

FEBRUARY FAITH

(continued from inside)

Father, to do the Father's will. He is man's only God-promised and God-provided Saviour from sin. He is also our Supreme Example of doing the Father's will, and of holy living and much more. In Christ, we are given an easy-to-read blueprint and pattern. **February Faith is not a Fuzzy Faith.** It is crystal clear; too clear for most people, unfortunately.

Jesus spoke of a great departure from God that was coming, and said, *"And because of increasingly widespread disregard for the law of God, the love of many shall become cold"*—(Matt. 24:12).

Only **February Faith** can keep us from sin. The fact and fallout of sin is of great importance to us all and has great potential consequences for us all. Sin ruins lives and nations. Only sin can send a person to hell. **February Faith** is the cure!

Ignorance is terribly unfortunate, and often has dreadful and devastating results. This is no less true when it involves *spiritual* ignorance. Yet, *wilful* spiritual ignorance is far worse, for it denies God, defies God, and yet decries God (that is,

(Continued from front page, bottom)

but for one particular type of person. He knows that this type of person is the only kind that can prevent the complete destruction and damnation of the people of the world, for the whole world is rotting; not just "The West!" In this same kind of setting, God tells us: *"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one"* (Ezek. 22:30). Read the poem, above, with this in mind. God wants a wall to be built for man's protection (as here in Ezek.22:30), yet another wall to be taken down between all humans (Eph. 2:14). Both walls are to be done GOD'S way, not man's: by true repentance from all sin, and salvation from all sin by faith in Jesus Christ, alone. The failure in this wall-building and wall-removal has set the world up for swift and complete destruction. May God help us to seek His face—ready to do His complete will, whatever the cost. The poem above points in the right direction.

criticizes Him) when He executes His righteous judgment.

As Wesley wrote, God's love excels all other loves. Therefore, **February Faith** is available not only during February nor just on Valentine's Day. God's love, that can save us from sin, is *always* available. But, God says that it is always available...NOW; never tomorrow. ■

A POWERFUL POEM FROM THE
FATHER OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND!
(See the note in red, starting on page 1
and the article inside)

Give me a man of God – One man!
Whose faith is master of his mind.
And I will right all wrongs,
And bless the name of all mankind.

Give me a man of God – One man!
Whose tongue is touched with
heaven's fire,
And I will flame the darkest hearts
With high resolve and clean desire.

Give me a man God – One man!
One mighty prophet of the Lord,
And I will give you peace on the earth
Bought with a prayer and not a sword.

Give me a man of God – One man!
True to the vision that he sees,
And I will build Your broken shrines
And bring the nations to their knees.

By Henry George Liddell (1811-1898)
father of Alice Pleasance Liddell

Registered Charity #1092050

JAN. — FEB.
2017

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

FEBRUARY FAITH

Gabriel L.
Mancino



"GOD IS LOVE"

(1 Jn. 4:8) is true all year round. 1 Jn. 4:7 says that "love is of God." John makes it clear that the love that *IS* "of God" does not include love of sin and wrong-doing. Never forget that.

The Bible tells us: *"God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (Jn. 3:16). That is for everyone on earth!

"February Faith," links to love, for the Bible puts faith and love together. For example, the Bible says that our true union with God consists of "*faith that works by love*" (Gal. 5:6). Inseparable!

This "Gal. 5:6 love" comes as God's love possesses and controls our hearts and minds.

There, in Gal. 5:6, such love is lifted far above the things that people...even most religious people...put at the top of their list of priorities. "The Love Chapter" (1 Cor. 13) shows all of us what it means to possess and live by the love of God.

Love is variously defined. When writing, talking, singing or thinking about "love," most people do not include this **February Faith**.

The Bible clearly states and demonstrates how faith (*what you believe*) and works (*what you do*) go together (see James 2). As Gal. 5:6 says, it is "*faith that works!*"

Yes, **February Faith** far excels just knowing some religious beliefs. The new Christians in first century Thessalonica, Greece were examples of this. The apostle wrote to them: *"I remember without ceasing your"* (continued inside)

A NOTE ON THE POEM ON BACK PAGE/BOTTOM RIGHT, AND THE ARTICLE INSIDE: George Liddell, Alice's father, was a great scholar. See an encyclopaedia. Lewis Carroll was a family friend, and used Alice for his "Wonderland" books. Liddell's poem is passionately focused...*spiritually!* In total contrast, the world loves its entertainments; diverse and plentiful. It may praise renown doctors, educators and others. Even a politician may rise above the majority to do a nation good. God is not looking for any of these,

(continued on back page bottom)

FEBRUARY FAITH

(continued from front page)

work of *faith*, and labour of *love*, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father" (1 Thess. 1:3)

February Faith started before February and was completed later in the calendar year. Christina Rossetti of London wrote long ago, **Love** Came Down at Christmas! *That's* God's **love before February**. What about **after February**?

England's 18th century Wesley brothers and their helpers were some of the most effective heralds of God's **love** this country has ever known. John Wesley's influence on Britain was enormous. In 1938 (for the bi-centenary of his conversion on London's Aldersgate St) a book was published titled, England: Before And After Wesley. Wesley preached "**perfect love**;" the **February Faith** I refer to, and an enormous change took place in Britain for the good.

This brings us to God's **love after February**! John Wesley's brother, Charles, was the hymn-writer of early Methodism. In his well known hymns (songs), the **love** of God was declared throughout Britain. Here are some examples:

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
Pure, unbounded love Thou art.
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter ev'ry trembling heart."

Here is another...

And can it be that I should gain

An int'rest in the Saviour's blood!
Died He for me,
who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God,
shouldst die for me?

That second example refers to the Crucifixion of Christ, which we especially remember around March or April. *That is February Faith after February!* Yes, **Love Divine!** Charles Wesley died in 1788; three years before John. An unnamed writer wrote a similar poem as Charles' on the Crucifixion. It was published in two church song books in 1811. Here are some of the words. Don't let the repetition annoy you!

What **wondrous love** is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul?

From "Christmas" to the Cross, it was God's **Love! February Faith** believes, receives and walks through life by it, and countless people like Rossetti and Wesley wrote about it.

In coming to save us from sin, Jesus provided for the greatest liberty ever...and yet a complete "slavery"... based on love! This is a wonderful truth and no contradiction. *Let's look at our Example and see--*

Christ Himself was totally free, yet "enslaved" by His love for the

(continued on back page)

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS?

Gabriel L. Mancino

Near the end of "The Love Chapter" are these words: "*for now we see through a mirror dimly.*" Old English used "glass" or "looking-glass" for "mirror," explaining Lewis Carroll's use in "**Through the Looking Glass**" (1871), which followed his **Alice in Wonderland** (1865). The "Queen of Hearts," upon meeting Alice, quickly used her typical phrase: "Off with her head!" **A nasty Valentine!**

Jesus never said...*not even to His worst enemies nor to His slow-learning disciples...* "off with their heads!" If we say we love and follow Jesus, we should "*walk as He walked*"- (1 Jn. 2:6; 1 Pet. 2:21-23; Heb.1; Jn.13:15; Matt. 11:29).

Lewis Carroll's books are fantasy; the Bible is not. Peter made this clear, saying, "*we did not follow cleverly created fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty*" (2 Pet. 1:16).

A looking glass, or mirror, can be helpful; sometimes not! Our daughter bought a **6 inch mirror** recently. One side is normal; the other side, greatly magnified. What a help to see myself close-up! I was able to attend to things I saw like never before. Most people never see themselves "close-up."

But, God has a mirror in which to truly see ourselves, and we should all say, "*Give it to me, for there is none like it!*" (1 Sam. 21:9 with Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). James 1:22-25 says that God's mirror is **vital equipment** for those who truly want to make it to heaven. This is the mirror of God's law, in which we

can see ourselves and make all necessary adjustments.

God's mirror is *also* two-sided. Both sides faithfully help us see ourselves. One side does not contradict the other. The other side of God's mirror is the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). Some could say that God has only one mirror, the "Gospel," (the "Good News" of full salvation from sin through Christ) and that

the Holy Spirit explains and applies it to us, like an invisible teacher. Fine with me. Yet, where people have no access to the Bible by any means, God still does not leave them without a witness (Acts 14: 17). All God's creation speaks daily to them (Ps. 8: 3,4; Ps. 19) and so does their conscience (Rom. 2:11-16). God has other means, as well, but none of them conflict with the Bible or the Holy Spirit. So, we *could* say God has mirrors all over the place...to help us! The Holy Spirit is faithful to explain God's Word, God's Creation and the God-sent messages to one's conscience. Man may quiet his conscience in many ways, but God's faithful Holy Spirit will tell you the truth about yourself. He cannot lie (Tit. 1:2).

Alice went through the looking-glass and entered an amazing world...but only of fantasy. As we keep gazing into God's mirror, the Holy Spirit will help us to become more like Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18). "*Christ in you*" is "*the hope of glory!*" (Col. 1:26-28). It is the gaze of loving obedience into God's mirror that counts. One day, that gaze will take us to heaven. There, it will not be fantasy like the other side of **Alice's looking glass**. As you keep looking into *God's* mirror, "*do whatever He says to you!*" (Jn. 2:5; 15:14; Lk. 5: 5,6; 6:46; 2 Kings 5:13). ■

Never doubt in the darkness what God has shown in the light.

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.

