

"As newborn babes desire the sincere

# MILK OF THE WORD

That ye may



Grow thereby

1 Peter 2:2



I TIM  
4:13



PSALM  
119:9



ST JOHN : 21:15

## BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This is the first number of a monthly magazine intended for young Believers and all who have been saved for a comparatively short time. Our motive in undertaking the labor and responsibility of this additional publication is to obey the Lord's command, "Feed My lambs."

This is **your paper** if you come under the class of Young Christians in any sense, regardless of your age. We will be glad to receive comments, questions, and suggestions to make the magazine interesting and definitely helpful.

We would encourage and urge Christians of some years and experience, especially those who serve the Lord in the gospel or ministry of the Word, to contribute "things new and old" of the treasures the Lord has entrusted to them as stewards. True soul-winners have a God-given care in their hearts for those they win for Christ, and the Lord often gives them a further ministry of feeding and shepherding the lambs. Through the medium of this paper, such ministry may become more widely helpful.

It is planned to have a striking gospel display on the Back Cover of each issue.

If you like this number and feel impressed with the need of such a magazine, will you not help us build up a circulation to warrant its continuance. We will be glad to supply you with sample copies, Order Forms, etc. Note the special rates for quantities, which may be taken advantage of by Classes, Assemblies, and other groups.

Yours in grace and service,  
Arthur B. Rodgers,  
Editor.

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## IS IT AN UNREASONABLE COMMAND?

*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word,  
that ye may grow thereby" 1 Peter 2:2.*

This verse of scripture and the four words from it that we have selected as the title of our new magazine seem especially appropriate and descriptive of its purpose; as to the class of **persons addressed**—"born-again" people, but those who are still young in the faith; as to **subject matter**—the word of God, especially the simple things, and exhortation concerning it; and as to the **object sought**—spiritual growth unto maturity.

For a good beginning, we are here faced with the question, Have you been born again? What a welcome question to those who can answer, "Yes, thank God, by His grace!" Others take it as an insult. "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Pet. 3:15). Observe the order in the context (1 Pet. 1:23 to 2:3); "being born again . . . by the word," "wherefore . . . as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word." If you have not experienced the new birth, it is not to be expected that you will have an appetite for the spiritual food provided for God's little ones. "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter." The "Milk of The Word" is not for you; what you need is "Faithful Words" concerning your lost condition, and salvation for sinners through the blood of Christ.


*Thy Words  
were found  
and I did eat  
them, and Thy  
Word was unto  
me the joy and  
rejoicing of  
mine heart.*

*Jer. 15:16*

"Wherever there is a baby, there is excitement," and what eager interest older Christians take in that feeble cry, "I'm saved," especially when there has been manifest conviction of sin under the dealing of the Holy Spirit through the searching of the word. How tenderly that infant life is guarded and cared for


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by loving Parent and older brothers and sisters! You are born into the royal family of heaven. "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God" (1 John 3:1). "I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake . . . I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father" (1 John 2:12, 13).



*I rejoice at  
Thy Word as  
one that findeth  
great spoil.*

*Ps. 119:162*



But if the baby never grows, and turns out to be a dwarf, our interest becomes pity and anxiety. Is there an abnormal inward condition, or is he not getting the proper nourishment? How many sad cases there are in the spiritual realm! They claim to be saved, and in many cases keep their places among God's people, but they are not growing. They know little more of God and His word and ways than when they first professed faith in Christ.

Growth, the evidence of normal life, is lacking.

A servant of the Lord, after a long absence, met a man who had been saved during his meetings. He inquired as to his spiritual welfare, and received the answer, "Well, I can say, 'Being justified by faith, we have peace with God' ". "Why, man," he replied, "you could say that five years ago". How about the present reader? Do you wish to remain a babe, or would you not rather be like Ezra, who "prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and (when established himself) to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" (Ezra 7:10).

In the first love of Christ, the heart desires to please Him; he that has done otherwise is disappointed and unhappy; and it is to both of these that this word comes, "Desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby".

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It is a command, and a rather unusual one, for it means, practically, "**Have an appetite** for the sincere milk of the word". It is not, "Take this," but "Want this!" Is it unreasonable? A mother may say to her child at the table, "Eat your dinner," but she may say to him, earlier in the day, "See that you come to dinner with an appetite!" She knows that he may spoil it by eating candy between meals, and he understands her command.

A normal appetite is one of the chief elements in health. There is nothing much more important to the young believer, or older Christian, than a real enjoyment of Bible reading and the capacity to take it in to become a part of his spiritual being. But it is easily spoiled by feeding on the literary sweets of the world, its spicy fiction and comics, and sensational news features. The newspaper may demand a very few minutes of a Christian's time, but whatsoever is more than this cometh of evil. Leisure time is all too precious these days to waste on reading matter or radio programs that only minister to the flesh. Let us be "redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16). Let us take time, indeed **make** time if necessary, to feed on the word of God; and then there are so many profitable books that minister Christ and the word, that it is a pity to rob oneself of the "best" by spending time on the "fairly-good" or worse.

Our God, as an all-wise Creator, has provided food of the proper elements and qualities to nourish our bodies and, in youth to cause them to grow and develop. As a loving Father, He has provided His own children with the Bible to be food for their spiritual being. As you never deny your body three meals a day, remember there can be no spiritual vigor or growth if you neglect to furnish the soul with its necessary nourishment, the word of God, frequently and regularly.

As the children grow, they are given more substantial food, and with increased capacity and stronger nourishment they develop into sturdy youth and mature manhood. "Every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe; but strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (Heb. 5:13, 14). Young

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Christians find many things in the Bible that they cannot understand; yet as they continue to read, their souls assimilate the simple truths first, and gradually and imperceptibly they learn more and more until that which was once "too deep" for them is appreciated and enjoyed. The order is milk first, then meat. Therefore, "as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

—A. B. R.

### DULNESS IN WORSHIP

*What you fill the vessel with, you must expect to draw from it; if you put in water, you cannot expect to bring out wine. What do you fill your heart with all the week? Is it the earth? Then you cannot expect to find heaven there on Sunday morning.*

### SIMPLICITY IN PRAYER

Long prayers kill a prayer meeting. See how short are the prayers recorded in the Bible. "Lord, help me," is one. "Lord, save, or I perish," is another. Why, a man said that if Peter had had as long a preamble as men put into prayers nowadays he would have been forty feet under water before he would have got as far as the petition for rescue. Prayer is asking God for something, and you can ask it in a few words. I'd rather have a man pray three times, and only five minutes at a time, than to have him take fifteen minutes all at once.

—D. L. Moody.

The object of Faith determines what you are. If the object of Faith is false, your life will be a failure. Everything depends on the object of your faith.

We have God in the measure we truly desire Him.

## THE WATER SPIDER

There is an interesting creature called the water-spider, from which, I believe, we can all learn a lesson. Although it breathes air, it lives in water, as its name implies, and thus exists in an element which would be death to it, unless it obtained supplies of air from above.

How does the spider manage to live, do you ask? Well, it builds a waterproof bell-shaped house under the water, the opening pointing downwards, then it rises to the top of the water and takes in air, thus obtaining a large bubble under its body, which it takes with it beneath the water, and releases under its bell-shaped house. The bubble rises but cannot go any further than the top of the house, and, remaining there, forces some of the water out. This the spider continues to do until all the water is expelled, and its house is well furnished with air from above.

Now, if you wish to live a really bright and useful life for the Lord Jesus in this world, you must learn the water-spider's lesson, and daily draw your supplies from the Heavenly source whence your new life came.

Oh! how bright the world would be if all the Christians daily furnished their houses with the atmosphere of Heaven. Why, all our unconverted friends, if they only saw such happiness, would want to know the secret of it, which we could tell them was the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. It is His presence which will make Heaven the happy place it will be, and it is the present enjoyment of His presence which gives the joy of Heaven here.

Daily draw a big bubble of the atmosphere of Heaven into your life, by rising the first thing in the day into His presence, speaking to Him about all your difficulties, joys, and sorrows; tell Him everything: ask His advice in all you do; keep nothing from Him; ask His blessing on your daily work; and whatsoever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord. So will you be able to live in this deadening world for Him, because you daily draw your supplies from above.

—Extracted.

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God is the **object** of worship, the Lord Jesus is the **substance** of it, and the Holy Spirit of God is the **power** of worship (John 4:23).

## THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOR

Eph. 6:14-18


The girdle of truth, obviously to protect us against Satan as the liar. The breast-plate of righteousness, against him as the accuser. The sandals of alacrity, to leap over, or fly over, obstacles, as the provision against him as the hinderer. The shield of faith, against him as the master tempter. The helmet of salvation, when he seeks to make us deny or betray the Lord. The sword of the Spirit, when he puts it into our hearts to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of what belongs to God. And the prayerful and watchful frame which follows the rest, as our help when he comes in the form of the subtle Man of Sin, to seduce if possible the very elect.

—A. T. Pierson.

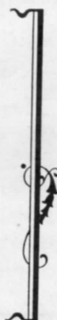
### TEACH ME

"They received the word and searched the Scriptures daily."  
Acts 17:11.

"Men ought always to pray." Luke 18:1.



Teach me to take Thy Word,  
And to read it day by day;  
To meditate therein,  
And seek to do alway:  
To fear my God within.  
To treasure it in my heart,  
And so be free from sin;  
And know His peace within.



Teach me to pray, O Lord,  
To turn from things of earth  
As day by day I rise;  
And look up to the skies:  
To thank Thee for the grace  
To seek Thy face indeed  
That brought me nigh to Thee;  
"That Christ may dwell" in me.

—John Newton.



## TURNING BACK IN BATTLE

The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.—Psalm lxxviii. 9.

What particular battle is referred to is of very little moment. The important thing to notice is that there was no substantial reason why Ephraim should have turned back. They went into the fight well equipped; they were armed and provided with bows.

Nevertheless they turned back, and the event is recorded for our instruction. For are we not again and again doing this very thing, and with no better excuse than the man of Ephraim had?

The Christian life is a prolonged conflict, an unending series of pitched battles. Let us lay this well to heart. Let none of us expect or desire an easy time. Our foe is sleepless, crafty and relentless. Only those who succumb to his wiles and permit themselves to be lulled off into a deathlike sleep can hope to avoid enduring hardness. There are lusts within, also, with which we have to wage a ceaseless warfare. It is a war in which there is no release.

But, like the children of Ephraim, we are armed, and our equipment is perfect. God's "divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS" (2 Peter i. 3). It is not only that we are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, but all things that are necessary for a godly life in this world have been provided for us. Let us think of what some of these are.

### I.

We have the RIGHT OF ACCESS TO GOD IN PRAYER. This is really a most remarkable thing. When the early Caesars reigned it meant death to a slave to enter the presence of his master unbidden, or to speak to him unless commanded to do so. Under Persian rule, not even the king's consort dared to approach him except by his express permission. The story of Esther, in the fourth chapter of the book that bears her name, illustrates this. "So will I go in unto the king," she says, "and if I perish, I perish."

But we, sinners of the Gentiles, have the astounding privilege

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of being able to enter the presence of God at any time and call Him Father! We may tell Him of our sins, our defeats, our disappointments, our difficulties, our trials, and be assured of His loving sympathy. We may ask Him for His powerful help, knowing that it will not be denied.

### II.

We have the HOLY SCRIPTURES to teach, comfort, encourage and correct us. Therein we find sin exposed in such a way that we are helped to turn from it. Goodness and righteousness are made attractive, so that we may pursue them. Moreover, the Scriptures continually remind us of Christ, and we are greatly stimulated in the way of well-doing when we remember how He died for love of us; how He bore our sins and suffered untold anguish for our sakes; how He lives for us today, to befriend and support us, to be our Defence against the foe and our Help in times of stress. All this, as it comes before our souls, has a cleansing effect upon us, and stirs us up to gratitude which we seek to express in life and action.

### III.

We have the HOLY SPIRIT dwelling within us. He maintains us in opposition to "the flesh" with its lusts (Galatians v. 16-26) and produces in us fruit for God's glory. He works continually to displace the old motives and desires and to replace them by motives and desires that find their mainspring and object in Christ. His aim is to form Christ in us (Gal. iv. 19), so that He may dwell in our affections and be displayed in our lives. He sheds abroad God's quenchless love in our hearts and witnesses "with our spirit" that we are His children; that is, He produces within our souls the feelings and affections that belong to that holy relationship. The things of the world are thus dwarfed for us, and victory over them is enjoyed.

### IV.

Lastly, we have the boon of CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. It is as true as ever, that "two are better than one, because they have good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to help him up.....and if one

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prevail against him, two shall withstand him" (Ecclesiastes iv. 9-12). How greatly we are helped in our conflict with wrong by the sympathy and fellowship of godly companions! How often isolation has proved to be the undoing of a Christian! For, as the preacher-king says: "How can one be warm alone?"

Equipped thus, why should there be any turning back in battle? Why should not we be "more than conquerors through Him that loved us"? Not merely conquerors, in that we overcome the foe, but **MORE THAN CONQUERORS** in that we gain spiritual territory and are nourished and made strong by the victories that almightiness helps us to win.

—H. P. Barker.

### BIBLE FIRST

*Make the Bible the first reading of the day. Do not allow any other book, and especially anything like a newspaper, to usurp the first place in point of time that the Word of God alone should occupy. BIBLE FIRST. The Bible on the breakfast table. As soon as you make this the habit of your life you will find that many supposed difficulties to regularity have vanished; in fact, you will find it a bracer for the whole day, giving tone and order to many things which have been left at loose ends.*

—S. Ridout.

### HE THAT WINNETH SOULS IS WISE

Even if I were utterly selfish, and had no care for anything but my own happiness, I would choose if I might, under God, to be a soul-winner: for never did I know perfect, overflowing, unutterable happiness of the purest and most ennobling order till I first heard of one who had sought and found the Saviour through my means. No young mother ever so rejoiced over her first-born child, no warrior was so exultant over a hard-won victory.

—C. H. Spurgeon.

## "NOTHING BUT THE BIBLE"

"I read nothing but the Bible." If a brother sees fit to come to such a conclusion, we have no objections, especially when we remember how little desire is manifested for the sincere milk of the Word.

Yet there is an extreme in this, which we must guard against. To read nothing but the Bible is not a thing which could be taught to the saints. God has set in the Church teachers; and if it is right for me to hear a teacher speaking God's mind, how would it be wrong to read that teacher's words if committed to writing?

It may be argued that his words would lose their power; but you might as well say that Paul's epistles lost their power by being in writing. We must remember that God has not only given us His Word, but He has given us Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers, for the edifying of the body of Christ (Eph. chap. iv.); and, in rejecting any of these, we reject our own mercies. If one of such teachers delivers a message in the power of the Spirit to ten persons, on what principle would you prevent me writing down his message and sending it to ten thousand of the saints? Are these ten thousand to be denied the privilege of having such a message, simply because they could not be on the spot to hear it spoken?

By all means let us take heed what we read, as well as what we hear; but don't let us get into bondage by making vows which the Lord does not ask us to make, and vows, withal, which we might find it very hard to keep. —Wm. Shaw.

It was a **great commission** to give to a handful of obscure men, to "make disciples of all the nations," but "power in Heaven and on earth" was back of it. They undertook it and succeeded, but how wild these words sound under the circumstances. If they had failed they would have seemed to have been the words of a madman; as they have succeeded, they are seen to be the words of the Son of God. Note well to whom this commission comes—to every Christian (cf. Acts 8:4). Note the extent of the commission—"All nations."

—R. A. Torrey.

## NOT ASHAMED

Justice McLean, of Ohio, who was skeptical, while listening to a Gospel sermon was saved, bright and clear, and had God's Word for it. When he reached home, he said, "Wife, we are going to have family prayer. Let us go into the drawing-room and pray together."

"But," said his wife, "there are four lawyers in there. They have come to attend court. Let us have prayer in the kitchen."

He replied, "It is the first time I have invited the Lord to my house, and I don't propose to invite Him to the kitchen by any means."

He went in to the lawyers, and said, "Gentlemen, I have found out that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me. I have given myself to Him, and now I propose to invite Him to my house. I am going to have my first prayer in my own house, and, gentlemen, you may stay or go as you please."

They said they would very much like to stay, and they did. From that day Judge McLean lived a consistent Christian life and died a triumphant death.

### CONSIDER HIM

"Consider Him," so shalt thou, day by day,  
Seek out the lowliest place, and therein stay,  
Content to pass away, a thing of nought,  
That glory to the Father's Name be brought.

"Consider Him," and thus thy life shall be  
Filled with self-sacrifice and purity;  
God will work out in thee the pattern true,  
And Christ's example ever keep in view.

"Consider Him," and as you run the race,  
Keep ever upward looking in His face;  
And thus transformed, illumined thou shalt be,  
And Christ's own image shall be seen in thee.

—E. M. Grimes.

## GRACE

A farmer friend of mine was much troubled by an old woman, who would persist, in spite of repeated remonstrances, in breaking down the fences of his fields in order to provide wood for her fires. One day, he caught her in the very act. Without speaking a word, he walked back to his house, and instructed one of his men to take the old woman a large supply of faggots. This was done, and the old woman was so ashamed of her conduct that my friend was never again troubled by her.

This incident, I think, is a homely illustration of God's dealings in grace with us, for grace is something more than unmerited favour; it is FAVOUR TO THOSE WHO MERIT THE VERY OPPOSITE. The old woman merited punishment, but she, to her great surprise, received the bundles of faggots instead. We also deserve punishment as sinners, but instead, we have received grace upon grace from the God of all grace, who has given to us pardon, and life, with eternal glory.

Oh to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!

Let us not forget that we are responsible to show this same grace towards one another, as children of God. The unforgiving servant (Matthew xviii. 23-35) who had been forgiven ten thousand talents, failed to forgive his fellow-servant the comparatively small debt of one hundred pence, bringing himself thereby under the censure of his lord. How often we see this same spirit at work amongst those who have been taught to love one another. Somebody once remarked: "I cannot but forgive my brother, for God has forgiven me so much."

"Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians iv. 32).

—W. E. Earl.

### Psalm 84:11

What He is:	A Sun and Shield.
What He gives:	Grace and Glory.
What He withholds:	No good thing.

## NO INCREASE

Let us take care that the circle of our petitions grows wider every week. The pathos and the tragedy in many Christian lives is this: their prayers are no bigger today than they were twenty or thirty years ago. Spiritual hospitality is no richer; there are no more guests in their hearts. Prayers of that kind become very stale, for a man may become weary of the same company from day to day and from year to year. Let him give himself a surprise by introducing an outsider into the holy circle, some neglected vagrant who rarely comes within the petitions of the saints. Oh! scour the world for needy people, and bring them under the influence of priestly intercession.

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Thou must be true thyself,  
If thou the truth would'st teach;  
Thy heart must feel the truth  
If another thou would'st reach;  
'Tis only overflow of heart  
That gives the lips full speech.

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## FOUR ESSENTIALS OF ENDURING SERVICE

I must wait for four things:

First, to know whether a work is God's work.

Second, to know whether it is my work.

Third, to know whether it is God's time.

Fourth, to know whether it is God's way.

—George Muller.

## BANK-NOTES OF HEAVEN

Scripture promises are real bank-notes of Heaven, and the true riches of believers, who do not live on stock-in-hand, but traffic with this paper currency. Where divine faith is found it takes the notes to Christ's bank and receives the cash. But human faith cannot traffic with this paper; it reads the notes and owns them good, but dares not take them to the skies for payment. No faith can truly act on God but that which comes from God.

—J. Berridge.

## REMEMBERED NO MORE

"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." Heb. 10:17.

I'll give you a piece of good news today,  
My sins are remember'd no more!  
For Jesus has taken them all away,  
My sins are remember'd no more.

### CHORUS

No more! no more! no more! no more!  
My sins are remember'd no more!  
For Jesus has taken them all away,  
My sins are remember'd no more!

As far as the East is away from the West,  
My sins are remember'd no more!  
And now my soul is at perfect rest,  
My sins are remember'd no more!

My transgressions were many, my guilt was black,  
My sins are remember'd no more!  
For God has cast them behind His back!  
My sins are remember'd no more!

You may search the depth of the deep, deep sea,  
My sins are remember'd no more!  
At the judgment throne of eternity,  
My sins are remember'd no more!

Let men remember and foes accuse,  
My sins are remember'd no more!  
If God forgets they may say what they choose,  
My sins are remember'd no more!

They're forgiven, forgotten, and buried and gone,  
My sins are remember'd no more!  
They're atoned for and covered by God's dear Son,  
My sins are remember'd no more!