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## Three Pearls of Great Price : studies in Proverbs

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# Three Pearls of Great Price

STUDIES IN PROVERBS

by CHESTER J. PADGETT, D.D.



as given over

**THE BIBLE INSTITUTE HOUR**

APRIL, 1957



# THREE PEARLS OF GREAT PRICE

(Proverbs 5-6)

I am greatly condensing the truth when I deal with these two chapters in one message, for there are at least three truths emphasized in this portion of the Word of God which deserve full treatment. But in limited space I cannot deal adequately with the subjects. The material is presented here in brief outline form, trusting that each reader will make a more thorough study of the section for himself.

## PURITY

(Chapter 5)

The three topics dealt with in these two chapters are as follows: (1) purity, (2) honesty, (3) industry. Let us examine the teaching. First, the Holy Spirit deals with purity in chapter five. Certainly this is a needed teaching in his day of loose living. Satan is busy seeking to destroy the very foundation of social structure — the moral life of the individual. With reference to the believer, let us think of some of the reasons why the Christian should guard with extreme care and utmost jealousy this sacred area of his life.

In the first place, the Christian will keep himself pure because he is a child of God. This is the argument of I Corinthians 6:9-11 and of Ephesians 4:1. Because the believer is a member of the family of God, he should want to live a pure life. The Bible teaches that a true Christian cannot be devoted to evil. Holiness is the distinctive mark of the believer; and, although he may slip here and there, and fall, his general direction of life is ever upward toward God.

The believer will keep himself pure because he is a member of the body of Christ. This is the teaching of I Corinthians 6:13-17. Study these verses. One of Paul's favorite expressions is "in Christ" (cf. Ephesians 1:3). By this phrase he means that the believer is as much a part of Christ as the cells of one's body are a part of him. Whatever the believer does he is, in effect, making Christ do, because Christ and the believer are one (Galatians 2:20). The truth of the believer's identity with Christ is intended to help him to promote holiness and purity in his life.

The third reason that the believer should live in purity is that his body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19-20). The Spirit of God took up His residence in the believer at the moment of his regeneration (Romans 8:9). The Holy Spirit will never leave that position. As the divine resident in the believer, He seeks to produce purity as well as the other Christian graces mentioned in the Bible. In order to do this the Spirit must have the willing cooperation of the believer. When the Christian realizes that he does not

belong to himself but to God through the right of purchase and that the Holy Spirit dwells in him, he will want to keep himself pure.

There is one other reason why the Christian will live a pure life. He knows that he must one day give an account of his life at the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Corinthians 5:10). This text speaks of both judgment and reward. It speaks of things done in the body whether they be good or bad! It is true that no believer will ever stand in danger of losing his salvation, but he does stand in danger of losing his reward. More than this, I Corinthians 3:12-15, teaches that it is possible for the believer to "suffer loss" — and this in Heaven.

## HONESTY

(6:1-5)

This paragraph deals with the important subject of telling the truth. A man should say what he means and mean what he says. Double talk God despises. The Bible is the evidence of God's love for truth, for every word in the Bible is completely true and expresses exactly what God intends to say. Our Lord said, "Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). The Lord Jesus is the crowning proof of the veracity of God, for He calls Himself "*the truth . . .*" (John 14:6).

Now, what are the various areas of human experience in which truthfulness is required? In the first place, every man should be *honest with God*. Study Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 in this connection. It is far better not to vow unto God if you have no intention of paying your vow. And when you do vow to God, or promise Him anything, it is the part of wisdom to do that thing you have promised. Think of the vow you made when you opened your heart and life to Christ; when you followed the Saviour in baptism; when you united with the church; when you promised Him that you would tithe, read your Bible every day, pray every day, and witness at every opportunity! Have you been keeping these vows?

The believer should be *honest with himself*. Many a Christian is cheating himself out of blessing by neglecting the nurture of his spiritual life. He is being dishonest with himself when he does not let the Spirit of God lead in his life. He is not honest with himself when he does not invest his total life for the glory of God and the honor of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The believer should be *honest with his friends and neighbors*. Paul tells us that every believer is a debtor to the whole world to tell the gospel (Romans 1:14.) If the Christian is not making some effort to pay this debt — by telling the story himself, by helping to



build the church, by giving that others may go, etcetera — he is being dishonest and is not paying his debt to men.

The believer should be *honest with the church*. The church is, in a sense, the believer's spiritual mother. It is the place where the believer receives food and encouragement and protection. The believer should love the church and be honest with the church by attendance and service.

Are there incentives to honesty of life? There certainly are. One of these is the fact that God is honest with us. Not one of His promises has ever failed the believer, for God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). If God is thus every faithful to the believer, should not the believer be ever faithful to God?

Another reason for being honest is that honesty is the best policy. It pays to tell the truth. One lie leads to another, and every lie is like another thread in a spider's web — eventually the liar will be trapped in his own net. A man never makes a mistake by telling the truth even if it seems that to tell the truth will cause him to suffer some loss. Peace of mind and a clear conscience are worth more than temporary gain made possible by an untruth.

#### INDUSTRY

(Proverbs 6:6-11)

This is an interesting Scripture. God uses all nature to teach spiritual truth, as William Shakespeare has well said,

And this our life, exempt from public haunt,  
Finds tongues in trees, books in running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing.

In our text God sends us to the lowly ant to learn a lesson of vast importance. Now, what can a man learn from an ant? For one thing he can learn *the virtue of being busy*. The devil has little trouble finding evil for idle hands to do. Is this not one of the reasons why the Apostle speaks thus to believers: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). It was this same truth a Swedish poet had in mind when he wrote:

Live for Jesus! All the gladness  
That may come from earthly things,  
Equals not one hour's enjoyment  
Which His blessed service brings.

Live for Jesus! for thus only  
Does our life deserve the name!  
To thy heart, before all others,  
Jesus has a perfect claim.

Live for Jesus! round His banner  
Gather souls while time doth last;  
To His cross invite poor sinners,  
Soon the workday will be past.

Thousands of such wanderers round thee  
After peace and comfort sigh;  
Tell them of the Friend who only  
Can their longings satisfy.

Tell them simply of salvation  
Thou thyself in him hast found;  
Of the grace and loving kindness  
Wherewith He thy life has crowned.

Live for Jesus! Life's young springtime  
Give Him, and thy summer's prime;  
Live for Him when fading autumn  
Speaks to thee of shortening time.

Give thyself entirely to Him;  
Thus He gave Himself for thee;  
When He died on earth despised,  
When He died on Calvary.

Give up all for Him, well knowing,  
Thus to lose is all to gain;  
Live for Jesus, till with Jesus  
Thou for ever rest and reign.

Another lesson the observer may learn from the ant is that of *quiet and unassuming service*. Watch the ants in their ceaseless toil. There is no sound, no blaring of trumpets, no apparent effort at ostentation. Study Matthew 6:1-7 and Romans 14:22 in this connection. Dr. Andrew Bonar on one occasion made a study of Christian service. This is his analysis:

Personal ambition .....	23	parts
Love of praise .....	19	"
Pride of denomination .....	15	"
Pride of talent .....	14	"
Love of authority .....	12	"
Bigotry .....	10	"
Love of God .....	4	"
Love of man .....	3	"

Total, 100 parts



The ant teaches yet another lesson to the believer who has eyes to see — *cooperation or teamwork*. If an object is too heavy for one ant, he finds a helper or two and unitedly they toil until that object is moved. The Lord Jesus employed the principle of teamwork when He sent His disciples out two by two. In fact, this very principle is that which underlies the marriage institution. A man and a woman are to be mutually helpful, and together they are to serve both God and man (Genesis 2:18).

Great things can be accomplished by God's people if they will work together. I read some time ago about a little boy in Alberta, Canada, who was lost in one of the vast wheat fields of that area. Frantically, searchers ran here and there seeking the lost child, but without success. Finally one of the men suggested that the searchers join hands and form a long line to cover area after area until the boy was found. This they did, and some time later they came upon the body of the little child. The brokenhearted mother cried out in her anguish, "O, why didn't you think to join hands sooner; I might have my precious baby alive in my arms instead of dead!" Would to God that the church of Christ could join hands in searching the world for precious souls!

Who can watch the busy ant without learning the lesson of *unwearied perseverance*. The ant will tackle a job much too big for him and will put forth every effort to do it. The Word of God is clear as to the pleasure the Almighty finds in those of His children who do likewise. Read I Corinthians 15:58 and Galations 6:9 in this connection. Then, notice this poem:

Go labor on, spend and be spent,  
Thy joy to do the Father's will;  
It is the way the Master went,  
Should not the servant tread it still?

Go labor on, 'tis not for naught,  
Thy earthly loss is heavenly gain;  
Men heed thee, love thee, praise thee not,  
The Master praises, what are men?

Go labor on while yet 'tis day,  
The world's dark night is hastening on,  
Speed, speed thy work, cast sloth away,  
It is not thus that souls are won.

One other thing: the ant teaches the observant believer *the lesson of foresight* (verse 8). Millions of people throughout the world are giving no thought whatsoever to eternity. They are making no arrangements for the long, long future. Only fools act this way with

regard to the present life. What, then, must be the nature of a man who gives no evidence of concern for his *eternal* welfare? Dear friend, this is summer now; it is the time of harvest now; but summer will soon be ended and the harvest will be over. I pray God that the time of reaping shall not come and yet your soul be forever lost!

The believer ought to be concerned about the future, too. Each of God's children must give an accounting to God Himself of the way in which he has spent or misspent his life. Study these Scriptures: I Corinthians 3:11-15; Romans 14:11-12; II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 3:11.

## SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

(Prov. 6:16-19)

At first it might seem a strange thing that the Bible should speak of God's hating! But further thought will lead us to see that it is impossible to love without hating — the one is the counterpart of the other. God could not love righteousness without hating evil. The one is the enemy of the other. In this text God tells us that there are seven things He hates. My dear friend, if God hates these things we ought to study them carefully to see why, and then make sure they are not harbored in our lives.

### A PROUD LOOK

(v. 17.)

God hates a proud look! What is this but the outward expression of inward pride? God hates pride. Why? For many reasons. In the first place it was pride in the heart of Lucifer that transformed him into the devil and that upset the order of the universe and destroyed the harmony and beauty of God's creation. Study Isaiah 14:12-14; Romans 8:18ff.

Again, it was pride that brought ruin and damnation to the human race. Any observer knows that there is something terribly wrong with the world of men. Why the ceaseless wars and rumors of war? Why the crime? Why the drunkenness? Why the restlessness of men? The answer is found in the opening chapters of the first book of the Bible. Read Genesis 1-4.

In Genesis we are told that the master deceiver, the personality filled with pride, Satan himself, operated upon that same tendency in the heart of Adam and Eve and through them ignited the spark of sin that set fire to the whole world and that is still raging out of control.

God hates pride because this thing stands as an almost insurmountable obstacle in the way of the salvation of the soul. Sinful



man will not listen to the Gospel because the Gospel humbles him. He likes to feel that he is acceptable to God on his own merits. Like Cain, he wants to come to God on his own conditions. He will not acknowledge that he is a sinner by nature (Ephesians 1:1-3; Romans 5:6-11). He will not admit his lost condition before God and consequently will not come by the only means, namely, faith in the vicarious work of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this sense pride is sending countless souls to hell.

God hates pride because, even in the believer's life, pride hinders full development in the spiritual life and effective service for Christ. Why does not every believer bear positive witness for the Lord Jesus? It is pride. He is afraid of what others will think of him. He does not want to be thought of as a religious person. Strange isn't it that many believers, the recipients of God's grace and the Saviour's sacrifice, are ashamed of Jesus? The believer has no reason to be ashamed of Him, but every reason to be ashamed of his own reticence to stand boldly and proudly for Christ.

#### A LYING TONGUE

(v. 17)

God hates a lying tongue. And He has good reasons for this feeling toward dishonesty and falsehood. For one thing, it was a lie that led to the Fall (Genesis 3:4). The devil flatly contradicted the Word of God; Eve believed him, and in disobeying prompted by a lie, she brought woe into the world.

A lie is a hateful thing because it sears the conscience. A tender soul and a responsive conscience cry out for truth; but, when truth is suppressed and falsehood is put in its place, little by little the soul is seared and the conscience becomes hard and adamant.

Again, a lie is a despicable thing because it spreads poison all around. Paul speaks thus about the organs of speech with regard to the unsaved, "Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness . . ." (Romans 3:13-14).

Finally, a lie — or any form of falsehood — destroys the basis for constructive cooperation and mutual action. There is no standard of conduct if the truth is not strictly adhered to by all parties entering into contract. During the past several years the world has witnessed deceit on an international scale. How many treaties and agreements has Russia entered into and then broken without warning when it suited her purpose to do so? The same thing is true in individual dealings. There can be only suspicion and distrust when the truth is avoided and lies become the order of the day.

#### HANDS THAT SHED BLOOD

(v. 17)

Again, we must journey to the sacred account of man's actions in the dawn of human history. In Genesis 4 we read of the first murder. This shedding of man's blood brought the judgment of God upon the offender. Early in Israel's history God instituted the law of capital punishment as a deterrent against murder.

The Lord Jesus warned against anger as a form of incipient murder (Matthew 5:21-24). Paul teaches that murder lurks in every heart, even in the heart of the Christian, and must be guarded against by full surrender to the Lord Jesus (Romans 2:29ff; 3:13-18).

In these end times we have already witnessed two of the worst wars in history — here is murder on a world-wide scale. God is not pleased with this awful carnage but will speak in His wrath against it one of these days (Psalm 2). In the meantime God has removed His restraining hand and the world is moving rapidly into position for launching the third world war, which will undoubtedly prove to be the war that inaugurates the tribulation period (Revelation 6:1-2).

#### THE HEART THAT DEVICES WICKED IMAGINATIONS

(v. 18)

This statement reminds us of Genesis 6:5: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

The enemies of Christ seem to stay awake nights thinking of new ways to sin, and new ways to defy the living God. Read Psalm 73 in this connection. Men seem intent on throwing themselves headlong against God (Psalm 2). What are the liquor industry, the crime rackets, the waves of delinquency, the narcotics rage, but devices of the wicked to sweep souls wholesale into hell?

But the worst product of evil imaginations is that of false religion. The world is religious beyond all comprehension. But it is a Christless religion! Every cult, every religious view, every so-called spiritual movement that leaves out the atoning work of the Son of God is of the devil, and is designed by him to bring destruction to the souls of men (John 10:10).

#### FEET THAT ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD

(v. 18)

Have you ever thought how important are your feet? We probably do not appreciate our feet until something goes wrong with them — bunions, or corns, or a stubbed toe! The Bible has much to say about the believer's walk, and this means, of course, about his feet.



Paul speaks of the beauty of the feet, that is, when they are bearing the good news of the Gospel (Romans 10:14-15; Eph. 6:15). Willing and obedient feet have carried the story of God's love around the world, and one day brought it to you and to me. How grateful we ought to be for Gospel feet.

But our text speaks of feet that are swift to shed blood. This means feet that belong to an unbeliever. The feet of the unsaved carry them into all kinds of trouble — into places of sin, into places of sorrow and tragedy. Believers can let their feet lead *them* into places that displease God, too. We need to surrender our feet to the Lord Jesus Christ along with every other member of our body (Romans 6:13).

Let us think of the right use of the feet for a moment: read in the book of Ephesians the many references to the believer's walk: the worthy walk (4:1); the walk in truth (4:17); the walk in love (5:1-7); the walk in the light (5:8); and the circumspect walk (5:15).

#### THE FALSE WITNESS

(v. 19)

Some time ago the newspaper headlines of our nation carried the story of the confessed communist who stated that by occupation he was a professional liar, hired by the Communist Party to spread falsehood. Now, God hates a false witness, most of all, I think, because a false witness can rob a man of his most prized possession — his name, his character, his reputation. The writer of this very book we are studying made this statement: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches . . ." (22:1).

Man was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). To slander another man's reputation and character is to speak against the work of God in that man, be he saved or unsaved. Human dignity is not to be maligned nor destroyed by malicious slander. The Psalmist tells us that God has promised to protect the reputation of every believer (Psalm 37:5-6). This does not mean that many of God's saints have not been falsely accused, but in the day of judgment God will vindicate every righteous and honest man and bring forth his righteousness as the noonday.

#### THE SOWER OF DISCORD

(v. 19)

You will note that the text deals with the one who sows discord *among the brethren*. Here is the trouble-maker in the church. We expect to find those who sow discord in the world and in the organizations of the world, but we ought not to look for such among the

saints. It is sad but true, however, that there *are* those who live to make trouble for the people of God and who sow the seeds of discord in the church. Now God hates this thing, and for obvious reasons.

For one thing, God hates the sower of discord among the brethren because the church bears the name of His dear Son. For the world to see a church torn by internal strife and civil war is an insult to God and a discredit to the gospel. In the great Lord's prayer in John 17, the Saviour expressly prays for the oneness and unity of His church (vv. 21-23). The main reason for this prayer is that the world may believe that Christ really came from God. The unity of the brethren is one of the strongest evidences of the deity of our Lord Jesus. How important to do as Paul urges in Ephesians 4:3, and to "endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Again, God hates discord among the brethren because when there is bickering in the church the Holy Spirit is grieved and thus curtailed in His work. Read Ephesians 4:30-32 in this connection.

Discord among the brethren is a thing God hates because it undermines the church. Jesus said that a house divided against itself cannot stand. This is true of the church. If every believer is not working on the side of Christ in harmony and unity then he is pulling against the Saviour and seeking to tear down the very things the Lord Jesus is building.

## A SERMON FOR THE SUMMER

(Prov. 10:5)

This message was given over the radio in the early spring, but maybe it is a good idea to start thinking of the summer work in the spring. Many churches and Christian leaders begin to let up in their work in the summer. They say that many people are away on vacations and that there is little use to try to push a program in the summer time. With this view I cannot agree. It seems to me that the summer time is the best time to promote an even busier program for Christ. The weather is ideal, people are in a happy frame of mind, and this is the time to strike for Christ. Such is the teaching of our text.

I do not mean by this that a Christian should not take a vacation in the summer or any other time. I believe in vacations. The Christian needs to get away from the ordinary pressing duties of his everyday life and experience a change. I heard of a certain believer who was chiding his pastor for taking a month off for vacation.

"How come you take a whole month off from your work?" he queried, "Don't you know the devil never takes a vacation?"



The pastor retorted, quick as a flash, "Why should I be like the devil?"

We all need a time of recreation and rest and relaxation — but it ought not to take the entire summer. Again I say, our text teaches the wisdom of labor and industry in the summer.

Now, as I have meditated and prayed over this text several lines of truth have come to me. *The summer is a time of the greatest opportunity.* I want us to think of this truth in terms of spiritual application. Surely every period of a man's life is a summertime for him to serve the Lord. This is true of the time of childhood. What a golden period of life is this! Godly and alert parents can reap a precious harvest if they will sow the seed of the Word of God in the hearts of the boys and girls in their formative days.

You will note, in II Timothy 3:15, that Paul speaks of the fact that Timothy knew the Scriptures from his childhood. This means that Timothy's mother taught him the Word of God while he was still a little boy. Some people do not seem to believe that children need to be saved and that they *can* be saved.

Said a precious little laddie  
To his father one bright day,  
"May I give myself to Jesus,  
Let Him wash my sins away?"  
"Oh, my son, but you're too little.  
Wait until you older grow,  
Bigger folk, 'tis true, do need Him; but  
Little folk are safe you know."

Said the father to his laddie  
As a storm was coming on,  
"Are the sheep all safely sheltered,  
Safe within the fold, my son?"  
"All the big ones are, my father,  
But the lambs, I let them go,  
For I didn't think it mattered,  
Little ones are safe you know."

Oh, my brother! Oh, my sister!  
Have you too made this mistake?  
Little hearts that now are yielding  
May be hardened then — too late.  
E'er the evil days come nigh them  
"Let the children come to Me,  
And forbid them not," said Jesus,  
"For such shall My kingdom be."

*The time of youth* is a wonderful summertime of the soul. Many great things have been done for God by people still in their 20's and 30's. Some one has written,

"Not only the Saviour, but the first disciples also were a band of young men. It has been so throughout the history of the Church in its vital hours. Augustine was 33 when he heard his saving call. Perpetua was a martyr in Carthage at 22; Francis of Assisi heard the voice at 27, and Savonarola at 23. Luther was only 34 when he nailed his 95 theses on the great door at Wittenberg, and Melancthon was professor of Greek at 21. Incredible as it may seem, John Calvin was only 26 when he completed the world-staggering *Institutes*. The Cambridge Independents and Baptists were nearly all young men, and John Penry paid the last price at 31. George Fox was 25 when he made his protest 'stiff as a tree and pure as a bell.' The Holy Club, with the Wesleys as leaders, were all young men. So were most of those Baptists responsible for the Prayer Call of 1792. William Carey heard 'the voice' at 24, and sailed at 31. Henry Martyn was called at 20, and died at 31. Therefore, let no man despise thy youth. Let Him have your life now and see what God will do with you."

Youth is a time to gather spiritually. Right now in the teens and early 20's young people are becoming what they are to be for life and eternity. How important to build right attitudes, to establish a Christian philosophy of life, to form right habits, to lay the right foundation.

Youth is a time to gather intellectually. During these years the mind is fertile and impressionable. There is an eager quest for knowledge and a God-given inquisitiveness that ought to be fostered by the wise young man or woman. Youth is the time to discipline the mind, even as we are told in the Word of God (Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:8; II Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119:11).

Youth is the time to gather physically. Many of the inmates of TB Sanitariums and mental hospitals are young people who burned the candle at both ends. Youth is a time to develop the physical powers by proper exercise and by plenty of sleep and good food. Many a helpless individual now could be well and strong had he not dissipated his energies in his youth.

*The time of middle life* is a summer time for gathering a great harvest for God. By the time a man reaches this period of his life he has probably arrived at the peak of his earning powers. He should have acquired all the needed things of life physically, and should



have a bit more time to devote to the work of Christ. The man at this stage in life ought to be no longer just a getter of things but a giver to God. Probably the church is mainly supported financially by the people in this age bracket, and this is as it should be.

The man in middle life is the qualified person for church leadership. He ought to be at the helm of his church, contributing in every way out of his experience to the benefit of all the other members, and especially of the young people.

*The time of growing older* — this is still a summer time in the spiritual maturity and spiritual wisdom. In many cases the older believer is in a position to make his greatest contribution to the cause of Christ. Dr. Dorland, in his book "The Age of Mental Virility" has pointed out that of the four hundred greatest men in the world, their greatest work was produced by many when they were well along in years.

"Sixty-four percent of all the greatest things of the world have been accomplished by men who have passed their sixtieth year of age. Also this survey shows that twenty-five percent of the greatest things were wrought by men between fifty and sixty years of age, thus leaving only eleven percent to be attributed to the period below the age of fifty."

But, not only is the summer the time of greatest opportunity, it is *the time of greatest labor*. See John 4:35-36; I Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9, etcetera. Our text is an agricultural one, and, as such, is applicable to every Christian, for God has called every believer to be a farmer in spiritual things (Matthew 9:36-38). Any farmer you talk with will tell you that farming is no "snap." Farming requires many long hours of hard labor if there is to be a good harvest. The same is true in the spiritual life and service.

Think of *the labor of sowing the seed*. It is given to every believer to broadcast the Word of God, through preaching through tract distribution, through giving of his money for the purchase of Christian literature. Let us be assured that God's Word will not return to Him void, but that it will accomplish that which He pleases.

There is *the labor of cultivation*. Every farmer has to wage a relentless war against pests and insects and parasites that invade his fields and orchards and groves. We all know how difficult it is to cut out the weeds in our own life. How rapidly they accumulate! How diligent we must be to do a thorough job, and how persistent throughout life!

We must not omit *the labor of irrigation*. Water is probably the most precious commodity as far as the farmer is concerned.

Without it he cannot grow a good crop nor reap a large harvest. We need to pray that through the study of the Word and through prayer the flood-gates may be kept open in our souls so that our spiritual lives may be fresh and abundant. See John 10:9 and John 4:14.

In the third place, the summer time is a *time of patience*. The farmer does all within his power — the rest is up to God. The Lord alone can give life and growth. When the farmer has done his share of the work, he waits with faith and hope for God to do His. What an important lesson for the believer to learn!

The Christian needs *patience with himself*. Many a child of God has given up along the way because he did not think he was growing as fast as she should. The believer is commanded to grow (II Peter 3:18). But not all believers grow at the same rate. If a Christian is earnest and honest with God, if he is doing his best and doing all he knows to do, he should leave the rest with God and trust the Lord to make him all he should be and to use him in the way that will bring glory to Christ.

The Christian needs to be *patient with loved ones and friends*. Sometimes in our zeal we are not wise. We want so earnestly to see loved ones brought to Christ that we try to press them to a decision. Oftentimes in doing this we drive them away from the Saviour. Let us not be over-anxious. Our Lord speaks of this in Matthew 6. Let us live Christ before them, pray for them, encourage them, but not nag them to death. Leave the winning of their souls to Christ who alone can do *this* work.

The Christian needs to be *patient with the brethren*. Much difficulty is caused in churches because Christian workers become impatient with their fellow believers. There is a tendency to try to push the saints instead of leading them. People resent being pushed around, even God's people.

In the last place, summer time is a time of eventual "gathering" of a blessed "harvest." Let us remember that our Lord is the "Lord of the harvest." He knows how to care for His own work, and He will bring it to a successful completion. Not one of those for whom He died will be lost (John 17:11-12; 6:37).

But the harvest is precious and it is perishable. We must not dilly-dally. We must work for the night is coming. We must buy up the opportunities. We must use every God-given talent to this one supreme end (Luke 19:11-27).

Please remember, dear Christian, that *your* harvest, and your share in the eternal reward is dependent upon your faithfulness now (Galatians 6:8-9). God bless you as you labor, as you pray, as you give, and as you go in the will of God for souls.



# *“Give the Winds a Mighty Voice!”*

*Pray-* FOR THE THOUSANDS TUNING IN WHO DO NOT KNOW THE LORD AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOUR. MANY DO NOT ATTEND A CHURCH WHERE THE WORD OF GOD IS CLEARLY PROCLAIMED. PRAY FOR THE MANY SPIRITUAL BURDENS OF HUNGRY, NEEDEY HEARTS AND LIVES.

*Give-* EVERY SINGLE DOLLAR INVESTED FOR CHRIST WILL BE USED TO REACH MORE THAN SIX THOUSAND PEOPLE. GIVE REGULARLY, MONTH BY MONTH. HELP TO MEET THE HEAVY FINANCIAL BURDENS IN THE PURCHASE OF COSTLY RADIO TIME.

*Tell-* REMIND FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES OF THE PROGRAMS. LET THE BROADCASTS BE MISSIONARIES IN YOUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD.

*Help keep us on the air . . .  
until Christ comes in the air!*

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY MORNINGS  
AT 8:30 A.M. — MUTUAL DON-LEE NETWORK

**BIBLE INSTITUTE HOUR**  
LOS ANGELES 17, CALIFORNIA