



# 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

## Letters of Faith

July 2007

**“...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
a people for God's own possession,  
that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him  
who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...”**

(1 Peter 2:9)

Dearly Beloved,

One of the ministries that we all have as disciples of Jesus Christ is to publicly make plain the excellency of our God. The Amplified version of this verse uses the words: **“that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him...”**

We proclaim His excellency by displaying His deeds, virtues, and perfections in our lives. **“For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.”** (1 Peter 2:15)

According to the Apostle Peter, the very salvation of some people depends on their seeing Christ in you through your behavior: **“Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”** (1 Peter 2:12) There is only one way anyone is going to glorify God at His visitation (at His second coming): that is, if they have already received Him as the Christ which He proclaimed to be at His first coming. For when He comes again, He is coming in judgment!

The Apostle Paul's letter to Titus includes instructions on Christian behavior for him to give to believers so **“that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.”** (Titus 2:10) Did you ever dare to think of yourself as an adornment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? The Apostle Paul says your life is an adornment to the Gospel when you behave like Jesus. When you re-present Jesus by doing what He did! What a blessing!

Both Peter and Paul emphasize that our behavior in the world will determine if some people become Christians or stay heathens. What a responsibility! And what a pleasure—to see saints walking worthy of their Lord Jesus because they saw Him in our lives! The Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 2:5: **“...I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.”** Surely good discipline (especially discipline of self) and stability are much-needed character traits in all of us because they were hallmarks of the early Church as it walked in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus.

Please note that none of these verses indicate that the proclamation of the excellency of Christ Jesus is to be made just from a church pulpit! They all refer to the public declaration of Jesus by the life of the individual saint—that is, each one of us! And even more important, they pertain to our behavior out in the world where the sinners are, not just in a church sanctuary surrounded by other Christians.

We are increasingly counseling brothers and sisters in Christ who are being urged to leave their productive occupations in order to pursue “full-time” ministry. We write “full-time” in quotation marks because we firmly believe that everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord, is already automatically in full-time ministry! The only question is where that ministry is to operate. Is it in the world where the sinners are, or is it in the Body of Christ where the hurting, wounded, and recovering saints are, or is it in both?

Peter answers this question this way: **“Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”** (1 Peter 4:11)

Paul agrees with him as he writes to the Colossians: **“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”** (Colossians 3:17) **“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”** (Colossians 3:23-24)

We want to share with you what we have shared with many others: *If the Lord has graced you with a productive job and given you the abilities needed to perform it well for the glory of God, be very cautious about leaving it and expecting the Body of Christ to support you as you minister! Be very sure that it is God who wants you to do so, not an over-zealous kingdom-builder.*

We say this for four reasons. First, for the most part, the Body of Christ has not yet matured to the point of comprehending the actual costs of the ministry it receives. Therefore, there is often not sufficient giving to adequately support ministries unless they resort to worldly fundraising techniques, spiritual/financial cons, or misallocating funds (such as using tithes to build the temple instead of supporting the priests). It is also our opinion that the economic situation worldwide is going to make contributions increasingly hard to come by. Certainly we, and many ministries we are relating to, are already finding this to be the case. We are exhorting ministries to “strip-down and disencumber“ for the final push.

Second, the Lord is placing His people where He wants them to be so they will be available for His special use when He pours out His power in revival. It is important that we do not move ourselves according to our plans before His purpose for us is fulfilled where He presently has us. It is a preemptive strike of the enemy to get us feeling restless or discouraged in our present place, so that we will move before God’s plan unfolds for our full use for His glory where we are.

Third, the Lord Jesus wants His disciples in the world even though we are not to be part of it, for He prayed: **“I do not ask Thee [Father] to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.”** (John 17:15)

Jesus called us to be the **“salt of the earth”** and the **“light of the world.”** (Matthew 5:13-14) The Apostle Paul declared that we are to prove ourselves **“...blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.”** (Philippians 2:15) Beloved, the Church is getting quite good at beaming our light into dark places—that’s called out-reach. But salt is only effective upon contact! We have to be in touch with people, to be salt for them!

Fourth, the Lord is bringing us new understanding of what the Church should be and how He is constantly molding and reforming the Body of Christ! If we give up our vocations right now to jump into ministries, we may well find ourselves locked into a dry, old wineskin before we even know what God's new plans for us really are!

Beloved, it is our prayer that you might stand firm where God has you right now, and every moment proclaim with your behavior the excellencies of your God **"...that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God."**  
(Colossians 4:12)

*Holy Father, help me to stand where You have placed me. I want to proclaim Your excellence and the excellence of Your Son, our Lord Jesus, with every breath I breathe, with every word I speak, and with every deed I do. I pray that in all things in my life, You will be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs all of the glory and dominion and power forever and forever. Amen.*

Hugs,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul & Gretel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.