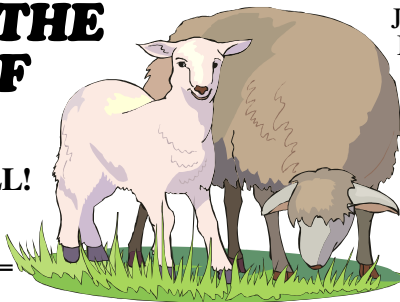


BEHOLD THE LAMBS OF GOD!

Here is truth for ALL!

Gabriel L. Mancino



May 5th was Eastern Orthodox "Easter." Forty days of resurrection appearances to His disciples led up to Christ's **Ascension**. Jesus emphasized to them that He wasn't just a ghost, saying *"Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have"* (Lk. 24:39). Then He ate with them (v. 41-43).

Ten days after the **Ascension** comes **"Pentecost"**— the day upon which **"The Promise of the Father"** came upon the disciples. Jesus had told them of this Pre-eminent Gift. He had told them *many* things. God talks today, too! But are we really listening and obeying?

One of Christ's resurrection appearances focused on Peter. Peter had denied knowing Jesus, and cursed when pointed out by a young girl. Jesus never "goes too far" in putting His finger on one's sin, though it may *seem* like it! But true and full liberty from sin *requires* it, and the greatness of the Gift and its cost *demand*s it. God does not barter on this.

Three times, Peter denied Christ. Jesus had warned him in love, ahead of his failure. In *this* resurrection appearance, Jesus asked Peter three times: *"Do you love Me?"* Peter cringed, but answered a broken-hearted *"Yes, Lord, You know that I love You!"* Each time in reply, Jesus gave Peter a task to perform: **"Feed My lambs...Feed My sheep...Feed My sheep"** (Jn.21:15-17).

When John the Baptist introduced

Jesus as the long-promised Messiah-Saviour, John called out to the crowd: **"Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world!"** (Jn. 1: 29, 36). Christ came upon the scene in God's perfect time, to accomplish that singular task. But, *prior* to the Cross, Jesus told His disciples of their deep and specific inward need. He said that

the coming Holy Spirit would resolve the deficiency and meet the need in order to inwardly equip them to carry on the work He was soon to leave them.

The Bible says that obedient followers of Christ *"are changed into His image, from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the Lord"* (2 Cor. 3:17,18). *This* is the Spirit of Pentecost.

On the day before Christ's appearance to Peter, Peter had told the disciples, **"I'm going fishing!"** No problem. He and the others were waiting for "the Promised Gift" as Jesus told them. *AND* they were no longer in Jerusalem, but had gone to Galilee, where Jesus had told them He would see them! No wonder Peter soon afterward said that *"God gives His Spirit to those who obey Him"* (Acts 5:32).

In *this* encounter with Peter, a great task was given to every true disciple of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *That* task was to feed and to care for Christ's sheep and lambs. Jesus made it very clear that He *"came to seek and to save that which is lost"* (Lk. 19:10). Lost lambs!

The main duty and privilege of every human being is to *"worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness"* (Ps. 29:2; 96:9) and *"in spirit and in truth"* (Jn. 4: 23,24). The second duty, privilege and task is to seek the lost, and to see them built up in that *"holiness without which no man shall see the Lord"* (Heb. 12:14).

**Behold the LAMBS of God!
ALL of them!**



"Behold THE LAMB" takes pre-eminence over Beholding His lambs, just as loving God first and foremost takes pre-eminence over all other earthly loves. *"And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as though it had been slain"* (Rev. 5:6). Jesus, God's Promised and Provided Lamb, died willingly for the sin of the world (Rom. 8:32). *BUT* He commanded all who would follow Him to also receive the Promised Gift of the Holy Spirit—the cleansing and filling Spirit of Pentecost! Pentecost Sunday — May 19.

Registered Charity #1092050

MAY 2013

The

**A paper for all people everywhere...
and with a personal touch!**
To read, consider, apply, then share with others! **The London LIGHT—Free!**

London Christian Standard ...and **Provincial**

"Lift up a standard for the people." Isaiah 62:10

Gabriel L. Mancino - Editor. Printing in London since 1983
421 Watford Way, Hendon London NW4 4TR Phone: 020-8202-0806
Website: www.londonchristianstandard.com

THE GREATEST LOVE

Gabriel L.
Mancino



Jesus' life and ministry has been well-labelled: "LOVE TO THE UTTERMOST!" Three inseparable "L"s sum it up: Light, Life and Love.

John's Gospel ends with this: *"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen"* (21:25).

John had just previously written this: *"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name"* (20: 30, 31).

Those two quotes from John neither confirm nor suggest that a religious conspiracy has hidden "the *real* truth about Jesus!" Those quotes also do not open the door to nor approve of alleged accounts of the life of Jesus as given in other books—religious or otherwise.

The pre-eminent thing that those quotes *DO* say is that there is enough truth in the Gospel of John, alone, to 1) save *"whosoever will come"* from every sin they have committed, 2) make them a new person through Jesus, 3) bring them into His family as *true* children of God, 4) give them power *within* to walk with God in a way *HE* approves, and 5) entitle them to the glorious future of those in whom Christ truly lives and reigns.

THAT is what the content of St. John...*inspired by the Holy Spirit of God*...can do, if the reader will just do their part—which Jesus summed up as *"Repent and believe the Gospel!"* (Mark 1:15). That's simple! But man *cannot* "pay the price" with counterfeit currency. It

(continued inside)

"HE LOVES ME. HE LOVES ME NOT." Many facts or questions properly (and without contradiction) have at least **"two sides."** God's love for the world follows this pattern. God loves this world and each individual in its eternity-bound population. The Bible makes that fact very clear. Yet, God cannot love the sin of the world, nor have union with any person who loves the anti-God, anti-Christ ways of the world—whether a person SAYS they love God and Christ, or not. *"If any person loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him!"* (1 Jn. 2:15). *"If we SAY we have fellowship with Him, yet walk in darkness, we are lying!"* (1 Jn. 1:6). **YES, HE LOVES US!**



THE GREATEST LOVE

(continued from front page)

is impossible for God to accept substitutes, subterfuge or superficiality. Don't even try.

Though there are 66 books in the Bible, John alone would be sufficient to get a person ready for heaven. However, tucked away in John's Gospel is the verse called "**the Golden Text of the Bible**," which contains an **amazing fact about God** and an **amazing insight into His nature**. It also contains an **amazing promise to every person in the human family**. Here is what it says: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16).

Ralph Waldo Emerson was a leader of the U.S.A. mid-19th century **Transcendentalist Movement**. He once asked a friend how he liked the sermon he had just preached. His friend replied: "The diction was perfect, the outline adequate, the thoughts sparkling, but no one would be in danger of being converted through it than one would be in danger of **getting drunk on buttermilk**." So much for Transcendentalism at its best! Maybe Emerson's friend had read the 1850s book, The Tongue of Fire, by Britain's Methodist, William Arthur.

This year, "**Pentecost Sunday**" falls on **May 19**. The *first* "Pentecost," as recorded in the Bible (Acts 2), resulted in **Jesus' disciples being accused of being drunk!** They were intoxicated alright—with the Spirit of God, Who Jesus referred to as "*The Promise of the Father*," Who would come after Him (see John 15: 26; 16: 7, 8). The Person Jesus said was coming was "*the Comforter...the Holy Spirit*." Many Muslims have told me that Jesus was referring to *Mohammed's* coming. **THE "Comforter"** came (as noted in Acts 1 & 2) a mere **50 days** after the Crucifixion. Mohammed came more than **5 centuries**

later. The conclusion is obvious.

The disciples' "**intoxication**" centred in full salvation from sin. **That is strong drink!** It is no surprise that it changes a person, for its greatest effect is not to *tingle*, but to *transform* you...into the likeness of Christ! (see 2 Cor. 3: 17, 18 on back page).

That strong drink of the transforming "*Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes*," (Rom. 1:16) is found in its condensed and concentrated form there in that "**Golden Text of the Bible**," John 3:16. (see left column)

In that **Golden Text** we see God taking the initiative seeking man; not the opposite. This is not man seeking a reluctant God, but God who is trying to overcome *man's* reluctance! In Christ, God comes to me personally, intimately; right to my heart and mind. In Him, the unseen God becomes understandable and loveable, as He wraps His arms around me, lifting me out of ignorance and sin, and to Himself.

As Wesley put it, "**Amazing Love, How Can It Be?!**" "*For God so loved the world!*" He loved the unlovely; even me! "*Whoever!*" **AND**, God loves and desires to rescue and use all of the world that He can, though He cannot approve of any sin, nor will He make any compromising allowances for it.

"**A pastor blistered the aching soul of a man** who sat in his mother's home, a bleared and bloated sot. The man, knowing he deserved it, sat there with his face in his hands and took the moral lashing. **When the pastor finished, the mother got up without a word** and walked over and kissed the swollen lips of her son. **Afterward** the man, telling of the turning point in his life, said that he couldn't stand the lashing but he couldn't stand the kiss—it redeemed him. Jesus is God's kiss upon the blotted lips of a prodigal humanity." (E. Stanley Jones)

"*God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.*" One lady asked,

(continued from left)

"What kind of Father was He to send His Son—why didn't He come Himself?" A little girl said, "I love Jesus, but I hate God, for God wanted to destroy the world and Jesus wouldn't let Him." A reply to the lady and to the girl is "*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself*" (2 Cor. 5:19). That Bible verse is one of many verses in the total Biblical picture that merges God and Christ into One, Who are not rivals, but work and *are* together in One.

This **Greatest Love** is a free Gift, indeed, but is conditioned on genuine faith... "*whoever believes IN!*" Devils *believe* that God exists, yet remain devils (James 2:19). That word, "**IN**" is life-changing, for it involves not only mental acceptance of facts, but a total surrender to a Person! Anything Jesus would not approve of must go. The true seeker wouldn't want any sin hanging onto him, anyway, for he or she would wish to be rid of it...*all of it*... forever!

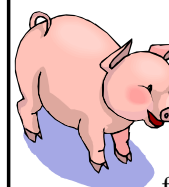
This **Greatest Love** is able and ready to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Faith is only the *human* side of it. Grace is *God's* side of it. Grace is two things: 1) *favour* from God that we do not deserve, and 2) *power* from God to live on as a God-changed person. And God *continues* changing such receptive people. If we exercise faith ("*believe*"), it doesn't mean that we then "*deserve*" God's Gift. We cannot earn or merit God's favour by any means of our own.

Whatever we acquire *within* us will continue for all eternity (Rev. 22:11). **The Golden Text** says that, potentially, we "*should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" "*Perish*" does not mean "*cease to exist.*" "*Everlasting*," refers more to *quality* of life, rather than *duration*. Eternal existence would understandably not be desirable for *many*, if not *most* people. Many wouldn't want to live with themselves *forever*, for they cannot bear themselves

now! But **The Greatest Love** provides everlasting **LIFE**, not just *existence*. There *IS* a huge difference. Jesus said that, through His Holy Spirit, this **LIFE** can start right here and now, and then continue through all eternity! (Jn. 4:14).

True and full admitting, confession and repentance for sin, and a turning from all sin, and then an utter, total surrender to God in faith, is a small "price to pay" for such an "*unspeakable, indescribable, inexpressible, inestimable Gift!*" (2 Cor. 9:15). It is available for you!

**What Love!
It's The Greatest!**



LITTLE PIG AND LITTLE PUP

Young boys switched a farmer's piglet from his jute bag for a puppy dog each time he returned, frustrated, and laid it on the porch of the country store. The puzzled farmer told the store owner what was happening. When the farmer looked in the bag the last time, he said to the piglet: "I wish you'd be what you is!" We may often have justifiable doubt whether the world, the government **OR** the Church know what they are supposed to be!



CRAZY EATING!

Imagine sitting at a restaurant, and suddenly see a person putting food on his fork and about to put it into his mouth, but then with the other hand knocks the fork and food away! Yes, ridiculous... foolish. Then, what are we to imagine when the world, *with one hand*, is hot on the trail of paedophiles (dead or alive) from 40 years or more ago, but *with the other hand*, pushing immoralities of various types, including same-sex marriage? This is worse than ridiculous. It is evil. By the way, God knows **ALL** the sins of **ALL** people; whether committed today, yesterday or 40 or more years ago. **REMEMBER! REPENT! REPEAT!** God calls in love. (Rev. 2:5; 3:19)

We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.