



# RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

300 Eagles Nest Farm Road, Hawk Point, Missouri 63349 • Ph: 636-597-3755 • FAX: 636-597-3743

*Paul and Gretel Haglin*

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

June 2008

## Letters of Faith

**“I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see  
the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.”**

(Ps. 27:13)

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

A loose translation of this precious verse might be: “I would have lost my mind already if I didn’t know without a shadow of doubt that God will keep His promise to me that I will see His goodness while I am still here on this earth.”

That promise of God to David, that he tenaciously clung to in the midst of his seemingly insurmountable circumstances, is the same God-truth that gives us the spiritual boost of faith and the hopeful anticipation of good things to come that we need to carry us through the apparently ever-increasingly hard times here in the 21st century!

“Goodness:” it seems like such a generic, namby-pamby word—a word that is hard to describe by anything but our gut feelings about it. But in searching dictionaries and thesauruses to garner the etymology of the words “good” and “goodness,” we got excited.

“Good” is a very dynamic word!

The word “good” became a euphemism for God in the English language. “Goodness” is Middle English for “Godness.” People still say “for goodness’ sake” not realizing the significance of what they are really saying—“for God’s sake!”—not as a scold or as a swear word, but as a plea to please God.

Today, “good” has come to be used in ways for which it was never intended. It is used in sarcastic expressions like “little goody two-shoes” which is said in a sneering way to put down those who are trying to walk righteously. To be “bad” in slang usage is portrayed as being on the cutting edge (Michael Jackson’s record album “Bad” sold millions of copies), while being “good” is pictured as being self-righteous, weak, and definitely old-fashioned.

Good really means that which is safe, genuine, worthy, unspoiled, honorable, enjoyable, dependable, thorough, sound, and proper. It also connotes morally right, virtuous, honest, generous, sufficient, loyal, and kind. All of these words could be used to describe our Father God as we know Him!

Suddenly the word “good” takes on a much deeper meaning to us! We encourage others by complimenting them by saying “good job” (God job) to express our approval of a person’s actions. We begin to understand why the Gospel is called The Good News (News about God) and the Bible is called the Good Book (the God Book). Good Friday (God Friday) carries the connotation that what happened that day on the cross was “sufficient, morally right, and virtuous.” It was surely a God Friday because it was good for our salvation—it was a Good Friday because it was God for our salvation!

Ex. 33:18-19 tells us how God decided to reveal Himself to Moses. **“...Moses said, ‘I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!’ And He said, ‘I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be**

**gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.”** [emphasis added throughout]

God obviously wants us to be in awe of His goodness not just His power! He could have performed a mighty thundering miracle to demonstrate the magnitude of His glory, but He chose to exhibit His Goodness—His God-ness—and proclaimed that graciousness and compassion and righteous judgment were all part of His Godness!

Have you ever contemplated just what David was hearing from God when he wrote Psalm 31:19? **“How great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast stored up for those who fear Thee, which Thou hast wrought for those who take refuge in Thee, before the sons of men!”**

*Oh, God, we pray that we might walk in a manner worthy of the Lord so that we might see and experience the goodness that You have stored up for us, Your children, who fear and honor You! I pray that we might remember this promise of Your great goodness no matter what frightening situation we might be experiencing. May we always take refuge in You, counting on Your goodness and not on our own cleverness—knowing that You are good all the time!*

As Christ is, we should be also, because He abides in us and we in Him. The apostle Paul understood this and exhorted the Christians in Rome to grasp and live by this truth in Romans 15:14: **“And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another.”** Paul wanted the Roman saints to be as convinced as he was that they were full of goodness because they were full of God!

The apostle Peter challenges us in 1 Peter 3:13-16: **“And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? (what is of God!) But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to every one who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior (your God behavior) in Christ may be put to shame.”**

To the Galatians Paul wrote: **“So don’t get tired of doing what is good. Don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time. Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone, especially to our Christian brothers and sisters.”** (Gal. 6:9-10 NLT)

*Father, we pray that You will protect us from losing heart in doing good no matter what circumstances or temptations challenge us. Help us to remember to: **“Let no unwholesome word proceed from our mouths, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.”***(Eph. 4:29:)

Beloved, heed well Hebrews 10:24 (NLT): **“Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds!”** Outbursts of love and God-deeds—Wow!

We know better than to try to force people to choose goodness and righteousness. Jesus, with His wonderful sense of humor, tweaked the pride of the expert on religious law who asked Him, “Who is my neighbor?” by relating the wonderful story of the “Good Samaritan.”

How convicted that lawyer must have been—not condemned mind you—but corrected and convicted of his judgment and pride by that illustration of the God Samaritan!

But God does not ask us to obey Him in our own strength. He supplies all that we need to follow His desires, for: **“God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”** (2 Cor. 9:8)!

Paul expressed this love and trust in Phil. 1:6: **“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”** Beloved, be confident that Holy Spirit will perfect your goodness (your God-ness) until He comes for you or you go to Him!

Gretel and I join the Holy Spirit in praying: **“...that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ’s sake.”** (Philemon 1:6) And: **“To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for GOODNESS and the work of faith with power...”** (2 Thess. 1:11) AMEN!

Huge Haglin Hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The script is cursive and fluid, with the ampersand connecting the two names.