When Jesus left he left visibly and bodily from the earth. When he returns he will return to the earth visibly and bodily.

When Jesus comes again he will descend from heaven with a shout and with the voice of the Archangel and the sound of a trumpet. **1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, (52) In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

When we examine the teachings William Miller, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and Harold Camping in which they claim a spiritual, invisible return of Christ in the light of the clear teachings of the word of God we find them to be liars. **Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.**

Let us remember the words of the apostle Paul. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of**

(DETERMINATION Cont. From Page 1) steadfastly set his face to go up to Jerusalem. Our Lord knew that it was at Jerusalem that he would be put to death.

Jesus carefully taught his disciples that he must go up to Jerusalem and die. He was fully committed to this assigned purpose. **Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.**

A number of times during his ministry the enemy sought to kill him. He was not afraid to die. As a matter of fact he made it very clear that it was for that purpose that he came into the world. **Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.** The thing we must always keep in mind

Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. Just remember Dear Reader, many false prophets are gone out into the world and Harold Camping is definitely one of them.

Let me close with Paul's admonition to the members of the church in Thessalonica. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (2) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. (3) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.** Millions have allowed a cold, calculating, moneygrubbing Harold Camping to deceive them. Let us pray that God may grant them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth that they may recover themselves from the snare of the devil who has taken them captive.

is that not only did he have that purpose but there was a time for that purpose to be fulfilled. Until that time came no man could take his life from him. But when his hour was come he steadfastly set his face to go up to Jerusalem to be crucified.

Jesus repeatedly taught his disciples that this was an absolute necessity. We just noticed that at a given time that Jesus began to teach his disciples this (Mat. 16:21). Now just a little bit later Jesus again sets this truth before his disciples. **Matthew 17:22-23 And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: (23) And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.**

That would not be the last time they would hear this. He continued to keep this before them and before us in his word. **Matthew 26:2 Ye know that after two days is the feast of the**

passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified. An angel reminded his disciples after his death and resurrection that he had taught them this great truth about the necessity of his death. He wanted them to understand that he was here for a purpose and that purpose must be fulfilled. And even after it was fulfilled he had his messenger remind them of his teaching. **Luke 24:6-8 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, (7) Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. (8) And they remembered his words.**

There were times when Jesus faced opposition from his own disciples. They did not want him to die as he must. When Jesus began to teach his disciples that he must go up to Jerusalem to die Peter did not quietly acquiesce. **Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.**

When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus Peter interfered with that. **Matthew 26:51-54 And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. (52) Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. (53) Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (54) But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?** Though he could have prayed for the father to send legions of angels to deliver him he was determined to fulfill the work. Interference from his disciples and from Satan could not deter him.

Jesus did not leave it there. In his resurrection appearances he reminded his disciples of the times that he had taught them that he would die and rise again after three days and three nights. When he walked with two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus he reminded them of this truth. They were very discouraged. They thought surely that by this

time they would've seen him. See his words to these two distraught disciples in the following verses. **Luke 24:25-26 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: (26) Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?**

After these two disciples returned to Jerusalem and told the other disciples that they had seen the risen Christ, Jesus appeared to them and again reminded them of the things he had taught them about his death and resurrection during his ministry. **Luke 24:44-47 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. (45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, (46) And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: (47) And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

In all of these things we see this steadfastness of the Lord Jesus Christ in fulfilling the work given to him by the father. **John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.** When it came time for him to die Jesus could say, **John 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.** His perfect steadfastness made this possible.

THE STEADFASTNESS OF PAUL IN PURSUING THE WORK TO WHICH GOD HAD CALLED HIM

Paul steadfastly pursued the work which God had called him to do even in the face of possible persecution and death. **Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.** Paul and his coworkers were in Caesarea at the house of

Philip the evangelist. A certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea and warned Paul of the danger that faced him in Jerusalem. He took Paul's girdle and bound his own hands and declared that the owner of that girdle would be bound by the Jews in Jerusalem and delivered to the Gentiles. When his coworkers and the Christians in Caesarea tried to persuade Paul to not go to Jerusalem Paul strongly expressed his determination to go. **Acts 21:13-14** *Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. (14) And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done.* As v-14 shows us the brethren ceased trying to persuade him and left the matter in the hands of the Lord. Paul was called of God and was committed to do the will of God even if it meant dying at Jerusalem.

Paul was always ready to preach the gospel wherever God may lead him. **1 Corinthians 9:16** *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!* Time and time again Paul expressed his resolute determination to pursue the course God had given him. All the hounds of hell could not deter him. If it took him to Rome, to Rome he would go. After all, the Lord had told him that he must bear witness of him in Rome. **Acts 23:11** *And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.* In his epistle to the brethren at Rome he expressed his determination to bear witness of Christ in that pagan city. **Romans 1:14-15** *I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. (15) So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.*

Paul had been called to a ministry and he was not about to faint as he labored to fulfill the ministry. **2 Corinthians 4:1** *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not.* A man without such holy determination would have fainted in face of the things that the apostle Paul faced. **2**

Corinthians 4:8-11 *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; (9) Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; (10) Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. (11) For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

Another thing that added to Paul's determination to do the will of God in his life was the fact that he knew he was appointed to suffer afflictions. **1 Thessalonians 3:3** *That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.* Appointed to afflictions? Absolutely! Consider God's words to Ananias when he sent that man of God to baptize Paul. **Acts 9:15-16** *But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: (16) For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.*

As Paul was facing death he was able to rejoice because he had run the race to the finish line. **2 Timothy 4:6-8** *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. (7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

This past year in the Bible school Brother Billy Holladay reviewed the book of Acts. I sat through all of those lessons and was repeatedly amazed at how often the apostle Paul endured suffering and while still bruised and beaten, and doubtless severely sore from the beatings he had received, he would head out to another city to preach the gospel. I was amazed at the holy determination of this suffering man of God that caused him to keep on in the battle regardless of how he felt physically. At times I would bow my head and silently pray for God to give me the same determination that Paul had.

ADMONITIONS THAT WE HAVE THE SAME HOLY DETERMINATION TO PRESS ON STEADFASTLY TO FULFILL OUR CALLING IN THAILAND MISSIONS.

We are admonished to be steadfast and unmovable in our work for the Lord. **1 Corinthians 15:58** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.* The words stedfast and unmovable are very similar in meaning. They have several implications. First, there is a tendency for even Christians to waver in their doctrinal beliefs when it appears that they are not coming to pass or when there is opposition in controversy. For instance, Paul has just spoken of the coming glorification of the saints at the return of Jesus Christ. I recall a brother in one church that I pastored saying something expressing some doubt about the certain return of Jesus Christ. I had preached on the second coming. He said, "Brother Camp, I have heard that preached all my Christian life and before. But it hasn't happened and sometimes I wonder if it will happen." That is exactly what Paul had in mind when he called on the saints to be steadfast and unmovable.

In a similar vein to that mentioned above Paul called on the saints at Thessalonica to not be soon shaken in mind concerning the coming of the Lord. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-3** *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (2) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. (3) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.* Regardless of what one believes about the imminent return of Jesus Christ we must keep in mind that there are certain things that must come to pass before that glorious event will occur. That is exactly what Paul is dealing with in the verse above. Certain things must come to pass! **That day**

shall not come, except... declared the apostle Paul. There are always those who will set dates as I pointed out in another article in this issue. Because of this some people will become disheartened and think that the promise is not sure. But it is sure! That day will come. Let no man move us from our steadfastness.

Paul wrote to the Christians in Colosse urging them to be steadfast in their service for God. **Colossians 1:23** *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.*

Steadfastness also implies persevering in our service to God. Paul covers that when he says, **"always abounding in the work of the Lord."** Paul wrote to the Thessalonians urging them to persevere in their service for God. **1 Thessalonians 4:1** *Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.*

How do these things affect the work in Thailand. People have asked me, "Why do you keep going to Thailand?" God called me to do that work and he has not relieved me of that work yet. I admit that there are times that I think about quitting. When I do I always think about something a brother said in one of the churches when I went there to preach during this last school term. I have related it before but I will again. Knowing that I had to sit down to preach because of the bad foot that I have this brother said something to this effect, "We are thankful that you come here to preach to us. We want you to preach to us even though you have to sit down to preach. And, if you have to lie down to preach to us we still want you to preach to us."

Brother Lee makes two trips a year to Thailand because he feels the same burden about the work there. Some days they will leave out early in the morning and not return until late in the night. It is not easy. It is not a vacation. Brother Anond works long days and travels many miles preaching to the churches because he is motivated by the same call.

When I think of Jesus Christ and his determination to go up to Jerusalem and to suffer the death of the cross I am encouraged and motivated to keep on keeping on as long as the Lord would have me to do so. When I think of the apostle Paul in those times when he was beaten (at one time left for dead) yet he kept on. Bruised and sore he would head out to preach in another city.

Brother Anond called me the other day with a question. There are some brethren who plan to come from Burma to school this year. Others who live very near the Burma border also plan to come. The brethren from Burma have requested not only to come to school but they have asked if they could take outlines of the lessons we teach in school and teach them in their churches in Burma. Of course, that would just be another way of getting the word out.

Let me thank all of you who have helped in this work. Thank you for contributing to my support while I'm doing the work. I am so grateful to those churches and individuals who have and continue to support me and the work there. ***Philippians 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*** I think of the words of the apostle Paul when he asked four very important questions in Romans 10:14-15. One of the questions Paul asked was, ***"How shall they preach, except they be sent?"*** Thank you for helping to send us. May God bless you and your continued labor for Christ.

Bible Conference With New Groups Near Burma Border (Some From Burma)



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

2424 Ridgecrest Dr.
Choctaw, OK 73130

October 20-22, 2011

SPEAKERS:

**Paul Brown, J. C. Fulton, Herb Hatfield,
Laurence Justice, Forrest Keener,
James McDowell, Dean Robinson,
Mikal Smith**

**Dr. Royce Smith, Pastor
(405) 769-6551**

E-Mail royce_baptist@yahoo.com
Visit our Church Web Site at
bethelbaptistchurchok.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

On Sunday, August 21, 2011, Bro. Jack Duplechain and Virginia joined Central Baptist Church, Grenada, Ms. We welcome Bro. Jack and Virginia as members of our church. Bro. Duplechain is available to preach wherever the Lord gives him opportunity, whether it be pulpit supply, Bible conferences, or meetings. If you would like to contact Bro Duplechain, his number is 1-901-292-5575. He can also be reached through Central Baptist Church, P.O. Box 876 Grenada, Ms. 38902 or 1-662-226-2715.

Bill Lee Pastor
Central Baptist Church

SCHEDULE FOR FALL MEETING

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

GRENADA MISSISSIPPI

SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2011

PREACHER: BROTHER LEE ROY DUTTON

SERVICE TIMES

Friday 7:00 PM

Saturday 11:00 AM 7:00 PM

Sunday 11:00 AM 5:00 PM

PASTOR BILL LEE

Phone: 662-226-715

E-mail: billandjan@cableone.net

VISITORS WELCOME

SPECIAL SERVICES

McArthur Dr. Baptist Church

109 N McArthur Dr,
North Pekin, IL 61554-1134

September 7-11, 2011

SERVICE TIMES

6:30 PM Wednesday-Saturday

Sunday Services

10:40 AM 6:00 PM

PREACHER: WAYNE CAMP

MISSIONARY TO THAILAND

PASTOR: BOBBY BARNHILL

PHONE: 1-309-382-3355

VISITORS WELCOME

16TH ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

November 3-5, 2011

Bible Conference Theme: *Jesus is Lord*

Conference Speakers

Laurence Justice, Roger Dohrer, Steve Raines, Dean Robinson, Mike Whisznant, Phil Parks

Pastor: Dan W. Cozart

Phones

Office: 903-561-7664

Home: 903-530-6094

E-mail: gracebap@att.net

Website: www.gracebaptisttyler.net

Please check our website for further information concerning the conference and for suggested places to stay.

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