

Today's Sermons
Morning: A Place Prepared...
Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	34
Sunday AM Worship	50
Sunday PM Worship	36
Wed. Bible Study	34
Offering	\$1945



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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

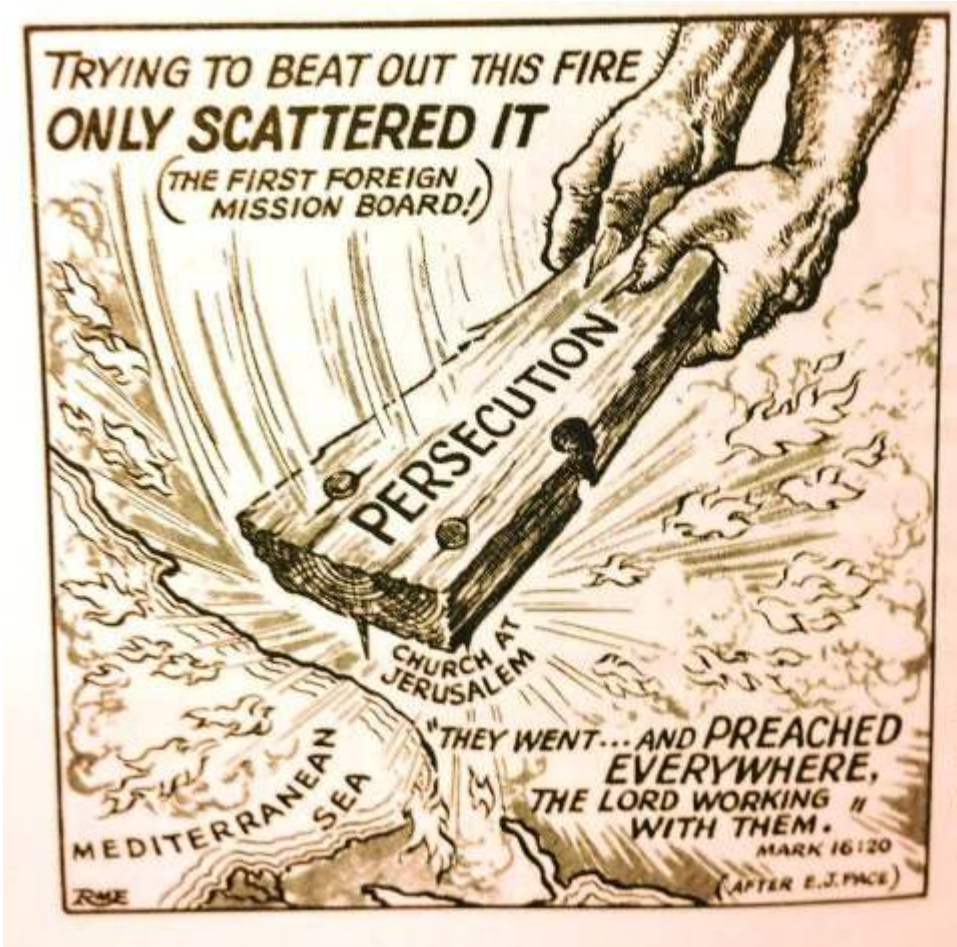
**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

Looking at the Unseen
Jim Bullington

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4.16-18).

Intense persecution was the background for Paul's statement (just quoted). He knew that death could literally be waiting at every turn. Speaking for himself and others with him he wrote, "We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4.8-9). In order to be able to go on under these circumstances, one would have to possess a tremendous motivation. After all, all it would have taken for Paul to have put an end to the pain and to have lived a comfortable life would have been for him to renounce the faith. However, the desire that lay before him (future) was greater than his desire for peace and comfort (present).

Continued Inside



COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Author Unknown

Paul revealed the motivation that sustained him in the closing verses of 2 Corinthians 4; he was able to cope with persecutions because he looked "...at the things which are not seen." This is a somewhat lighthearted play on words but the substance behind the pun had the greatest possible impact in Paul's life; this perspective was his secret of success. In explaining what he meant, Paul said "...the things which are seen are temporary." How very different the perspective that Paul had from most of humanity! Bricks and mortar, surely they are real we think; surely they are what lasts. However Paul said those things are temporary. The Pharaohs expended fortunes to erect the pyramids as "eternal" reminders of their power and wealth, but alas, even the pyramids are not immune to the ravages of time! Paul was right when he observed that the visible things of this universe are but temporary.

To note the positive side on Paul's statement, he looked "at the things which are not seen." These are the things, says he, which are eternal. Somewhere beyond the azure blue the hope which sustained Paul is safe from the deleterious effects of this universe, immune to decay and corruption. Though Paul had never seen this place, he was absolutely positive of its existence. It was the place of which Jesus spoke when He told His hearers, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matthew 6.19-20). This perspective was the same perspective that sustained Moses, or as the Hebrews writer put it, "By faith he [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible." (Hebrews 11.27).

To whom or what do you look for your security? If it can be measured, weighed, chemically analyzed, painted, renovated, assessed with taxes, or be willed to your successors, it is temporary and cannot be the source of eternal assurance. On the other hand, if your faith is firmly fixed on God and the things that are not seen, eternal and incorruptible blessings are positively yours!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 25 – Song Service
- Oct 2 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ: for in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Colossians 2:8-10).

The word "spoil" now commonly means corrupt, to cause to decay and perish, as fruit is spoiled by keeping too long, but this is not the meaning of the word as here used. The Greek word translated "make spoil" means to spoil in the sense of plunder, rob, as when plunder is taken in war. The meaning is, "Take heed lest any one plunder or rob you of your faith and hope by this philosophy". They were to be evermore on their guard lest false teachers should plunder and rob them of their faith as an invading army would rob a country of all that is valuable. Philosophical teachers would seek to implant their theories that left the Lord out, and an acceptance of them was to apostatize from Christ, to be plundered and robbed of their faith in the Crucified One.

This warning is very pertinent today. Human reasoning, specious philosophy, is the order of the day; and many are having their faith and hope stolen from them by atheistic and skeptical professors advocating theories antagonistic to the religion of Christ. Christ is the sum and the end of our hopes and aspirations; for in him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

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*"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: <sup>18</sup> That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: <sup>19</sup> Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; <sup>20</sup> Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." (Hebrews 6:17-20).*