
March 01
WATER SHORTAGE
Bill Griffin
7-09-2000

Denver is getting some much-needed rain right now and as I stood at the open window enjoying the relief from the heat, these thoughts came. Isn't it funny how we take everything for granted? We don't worry about having enough water. I know we grow concerned when we are told to cut back on watering the grass and washing the car. We accept these as nuisances, not a call to really conserve. We feel sorry for the farmers who fight the drought in different areas of the country but only because we know the price of groceries will go up. Why? Because we can go down to the store and buy all the bottled water we want to drink. We see this becoming a bigger and bigger business, as people grow concerned about the pollution from industries, acid rain, and just trashy people who think nothing of throwing all their garbage in the rivers and lakes. I was just studying my Sunday school lesson when the rain started and by coincidence, Revelation 16:4-6 was the topic -- 4... And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. A time is coming when all man will have to drink is the bottled water he may have in his pantry. Today's pollution will be pale in comparison to what God plans to do for those who will not turn to Him. All the fresh water supplies in the world will become polluted. Is God justified in doing this? Look at verse 5 and 6.

5... And I heard the angel of the waters say,
Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and

wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

6... For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Yes! If we are to reap what we sow, then they deserve it. The world since Eden has been turning from God. This world system will continue until the end of history as we know it and God will apply justice to those who have killed His saints and prophets, yes even His only Son whom He gave as a last resort to try to reach fallen man.

Cry for water

By Larry Johnson (Peru)

Oh, so thirsty

But I have no water.

Oh, so dirty

But there is no water.

Who should care

that I have no water?

Water from a well

Would save my body.

The living water of Jesus

Will clean my soul.

Maybe someone

Will provide the water.

Are you willing to share both? Will you share a cold drink of water for the needy to satisfy a physical thirst? Will you share the Living Water of Christ to satisfy a spiritual thirst and save a soul?

March 02
WHEN THE TASK IS FINISHED
Bill Griffin
5/22/2000

On July 5, I will have been on this project for one year. At the present time, I could not venture to guess when we will be finished but USWest now has a time line for us to be totally deployed in their fourteen states by 12-31-2001. Personally, I am not sure we can meet this time frame because of all the changes being made to the program and now converting the program from Informix to Oracle in the middle of the changes. We still have a way to go and I had not planned to leave BellSouth and take up another career. Piddling work maybe but not a full time long time job. All I can say now is that I look forward to the day the task is finished and I can 'head toward the barn' as we used to say on the farm.

There is another task all of us are involved with that has no set date in site. It is the task of sharing the Gospel of Christ to all peoples. We have been given this task for the here and now.

Paul tells us "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of

reconciliation;" [2 Cor 5:18] We do not know when this task will be called to fruition. God is the God of history, not man, and the task will complete when He says 'enough'.

Notice how as the Scriptures comes to a close with the Book of Revelation, how God describes history coming to a close:

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people; Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: [Rev 14:6-7]

How we should be ashamed that God can not depend on us enough to get His Gospel to all the world but He has to send an angel from Heaven to do our job for us. Angels have no redemption story to tell but we do. Why are we not telling? Can you resolve to share what God has done for you? Will you be faithful, knowing that His Word will come to pass -- when His task is finished?

March 03
A NAME FOR HIMSELF
Bill Griffin
01/07/1999

Our news programs have been saturated for the past few months with the impending impeachment of our present President, Bill Clinton. It seems Mr. Clinton has forgotten the goals he set for himself when he took the oath of office a few years ago. Mr. Clinton at that time stated that he wanted to be 'KNOWN' as one of the greatest presidents in the history of our country. It now appears that Clinton will be remembered but not

as he envisioned. He will be remembered because of the scandal he has brought to the office and for being only the second president to ever have impeachment proceedings brought against him.

We need to be careful when we set out to make a name for ourselves. There was another group many years ago that set out to make a name for themselves also. Their fame too was not as they

would have liked it to be. Look what happened to them.

Gen 11:1-9 -- Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth." But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the LORD scattered

them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel-- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Both the people of Shinar and Bill Clinton were filled with pride. Even now, Bill Clinton is trying every way possible to escape payment for the sins he committed. We must remember that being a big name counts for nothing in the sight of an Almighty God.

All of us want to be remembered but the most important thing is that we are remembered by God. The highest status we can achieve is to be God's child. When we become His child, our names are elevated and written in the Lamb's Book Of Life, never to be erased nor forgotten.

March 04

ADAPTORS

Bill Griffin

3/30/99

Most of you that work with tools or machines know that sometimes you need a little something extra to make the tool more efficient. Sometimes the tool comes with an attachment that is called an 'adaptor'. By using the adaptor we are able to fit the tool to another tool so that we can now use the tool for a different intent. I have numerous adaptors in my shop. Some adapt 3/8" sockets to 1/2" drives or vice versa. I have another adaptor that allows me to couple a 2" hose to a 4" hose for the shop vac. Other adaptors allow me to change the tools, to adapt them to a different environment. Sometimes we see a need and with a little bailing wire and duct tape make our own adaptors to make a job easier.

There is one part of my life that I do not try to adapt. I do not try to adapt Jesus to fit me. I keep trying to adapt myself to Him. I look at the world today with all the 'religions' that have been adapted from the Word of God and wonder who is trying to fit whom. Mankind keeps trying to make an adaptor that will fit God into a box

that we have made. We want Him to fit us. We want Him to conform to us.

The Truth of the Gospel has no adaptor. One cannot be made. Only God is God. Only Christ is the Savior. He was born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life. He was crucified, buried, and rose again on the third day. He ascended back to the throne He had to leave to come into our world. Those voices making other claims today are focusing on a plan for living. We, who are called by His name, are focusing on the Person. Jesus Christ. Only He can make the claim:

John 14:6... Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 8:12... When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

What type adaptor are you trying to make to reach God; to get God to adapt to you? Reach and take the adaptor called Christ. He is all you will ever need.

March 05

AGING

Bill Griffin

1/11/99

Most of us never give too much thought to aging until we are either in the middle of it or we are faced with aging family members. Sure we begin at middle age to comment that our memories are fading fast or either Arthur Ritis is moving in on our joints or we have no energy to do those things that used to be commonplace. Sometimes we even see older people as a hindrance. They creep along on the highway. In the checkout line, they have forgotten where they placed their money or now. They seem to want the oddest things at the weirdest times [an ice cream after a doctor's visit or breakfast at two o'clock in the afternoon.

We need to pause and really look at what we are thinking. Old folks did not just ask to get old. The process takes its toll. If we all live long enough and the Lord tarries, we will get to this same place in life. We need to understand that it is more than just a physical thing. There are changes that take place in the brain. There are various emotional effects on the body processes and there are social and psychological adjustments that must be made. Despite all these problems, the elderly really just want to age with dignity and grace. None I have ever met have requested to be a problem or burden on their

family. We need to accept our responsibility to the aged by allowing them to remain active and contribute. We need to praise them for their work. We don't let an expensive machine rust, we try to keep it in use. So it is with old people.

These items of wisdom were written by an elderly resident of a home for the aged. I wish I could credit the writer but the source is unknown to me.

Blessed are you who understand our faltering steps and shaking hands.

Blessed are you who know that our ears today must strain to catch the words you say.

Blessed are you who looked away when the coffee spilled on the table today!

Blessed are you who seem to know that our eyes are dim and our wits are slow.

Blessed are you who, with a cheery smile, stopped to chat with us for a while.

Blessed are you who never say, when you come to visit 'You told me this story twice today.'

Blessed are those who know the ways, who bring back memories of yesterdays, and

Blessed are you who make it known that we are being loved, respected, and are not really alone.
Prov 16:31...Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life.

1 Tim 5:1-3...Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters,

with absolute purity. Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need.

One day it will probably be you!

March 06
AWESOME POWER
Bill Griffin
12-11-1999

On one of my trips into the Rockies I noticed a strip down the mountainside where there were no trees or vegetation of any kind except grass. At first I thought someone had cleared out for a ski slope but then I noticed how steep it was. This was no ski slope unless one wanted to call it 'Suicide Hill'. Then I noticed all the dead trees and rocks bunched up at the bottom. It then dawned on this old slow country brain of mine that this was the path of an avalanche. If it had not reached the bottom, it would still be destroying the mountainside. Nothing in its path had been spared; total devastation.

I thought about the power that it took to clear out this path, awesome power. There are many instances of power in this world that can hardly be measured. Tidal waves, hurricane wind force, tornadoes, typhoons, and volcanoes are just a few. There is another power though that is greater than any of the above. I thought about this power as I gazed at the trail of the avalanche. It is the power of God's Word. While most of these awesome powers do nothing but destroy and save nothing in their path, God's Word came not to

destroy but to save. Look at the description Paul gave to the Word in Romans 1:16:

FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST: FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH.

God's children are called to share this wonderful word of salvation that all who hear and obey may be spared eternal destruction and damnation. Why then are most of God's children afraid? I think it is because they forget what the Master told us when He was about to leave this world after the cross.

Matt 28:18... And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

What power on earth is greater? None! Notice the ALL! How big is your God? Christians must come to the place where we can love all people enough to share the gospel with them and rejoice when a lost soul is saved. This love is needed more today than it has ever been. All we need to do is look around us and see the path our world is taking to know that all mankind is headed for destruction.

March 07
HIDING BEHIND WALLS
Bill Griffin
1996

Eph 2:13-14... But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Why is it that we so often yield to the temptation to avoid persons who are not "like us?" We dismiss anyone who does not dress as we do. We avoid someone because they are from "the wrong side of town". We shy away from people who do not speak the same language or have the same color we do. And God help us when we look down our noses at someone who's lifestyle is radically different from ours.

So many times, we build walls in the name of "righteousness" that repel those who are hurting. How can we hear the sounds of a severe family problem, a sinful lifestyle, or an addiction like

alcoholism or drugs if we have a barrier between us?

Wouldn't it be remarkable if we could honestly say "I don't have any walls keeping the lost and other unchurched people away?" Members of the body of Christ need to search their own attitudes and behavior to discover personal walls. We need to be sensitive to the walls we have built and work at discovering and destroying them.

Sometimes, the walls have a price. It may mean changing something in my lifestyle or attitude. But I must! Christ Himself tore down the greatest wall of all - that wall which separated man from God. Look at the price He had to pay to open the way for man's freedom from sin. Do I have near as much to pay?

March 08
CENSORSHIP
Bill Griffin
01/24/99

Our national news is being overwhelmed today with the idea of 'censorship' for the President and let the 'Impeachment' slide. It is not so much, to hear congress tell it, that he is guilty, but that he is not guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors. Try telling that to the Judges that have been impeached and those in prison for perjury or obstructing justice. This individual that swore to uphold the law and the Constitution of the United States should be an example for the rest of us but he has decided that he is 'above' this law our founding fathers fought and died to preserve. Just what is the process of censorship?
CENSURE:

Disapproval; condemnation or blame; adverse criticism. -- Reprimand or discipline by

ecclesiastical or political authority. -- To punish by public reprimand, with or without some other penalty.

CENSORSHIP:

The aggregate of selective agencies, both unconscious and deliberate, which are responsible for the suppression of unpleasant memories and thoughts, for the inhibition of impulses and behavior deemed improper, and for the exercise of discipline over the tendencies of the ego.

It appears the rest of the leaders of our nation want to reprimand Bill Clinton without any other punishment. Bill Clinton has never exhibited any tendencies to censor those things in his life that has lead to this scandal. It seems that the American public is willing to

accept these actions with a 'WHO CARES' attitude. Rest assured, there is One who cares and He will have the ultimate say.

When we turn from our old nature to the new nature God gives us as his child, the old nature is not taken away. We learn to censor those habits that were part of our former self. My own sub-consciousness has to work overtime to keep these unwanted memories and habits from rising up and coming back. Without the help of the Holy Spirit and prayer, I would be helpless to prevent the takeover. Christ describes this process in

Matt 12:43-45.... "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

The battle must be prepared and won in prayer. Too often, we think of prayer as a waste of time. How can an appointment with the King of Kings be a waste of time? We also think that our praying is to help God with an answer. It isn't. Our prayer should be an earnest plea to God asking for His help. Throughout the Scriptures, power is released through prayer. Not to pray is a sin. Look at how Samuel describes it:

1 Sam 12:23-25... As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will be swept away."

The people of America with their 'king', Bill Clinton are in danger of being swept away. Are you praying for them? Please do.

March 09

CHIPPERS AND WINEPRESSES

Bill Griffin

05/20/1999

Part of my retirement hours has been spent trying to clean up and tidy up my yard since I never really had time to do it while working. I had two large scrub pines taken down and hauled off. Due to the location, the workmen had to take the trees down piece-limb at a time and then saw the trunk down in sections. One of the pieces of equipment they had with them was a chipper. As the limbs were dropped, they were fed into the chipper and the resulting mulch blown into a truck. It was fascinating to watch. Some of the limbs were 6-8 inches in diameter but the two drums with the flanges caught the lime, moved apart, and pulled the limb through into the chipper blades. Hardly any stress or strain at all, just a slight increase in the hum of the engine.

Since this particular company just hauls the mulch to the dump, I asked them to dump it in the area where the tree was removed. I have spent over a week moving the mulch in a wheelbarrow and there is still a truckload left. I think I got more than I bargained for but I am sure Sarah will tell me where she wants the rest.

As I watched the chipper, the thought came to my mind about the great winepress of God mentioned in the book of Revelation. God's winepress will show even less strain than this chipper when the world's population at that time is fed into it. Look at the description John gives us in Rev 14:19-20...

And the angel swung his sickle to the earth, and gathered {the clusters from} the vine of the

earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.

Notice that both the chipper and the winepress are busy and powerful instruments. Anything fed into either comes out as refuse, mostly to be discarded. The mulch would have been taken to the dump. The blood will flow deep and wide in the valley of Megiddo. [Armageddon]

I had the trees removed to improve the appearance of my yard [and to get rid of the pine resin that drips all the time]. God will use His winepress to improve the appearance of the earth by removing those that continue in the latter days to be a stench in His nostrils and are bound to destroy the earth and all mankind. Eventually I hope to have grass or possibly flowers replenishing the areas. Eventually, God Himself will have a new flower garden on earth. As Peter describes it:

2 Pet 3:12-13... Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Will you be one of those to return to live forever in God's new earth?

March 10

CHOOSING TO BREAK THE LAW

Bill Griffin

8/22/99

The route I take to work here in Denver is a wide open four lane toll road. The traffic is fairly moderate since the tolls are \$1 and \$1.25 at the booths. The upside to the toll is the 70 MPH speed limit and it is just like I-85; no one pays attention to the limit. They choose to break the law by speeding. Their reward sometimes is a delay on the side of the road swapping words with a Highway Patrolman.

Our lives as Christians are somewhat like this. We have been given a law to observe and obey; God's law. There is nothing that MAKES us break this law. We also choose. We can quip as Flip Wilson did, "The devil made me do it", but it is not so. Our fleshly nature desires and we yield.

Just as there is a penalty for breaking a state law, there are penalties for breaking God's

law. Speed and it cost money in fines, insurance increases, and possible loss of license. Sin and we drive a wedge between God and ourselves. Our fellowship can never be exactly the same, even though we know God wipes the slate clean when we confess and repent.

There is a fatal side to both though. Speeding can cause death. Physical death. Sin is fatal without Christ as our seat belt and airbag. God states it well. "The wages of sin is death." Are you buckled up?

March 11
COMPARING RESUMES
Bill Griffin
5/29/1999

With all the downsizing and re-organizing taking place in our country today, there are resumes being submitted in abundant numbers. Many of you have completed one for either yourself or someone else in the family. A resume is supposed to be a summary of your objective, education, employment, and any additional training that would enhance your ability to do the job being sought. Most of us are prone to try our best to sugar coat it somewhat. We try to include all the good stuff and skip over any negatives in our work life. We want our resume to be the best.

Job's resume should have been excellent. Just look:

- 7:20 - Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men?
- 10:7 - Although You know that I am not wicked
- 14:14 - All the days of my hard service I will wait,
- 17:7 - My eye has also grown dim because of sorrow
- 19:4 - And if indeed I have erred,
- 19:25 - For I know that my Redeemer lives
- 23:10 - When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.
- 23:11 - My foot has held fast to His steps
- 27:4 - My lips will not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit
- 29:12 - Because I delivered the poor who cried out,
- 29:12 - the fatherless and the one who had no helper
- 29:21 - Men listened to me and waited, and kept silence for my counsel

These are only a few of the qualities that would make Job perfect for the job of 'Man of God'. But with these qualities, we also see

another quality that is inbred into almost all of us. We want to contend or reason with God if things are not going our way.

13:3 But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God.

23: Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

An impressive resume to be sure but look at the next one:

38:2 - Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

38:4 - Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

38:8 - Or who shut in the sea with doors, when it first forth and issued from the womb;

38:12 - Have you commanded the morning since your days began,

38:17 - Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

38:33 - Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?

41:11 - Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.

Notice the response of Job is the only one we must all come to grips with when we find ourselves face to face with a Holy God.

42:5-6 - I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

March 12
FLUCTUATING PRICES
Bill Griffin
5/18/1999

Since my retirement income is tied to the performance of the stock market, I spend a little time each day watching the ticker prices on the TV. I can watch a particular stock and see how the price goes up and down over and over during a day's time. When I was playing with my 401k plan I would watch the BellSouth stock to determine when the price was trending down. When the price went down, I moved my funds into BellSouth stock. I then watched to see when the stock would move up again. I would then move my funds out of BellSouth stock at a profit. Most of the time, I profited by the moves, but a few times I was bitten when the stock made a sudden turn at the end of the day and I could no longer cancel my transaction.

I felt good about playing and winning but I wonder. What if God had a price to enter heaven and it went up and down every few minutes. How

would I ever be able to forecast the exact moment and the exact price needed for entry? What would that price be? Never break the least of the Ten Commandments? Lead a perfect life? Never fly off the handle in anger? Go to church every time the doors opened? Read God's Word for some specified time every day? Love my neighbor as myself?

While I try to do these things, I find myself failing miserably. The price is beyond my means of paying. It is too high, out of my reach.

Thanks to a God that loves me beyond measure and unconditionally, He provided what He knew I could not pay. Approximately 2000 years ago, God loved the world so much He had His only Son carry an old wooden cross to a hill called Calvary and there let Him be crucified. When Christ uttered the words 'IT IS FINISHED' from the cross, the debt was fulfilled and paid in full.

Col 2:13-14... And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us {and} which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

The price will never increase or decrease. It has been paid in full, never to be negotiated again. Even though the price of the stocks I watch go up and down and I have to continue to buy and sell, the price for entrance to heaven will never change and it has already been stamped
PAID IN FULL.

March 13
HELP KEYS <F1>
Bill Griffin
09/28/1999

There seems to be something inborn in a man that keeps him from asking for directions or help. We believe we have that inborn ability to reason out a problem or that we are Daniel Boone incarnate and can find our way anywhere. Most of the time we have to be hopelessly lost before we'll admit a need. My wife says she is tired of shortcuts that turn out to be new avenues of adventure.

I have found that true here in Denver when working on this computer program. There are parts of it that I know pretty well and others that I know less about. I have found myself more than one time staring at the screen trying to figure out what to do next. Only as a last resort did my brain finally respond "why don't you press the F1 key for help dummy?"

Why do we wait until we are utterly defeated before we look for help? Heaven only knows. The answer must be in heaven because we finally glare upward and ask "God, why did you let this happen to me?" We forget that frustration comes as an after effect and the life of a child of God should be prepared up front. We must start praying while there is time to make a difference in our struggles. David tells us in Psalm 138:3...

"When I called, you answered me; You made me bold and stout hearted."

Front end praying delivers God's Grace for back end faith to handle all anxieties. Pray where you are. NOW!

March 14
AGING
Bill Griffin
1995

A couple had been married for fifty years. "Things have really changed," she said. "You used to sit so close to me." "Well, I can remedy that," he said, moving next to her on the couch. "And you used to hold me tight." "How's that?" he asked as he gave her a hug. "Do you remember you used to nuzzle my neck and nibble on my ear lobes?" He jumped to his feet and left the room. "Where are you going?" "I'll be right back," he said. "I've got to get my teeth."

Old age eventually creeps up on each of us if we live long enough. As the age comes, the body goes. Our hair either turns gray or it turns loose. We have to get help for our eyes to be able to see. We may get aids -- hearing types. Due to illness or injury, some of us may not have all the body parts we started with. In general, we become wrecks. It takes longer to put on body parts than it does clothes.

Even with the aging process, and death finishing the decaying, our bodies are not lost to God. One day, every body will be resurrected, new and whole, and reunited with the soul and spirit it left behind. Believers will be raised to spend eternity with Christ in heaven. Those who do not believe will be reunited and cast into the outer darkness known as 'hell'.

Look at the hope of believers in (I Corinthians 15:52-53)...

[52] "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

Now look at the plight of nonbelievers in (Revelation 20:14- 15).

[14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Believers will receive a glorified body specifically designed to last throughout eternity in heaven. Never to wear out again. Death and hell, along with their co-hort, corruption is forever cast into the lake of fire. God is the designer of this designer body, not Jordache. Not some scientist in a think tank.

In the same sense, the nonbelievers must be given a body to withstand torture, heat, and suffering for this same period. They will not be cast into hell just to be consumed quickly by the fire. Remember, Christ said it is the place where the fire never dies out. In our present state, we would be quickly consumed, to be no more. That is not to be for those who reject the Son of God and His sacrifice for them. Their specially designed bodies; yes, the same designer, will be suited to last for the same eternity.

Which body will you receive?

March 15
INSTRUCTIONS
Bill Griffin
11/05/1999

This past month has been one of continual flight for me it seems. From Charlotte to Denver, Denver to Albuquerque for a week, back to Denver, Denver to Minneapolis for a week, back to Denver, then Denver to Charlotte for a week end home. Because of prior ticket purchases, I left Charlotte on 11-01, flew to Denver, never left the airport but picked up my bags, changed airlines and flew by way of Salt Lake City to Seattle for a week. In fact, I am waiting in Seattle for a flight back to Denver for the week end and then on to Colorado Springs for a week before returning to Denver for a week. Thank goodness, I will fly home on the 18th for a week at home for the holiday.

I have noticed something on every flight that is so like us today. Every flight begins with attendants or TV screens with all the safety and survival instructions peculiar to that aircraft. Only the first time fliers pay attention. Every one else ignores and goes on about their business; talking, reading, sleeping or whatever else suites their fancy. Common place complacency. We (me included) know it all. We don't care or either don't want to hear it again.

We treat God's instructions the same way. Week after week God's messengers stand in pulpits around the world and tell us again of God's instructions. Ever notice how those newly converted seem to hang on to every word and the old timers have a way of drifting off to the other things occupying their mind? Will the rain hold off for the lake trip this afternoon? How can I get out of visiting the in-laws today? Do we have to make it back tonight since it is only a kids program or WMU activity? Preoccupied!

Only when a catastrophe happens does everyone suddenly get interested in all the instructions they ignored. When trials come in our lives we suddenly become interested in hearing from God. We suddenly want all of Him we can get but often it is like the airline instructions: "Too little, too late." God wants to be part of our good times if we expect Him to be part of our hard times. He says to each of us: **"Try me, and I will open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings unmeasured."**

Don't take God's instructions lightly. He paid a high price to publish them.
Pay attention!

March 16
INVESTING
Bill Griffin
5/17/99

The biggest buzz in America today seems to be the stock market and all the 'get rich quick' schemes. Everyone wants to take their few dollars, invest in one of the companies that jumps 200+ % overnight and instantly be rich. With the advent of the Internet, investing is taking on completely new meanings. Where once we had to contact a licensed broker to buy and sell stock shares for us for a fee, now anyone can open an online account and make their own trades instantly. Day traders, they are called. Trades can be completed for as little as \$7.00 as many times in a day as you want. Many people are actually taking advantage of these routes to increase their portfolios and start planning to retire early.

There is one thing about this market though: it is fickle. It can be your best friend one minute and your worst nightmare the next. Just follow along in your local paper sometimes and watch the DOW, S&P 500, and the NASDAQ indexes run up and down like a roller coaster. Watch your stock values fluctuate. If you just sit and watch, it will scare you to death wondering if there will be enough to continue to live the existing life style. I can tell you right now my wife has no desires to live under a bridge.

There is another investment we should all be making. We should be investing in eternal things. Jesus mentioned it when He was here.

Matt 6:20-21... But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

There are so many ways to invest in the kingdom of God. Here are but a few:

PRAYER:

Take time to listen to God and lay your petitions at His feet

WITNESS:

Take time to share the Good News with others that they may know God

FAMILY:

Take time to spend with your family - wife, children, parents, grandchildren; God placed a family in the garden, we need to continue to nurture it

LIFESTYLE:

Simple, unhurried, unworried, make do with old things, don't spend it if you don't have it

GIVING:

Tithes; giving to the poor, to the needy; give of self to work for equality for the elderly, the unborn, the homeless, and the disadvantaged

As you think of your future, take time to plan your eternal investments as well as your earthly investments. The eternal dividends are out of this world.

March 17
MEMORIES
Bill Griffin
3/31/99

WHOOEEE! What a day. I know what David the psalmist meant when he penned the words: 'my cup runneth over'. Mine truly overflowed today when

so many of you came to say farewell. Maybe some of you came to just make sure I did not change my

mind or the free food? Thanks to all of you for coming.

How do you really write what you feel emotionally when you hear others thank you for being part of their lives; when so many cards mention that you will be missed? These were not people who came as supervisors or subordinates. These are friends that have been established through relationships that have covered many years.

We never know whom we are going to touch in our lives as we interface with people in the work place. To know that somehow you touched one life is a compliment and a blessing. To have been able to speak a word of encouragement when someone was down, or a word of comfort when someone hurt, a compliment, a smile, a story shared, or sharing Jesus overwhelms me when I think about it. How God was and is able to use a little old country

'barefoot boy with cheeks of tan' from the hills of Ellijay, Georgia to minister along the way is beyond my understanding.

In the garden when He was preparing to leave, Christ told His disciples that He no longer called them servants, but FRIENDS. I feel I can do no less. I can no longer think of you as co-workers: clerks, craftsmen, foremen, managers or any title, but as FRIENDS.

Thanks to all who came to the farewell reception and if you see someone who came that is not on this mailing list, please thank them for me. Thanks to those who prepared the Memory Book. It is precious and my heart is stirred when I read the remarks from so many.

GOD BLESS YOU EACH AND EVERY ONE. I LOVE YOU!

Willie..Gee

March 18
MOMENT OF EXPECTANCY
Bill Griffin
03/30/99

The moment is fast approaching. The blessed event that will make me a grandfather for the first time. [Makes me sound old] UHHHMM! I am getting older. I look forward to the day with anticipation.

I know my son and daughter-in-law are even more anxious than Sarah and I. They have gone through all the preparations of fixing one of the bedrooms into a nursery. Walls painted. Wallpaper hung. Baby crib positioned. Baby clothes purchased or received and placed with gentle loving care in the closet or in the dresser. June 15 will soon be here with the little bundle of joy. A girl.

Now, we can only guess that the event will happen on exactly June 15th. Doctors can calculate and give their best estimate but it still comes down to one thing: *GOD ALONE* determines when life will begin outside the womb. She may be born June 1 or June 20. We have no control. We can only watch and be ready for the unexpected hour.

There is another blessed event that God controls and we are admonished to be watchful and ready. This event is the return of Christ for His bride, the church. Jesus told His disciples that no one knows the day or the hour except the Father Himself. We are told that we can notice the signs that announce His coming though. Just as Julianne is beginning to bulge and show signs of the new life inside her, signs are evident for Christ's return. Just as the time will come when the pains will begin and draw closer and closer

announcing the imminent birth, we can look and see the signs around us.

- Wars and rumors of wars.
- False prophets.
- Nations rising against nation.
- Great earthquakes and famines.
- Pestilence.
- Signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.
- Distress of nations, with perplexity.
- Mens hearts failing from fear of things to come.

Luke 21:27-33... At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Israel, God's fig tree is blooming again in the land of Palestine. Lift up your head and watch the eastern sky. Be ready.

March 19
MOVING THE LIGHTHOUSE
Bill Griffin
6/15/1999

One of the items making the news today is the massive undertaking to move the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse 1600 feet inland. So far it has been quite an engineering feat to raise the lighthouse intact and get it on rails and wheels for the journey. Now, comes the rest of the story. At a snail's pace, the house must be ever so carefully moved over the sandy terrain to its next resting place.

Due to the eroding coastline, the lighthouse is being moved to preserve it's historic value.

Once, it had more than just history. It was a beacon on the North Carolina coast to warn sailing ships of impending danger due to the ragged coastline. Before all the modern technology with radar and sonar, this light shining in the darkness was the calming salve to the fearful hearts sailing the coast. It brought comfort to know where they were in relation to the land and the inlets. It calmed the fears of dashing upon the rocks or running aground on some sandbar.

Today, though, the lighthouse is just a shadow of it's former self. No light shining out into the darkness, no foghorn to be heard to warn the ships. Now it is just a structure to be visited to bring remembrance of the things of the past. Our history.

There is another beacon shining out through the darkness that should be our guide. This beacon was planted in stone and cemented with blood. True, the wooden structure has long since been destroyed but the history cries on. The Cross of Calvary. It still brings light to darkened souls. It has been the source of comfort for two thousand years to more souls than can be counted. We still sing songs about it that brings remembrance to our hearts: 'Rock of Ages', 'Old Rugged Cross', 'The Sheltering Rock', to name a few. More fears have been relieved, more burdens lifted, more comfort given, and more peace

received from the LIGHT and VOICE from the Cross than all the lighthouses in the world.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse has lost its footing and to remain standing must be moved. The cross will never lose it's footing. From ages past to eternity future, it has forever been planted in and by the SOLID ROCK. Look at the fourth stanza of 'The Sheltering Rock' by W. E. Penn:

There is a Cross where the Savior died,
His blood flowed out in a crimson tide,
A sacrifice for sins of men,
And free to all who will enter in.
Then why will ye die?
O why will ye die?
When the crimson cross is so near by,
O why will ye die?

March 20

OUR PERCEPTION OF GOD

Bill Griffin

12/12/1999

From the window in my room here in Denver, I can look westward and see the Rockie Mountains as they form a backdrop for the city. They appear to be small from thirty miles away, just speed bumps on the way to the West Coast. I know the first pioneers must have marveled as they traveled day by day and seeming to never draw closer. There appears to be three different shades to the mountains but I know it is only perception. There is a Front Range that is considered foothills and right now they are covered with snow. There is very little vegetation on this group and the snow clings to the ground like a blanket. The next group seen gives the impression that no snow fell at all. This group is the forested group and the snow starts melting from the limbs quite quickly when the sun rises and has all day to shine on the trees with no interference. The third group is known as the 'high country' and it is these snow-capped peaks that are the most beautiful. These caps contain the snows that fall all winter and during this time of the year and stand like sentinels in the background, guarding the front ranges. These peaks are all over 10,000 feet high. The trees and vegetation quit growing above 10,000 feet because the ground stays frozen below a foot deep. Because there is no vegetation, the snows cover the barren ground and rocks and continues to freeze and pack throughout the winter. That is why the snows do not melt quickly during the summer months.

From Denver, the mountains and the peaks look as if you could just drive up and over them with no problems. It is only as you approach the mountains and the back ranges begin to disappear in your vision that you realize just how huge they are. It is only when you climb the highways into the mountains that you begin to see the peaks again. It is then that they become so majestic they take the breath away. Postcards, calendars, movies, and TV do not do justice to

what the eye beholds. To stop in one of the canyons and gaze upward or to stand at the top in a gap and gaze level with the snow caps makes me realize the difference in perception from East Denver.

Our view of God is like this perception sometimes. As we travel the road of faith and maturity, we can only view God as we have read or heard about Him. As we grow and draw closer to Him because of the grace and mercies He has shown us, we begin to have to look up because He has grown in our site and we no longer see Him as a far away God. He becomes real because we have experienced Him for ourselves and now we begin to realize as we stand in His presence how much greater He is than I am. We then realize what the song expounds "Our God is an awesome God". The book of Job gives us a small glimpse of how awesome God really is when God answers Job and calls him into question. Look at this small part of the conversation from Chapter 38:

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, 2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. 4 Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? 8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? 9 When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, 10 And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, 11 And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

March 21

ROADS THAT GO NOWHERE

Bill Griffin

11/11/1999

My partner for the past few weeks has been Mr. Barry Beall, retired BellSouth, working here with me doing a buried drop study for USWest. We have

scouted from Denver to Minneapolis to Seattle to Colorado Springs by way of Salt Lake City in the

past three weeks. We still have not left the Salt Lake air terminal.

Last week we were in Burien, a suburb of Seattle. Since neither of us had been to Seattle before, we wanted to drive downtown after work to see some of the sites. Well... we got out our trusty map and found the best looking route to go downtown. Hwy 99, straight shot, freeway, no traffic. Here we go, and as we approached downtown Seattle, we were ga ga looking at the skyline, not paying too much attention to exits. We passed one on the south side of town but we were not ready to exit yet. Oh boy, did we mess up. This freeway became an elevated highway that was like a slingshot by downtown Seattle. I think there was one more exit but we missed it too and found ourselves on the north side wondering what happened.

This was a road going somewhere with no way to get off but not going where I wanted to go. By the time we had circled around, crossed over Lake Washington and back, all we could see were lights. (Thought about stopping in at Bill Gates and saying howdy but could not find his place in the night.)

Have you ever been on a road taking you somewhere you did not intend or want to go? No

relief in sight? How can I make it through this crisis? We all have. Satan has a way of getting us on those roads sometimes in our personal lives and before we know it, he has us where we can not see an exit. We see all that we really want over on the other road but we see no way to get there. Satan blinds us. The Lord tells us in Matt 7:14 how Satan makes the broad road look so enticing to us. Just like the super highway looked good to us in Seattle.

For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

But remember; God has an exit to every road Satan can place before us. We just have to recognize we are on the wrong road and look for the exit God has prepared for His people.

"But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

God has no desire to see us on the wrong road. Look how He describes His intentions to Jeremiah -- Jer 29:11... *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

You can get off. Look now for the exit God has provided for you.

March 22
ROBE OF FLESH
Bill Griffin
8/24/1999

My son Joe is a qualified scuba diver. When he goes diving, he puts on a special wet suit that allows his body temperature to stay fairly consistent. It becomes a part of him, allowing him to move freely in the water. It is almost like another layer of skin to him. It is his protection against hypothermia but once he is out of the water, he peels this outer suit off. [He should get plenty of practice now. He left today 8/24/1999 for a two year tour in Hawaii with the Marine Corps.]

We as humans have a similar suit. It is called "the flesh". No, not the skin stretched across our bones that we think of as flesh. It is our worldly nature. We were born with it. Why you

ask when we see that all God made was good. God made us different from all the other animals. He gave us a choice. This choice has allowed man through Adam's sin, to desire his own thing instead of what God desires of him. This is what the Scriptures often refer to as "flesh".

Just as Joe shucks the swim suit when he is finished, we will shuck this suit of flesh when we are finished here on earth. There is a popular hymn that says it like this:

"THIS ROBE OF FLESH I'LL DROP AND RISE".

Paul tells us that we will trade the corruptible for the incorruptible.

Have you made provisions to trade your robe of flesh?

March 23
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH
By Bill Griffin
07-10-1999

Psalm 19 tells us that the earth declares the handiwork of God and I was never so aware of this fact as I was today. I was privileged to see and be in a small portion of God's glorious handiwork. Almost three mile above sea level, above the line where trees cease to grow, and snow lies on the ground year round gives shape to some of the most breathtaking scenery I have ever had the privilege to see: ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK out of Estes Park, Colorado.

We entered the park from the eastern side, out of Estes Park through the Falls River entrance. We had not gone more than a mile when traffic was stopped by two park rangers to allow a small herd [females and young] of mountain sheep to come off a slope to our right and cross the road to a pond in the meadow on the left. The valley was a small one here, no more than a quarter mile wide. The Rockies seemed to lift up from the western side and reach into the sky. I could see toward the top where the road switched

back and forth and knew I was in for a climb and a beautiful view.

As we climbed the road, the view became just breath taking as we twisted and turned ever upward with stone faced cliffs on one side and dark blue green valleys and meadows below with the snow caps always in view. Soon though, we were even with the snow and this is July and the temperature below was 80. We could feel the air becoming cooler as we climbed higher and soon, we were above the tree lines with nothing but blue sky all around us. Grassy slopes descended down to the tree line. In spots, the snow had melted and pooled in crevices or high meadows forming watering holes for the wildlife. Near the very top we encountered a herd of antelope grazing just off the side on one of the slopes where it did widen out a bit. On top of the world it seemed, the road was carved out of pure rock and there were no rails on the open side and no shoulder. There was one spot where the road had

caved in and crumbled one lane around one of the outside bends. Now that was spooky, knowing that I had to drive on what was left. What if it decided to turn loose just as I got on it. Talk about intense. Since I was driving, Harold had to give me a view by view for some of it because I was not about to take my eyes away from this narrow road for a minute. There is no current ride in any SIX FLAGS amusement park that would match this ride downhill. I wanted no part of it.

My eyes can not totally describe the view I saw but I know it had to be hand-made. There was no big boom and there they were. God Himself had to take His finger and draw it through this land of ours to create this mountain range. It gave me

a new awareness of the Majesty and Glory of the Almighty God. I also have a new admiration for those first explorers and settlers who left homes to travel the west to establish new homes and by sheer determination and hard work crossed this very range by horse, oxen, mule, wagon, and foot.

I praise God for His creation, both the mountains and the men and women and children who first made a path across them, a path for others to follow.

We need to leave another path in our lives; A path for others to find the God who created us and loves us with an unchanging and unfailing love.

Are you leaving a path?

March 24
SHOP RAGS
Bill Griffin
2/8/99

As I spent some time in my shop this past weekend cleaning up and getting ready for my retirement occupancy, I found that I had old shop rags scattered everywhere. Some were strips of old shirts or cloth that are used to clean up and then discard. Some are actually manufactured shop cloths. Rags all, I call them.

Anyway, I noticed something interesting about the rags that brought this thought to mind. The rags were in various stages of being soiled. Some I had used as grease rags when working on the car or the mowers. Some had stains from paint or thinners or stains where I had used them when working with the wooden toys. Some had just dust where I had wiped down a workbench or just cleaned my hands.

I thought of what God told us in His word in **Isaiah 64:6... All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.**

The sin in our lives is like these shop rags. Think. Some get so soiled with oil and grease that there is no trying to clean them. They are discarded. God will try to cleanse our lives until we reach a point where we are so soiled with sin that we will not allow Him to clean us. It is then that He even discards: **Rom 1:28-32... furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what**

ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness.... , Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Other rags I wash and reuse but the stains and dirt is not completely removed. Our sins are this way. Some stain our hearts forever but because we are willing to be washed and reused by God, we are not discarded. Never the same purity, but washed just the same. God can still use us. David describes it this way: **Ps 51:7... Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**

Some of the rags are restored to what looks like their original condition but upon close examination, some remnants of dirt and dust remain. We were created in God's image, clean and pure, but when sin came into this world and into our lives, we carry the sentence forever. There will always be that remnant in my life. That is why God can tell us that 'ALL' have sinned.

To clean my shop rags, I throw them into the washing machine and add detergent, maybe even some Clorox. How do I clean the filthy rags of my righteousness? The blood. The blood of the One who died for me that I may obtain righteousness through Him.

Are the rags of your soul washed with this blood?

March 25
SINKING SHIPS
Bill Griffin
5/29/1999

I heard a T.V. preacher make the statement: 'ALL THE WATER IN THE WORLD CAN NOT SINK A SHIP UNLESS IT GETS INSIDE'. Now being a former boat owner and fisherman, I could relate to this statement. Growing up in the mountains with some of the wooden boats we crawled into, it is a wonder we ever made it back to the bank. We even had to pull one half full of water now and then. It does not matter how the water got in. It was in. When it got in, the boat started going down and the speed of 'sink' was in relation to the hole and the amount of water. A strange thing though; have you ever seen or been in a boat that capsized? It floats. Why; Because no water is inside it. When you try to flip it back over though, the water goes over the sides and down it goes. From the smallest of pond row boats to the

largest ocean vessel [Titanic], a hole allows water in and the boat sinks.

Our lives are that way too. All the sin in the world can not get inside us unless there is an entry-way. A hole. The God given senses of our bodies fail us if we are not at a state of constant readiness to do battle with the world around us. SIGHT, SMELL, TASTE, FEELING, HEARING. If we leave either sense unguarded, we leave a hole. Pornography can not get in unless I choose to see it. Drugs and alcohol have no entry unless I decide to taste or smell them. Gossip has an effect only if I choose to hear it. God gave us the senses to communicate with the world but we need to guard against them becoming a passageway to our soul with all the sin the world puts out now.

We also find Satan's greatest tools against the church are from the inside. All the fiery darts he can hurl against the church can not destroy the church from outside. One small tongue inside though can be a destructive weapon. Satan looks for these small holes to sink a church.

This is never more evident than in the very life and times of Christ. He could not destroy the small band of Christ and His disciples from without. He stirred up people to kill Christ. He tried to discredit Him with the temptations. He even turned His own Jewish religious leaders against Him. None of these worked. There was no hole in the life of Christ. But there was a hole in the life of one who traveled with Him. Inside HIS own personal close knit group.

Luke 22:3... Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

John 13:26-27... Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

Judas had been with Jesus. Judas knew the man Jesus. But Judas did not have a relationship with the LORD JESUS. Judas provided the hole for Satan to destroy; to sink the ship.

Are there holes that you have left open? They can be patched or plugged with the Gospel of Christ if you will allow Him.

March 26
SPECIAL PLACES
Bill Griffin
6/10/99

Most of us have 'special' places. There is that special restaurant where we love to eat out. There is that special place we love to go on vacation or to get away for a weekend. There are special stores where we love to shop. For some of us, there is a special place in the house where we love to curl up and relax with a cup of coffee or a good book after a long and grueling day. Have you ever given thought to that special place where you meet God?

Today's hurry-up world makes it difficult for us to keep a quiet time with God but Jesus gave us examples to follow. He never let the things of the world come between Himself and the Father. He knew that constant communication was so very important to His mission. He took time alone, away from the world and the crowds to commune with His Father.

Mark 1:35... And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Luke 5:16... And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Luke 6:12... And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Luke 22:41.. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

Notice that in each of these occasions, Jesus found a solitary place to talk to the Father. He even told us that when we pray, we should go into the 'closet' alone. *[Matt 6:6... But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when*

thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.] Jesus was not talking about a literal closet but a quiet solitary place. Our time alone with God is private and personal. It is in these intimate moments that He is able to speak to us ever so tenderly and say "I LOVE YOU". It is in these moments that He is able to tell us 'MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU'.

Do you have that special place? With what is happening in our world today, it is becoming more and more important to find that place where we can meet God daily. It is only through this type relationship that we can ever hope to get out of the spiritual rut that also affected the disciples.

[Matt 17:18-21... And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.]

There is one 'special' thing about this special place though.

In this special 'solitary' place, YOU ARE NEVER ALONE!

March 27
SPIRITUAL REFILLS
Bill Griffin
5/28/1999

Women! You can't live with them and you can't live without them. What drives their thinking? Let me explain before I get chastised severely for even speaking out.

There are three women who drive my mother-in-law's car. She never learned to drive so someone has to chauffeur her around. She says she has trouble getting into any other car but the one she and Jack had. They don't argue with that no-win situation. The three daughters take turns taking her places but always in her car. Now the other day, I volunteered to take her for a Doctor's appointment since I was not working and had nothing planned. [Piddling don't count when

they add up who is doing what]. Katherine and I jumped in the car and off we went. About two blocks from the house, I happened to glance at the gas gauge. The red gauge and the red indicator were married together. Below empty! I didn't think we were going to make it and for the couple of miles to the nearest station, I tried to hold my breath to lighten the load. It seems they treat this car like their own plus they hope the next one will stop and pump gasoline. It would not have mattered that I did not do it but if we had stalled on the side of the road, Katherine would have never forgiven me!

The car must have gasoline to power the vehicle. We as people need a special ingredient to also power us. This ingredient is the Holy Spirit. Too often we run our tanks almost empty before we realize it. When we do, most of us run back to church to get a new infusion. We don't think about keeping the tank filled at all times. The Scriptures tell us:

Eph 5:18-19... And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

The word filled in this verse is an action verb meaning to continually be filled. We do not

use up the Spirit and then run to church to be refilled. We are to be filled continually every day. How? You ask. Look at the next verse. Speaking, or reciting psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Singing and making melody in your heart. And all to the LORD! You cannot be held down in a spiritual ditch unless you let it happen. When you start singing and praising the LORD, things happen. THE TANK BEGINS TO REFILL. Are you refilling your Spiritual tank daily, moment by moment? You can start even now. The LORD says try Him and He will pour out blessings from Heaven that you cannot count.

March 28

STAND-BY STATUS

Bill Griffin

11/05/1999

The city of Seattle surprised me. When I think of a town that is a seaport and shipping center, I think of flat land - elevation 0. The tourist guides show Seattle being 0 - 520 feet above sea level. That may be true but it is all up and down. I thought I had been dropped off in San Francisco. Just out of Seattle are the Cascade Mountains, looming over Seattle as the Rockies loom over Denver. In fact, Mt. Rainer, the tallest peak in the continental U.S., stands out with its top protruding through the clouds or high above all others on a clear day. It is November and the first snows have left their signature white caps everywhere.

This area of our country has its share of God created beauty. From the Colorado Rockies, Utah Wasatch, Wyoming Tetons, Washington Cascades, to the California Sierras, the mountains display God's handiwork. David never saw this area when he penned "The earth declares God's glory" but he knew. The heart tells us how awesome God is. And as we used to say in Georgia, "You ain't seen nuthin yet."

As I wait on a 'stand-by' basis here in the Seattle airport to catch an earlier flight out to Denver, I think about how uncertain this status can be. I have a 4:50 p.m. ticket but it is only 8:00 a.m. Will there be a vacant seat? Will my name be the one to be called? Even if I get out of Seattle, I have to get off in Salt Lake City and go through the same process again.

I have another flight scheduled some time in the future. My ticket is assured, it has already been paid. My boarding pass has been stamped with the blood of God's son. I will not be left in a stand-by status. There will be no stand-by for this flight. It is a one of a kind and all tickets have to be purchased in advance. All the beauty I see from this airport will pale in comparison to the sites at the conclusion of this flight. I will finally see ALL that God has prepared for me.

Is your name on the flight manifest? Be sure!
P.S. I made both standby flights.

March 29

THE TABLE

Bill Griffin

02/13/1999

One of my projects last fall was to help my father-in-law build a table in his garage for his model trains. He had been collecting for years and had quite an array of rails, locomotives, cars, and accessories. We had spent so much time remodeling and building an apartment in his basement since he moved here a couple of years ago that we had not been able to get around to this chore. Finally though, he sketched out the plans and we decided to get to work on it so he could enjoy his trains and give him something to do to piddle and get out of the house.

No ordinary table mind you. This one was five feet wide and fourteen feet long with shelving and storage underneath. Each leg and crosspiece had to be grooved and matched to fit flush. Each shelf had to be notched to fit around the legs and braces. Since Jack could not breathe the sawdust, he had to stay inside while I did all the sawing. Only when I quit sawing and vacuumed the dust could he come outside and put his stamp of approval on the table as it was being built. It took me about a month to build the table in my spare time.

This past Wednesday, I had one of the hardest tasks I have had in a while. You see, I had to

dismantle the table and repack what little parts of the tracks we had started to place on the table. Jack passed on in December and my mother-in-law finally felt we should take the table down and pack and store the trains.

As I dismantled the table, I thought of the time it took to make it and the short time it took to tear apart. God let me see that the same is true for you and me. He took the time to make us intricately with all parts that intertwine and interlock just as the table. Each piece has to fit and each piece has its own place. It will not fit just anywhere. Psalm 139: 13-16 tells me of the care God took to make each of us.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

The table came apart in just a little while. Just as quickly as the table came apart though,

sin can tear the body apart. Satan waits for the first opportunity to take advantage of any weakness we show in our walk with God. The Apostle Peter gave us a pretty good description of Satan.

1 Pet 5:8...Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a

roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

What God puts together so wonderfully in nine months in a womb, Satan tears apart in a moment's time if we are not watching. Are you watching? Are you walking close enough to God that Satan has no place to get between?

March 30
THE TOTAL GIFT
Bill Griffin
08/25/99

One of the small gifts my wife and I give to each other on occasions is a book When Sarah buys me one [after I have given her the title and author], she presents it to me at the appropriate time. It is a free gift because it cost me nothing, I just had to transfer it from her hand to mine. Up until I took it, it was still her possession. Now if I should tell her "I sure would like to have all the chapters of this book", she would tell me they were all included. (Right after she white-eyed me). Also included would be any Introductions, Prologs, and Epilogs. The complete package, nothing left out.

Have you ever thought of the Gift Package God gave you at Salvation? It too is a complete package, as carefully wrapped in love as any gift

you have ever received. John 3:16 says: "For God so loved". Look at the package you received. Salvation:

"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord".

Holy Spirit:

Received-"I will send you a comforter" (Jn. 14:16)

Baptized--- "By one Spirit into one body" (I Cor. 12:12-13)

Sealed----- "Until the day of redemption" Can you believe it? All this free! We are never commanded to pray for the Holy Spirit. We are not told to pray for His baptism. We do not even have to pray to be sealed. Regeneration also comes without asking. The salvation gift came complete. You did get yours didn't you?

March 31
TRAINING
Bill Griffin
04/01/99

2 Tim 2:3-4... *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

Heb 12:1... *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us...*

My youngest son Joe is at Parris Island, S.C. at the Marine Corp boot camp. By completing the rigorous training, he hopes to become a full fledged 'jarhead'. [I don't know where jarhead came from, it is just there in the Marine Corp]. The training here as in other boot camps is required to take a 'new babe' and feed and nourish to maturity. He must move from the kid off the street to a trained marine ready to face the times ahead.

Paul compares our walk and life with Christ to the lives of both a soldier and an athlete. When we look closely at both we see many common comparisons. From private to general, from runner to coach, the requirements have to be met if they are going to reach their full potential

There are sacrifices required. We must be willing to give up other things that seem so appealing to us. Sometimes it requires additional work when we would rather be with our friends doing other things.

Are you willing to sacrifice of yourself to follow God's leading and minister as you go?

There is time involved. We do not become good athletes or soldiers over night. Training is long and rigorous. Some youngsters start as young children training for an Olympic moment they know nothing about at the time. Parents take them early in life and they are still practicing into their late teens and even later as they compete. Some soldiers continue to train for years to stay in physical condition and to be cross trained to do many different jobs within the military. Are you willing to take the time required to study to show thyself approved; a workman not ashamed at His coming?

There is a discipline required. For most of us, when we tire of something, we just quit doing it. Not so for these. They get up each day and tell themselves to keep going. If they quit, it is all for nothing.

Is there a discipline in your life that keeps you in daily prayer and study of God's Word? When you feel tired or busy, do you leave God abandoned to the place where you meet Him once in a while? He is your Father and wants to spend the time with you if you will let Him.

There is an obedience required. Both the drill Sergeant and the coach give instructions and commands and these must be obeyed. Even if they think they know better, both the soldier and the athlete must obey their superiors.

When you meet with God and He speaks to you, are you willing to follow His instructions and commandments?