



Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

20. This is it!

How man may pass from a hell of guilt to a lavish heaven of forgiveness.

Merwin Whitehead was thoroughly discouraged. His wife Myra had left him. He worked on the holy worship day every other week and his church had censured him for breaking the commandments, and besides that he had some bad habits.

Then he went across the border and met a pastor who had recently learned about the ABC's of Bible prayer. The minister, Pastor Wright, had witnessed a miracle only a few weeks before. Pastor Wright's wife had low blood sugar. Her condition had been growing worse as the months came and went. Then at our camp-meetings she claimed a Bible promise for healing and has seen no sign of ill health since.

So when Merwin Whitehead met Pastor Wright, he was to learn about righteousness by faith, not by works.

The Bible says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Ephesians 2:8.

Merwin, like so many Christians, up to that time had had the wrong concept of obedience. He felt that obeying was a sort of do-it-yourself procedure. He did not understand that both justification and sanctification are ours only by faith.

Justification by faith means that we are accounted "just" through faith in Jesus Christ. Up to that particular point we are forgiven all past sins. We have the covering of Christ's righteousness. God, instead of looking at our past life of sin, sees, by choice, only the perfect life of obedience of Jesus Christ, His Son.

Dr. Young, in his Analytical Concordance to the Bible, defines the word "justify" as used in the New Testament as "to make or declare right." When, therefore, our Lord justifies us, He declares us right or righteous.

Yes, this justification comes by faith, it is of grace. We are justified by His blood in the name of the Lord Jesus. Justification is absolutely free. It comes through simply believing in Jesus.

When a sinner confesses his sins, he is forgiven and cleansed. His past life is covered. The great apostle Paul calls this act of covering imputed righteousness.

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

"Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." Romans 4:7, 8.

This imputed righteousness does not come by works. "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly. His faith is counted for righteousness." Romans 4:3-5.

If we could work off our debt of sin by acts of righteousness, it would no longer be of faith but of works.

The holy Sabbath day stands for a believing rest in Jesus rather than the working off of a debt. And the ABC's of prayer are God's way of making the sinner righteous, A is ask. (Matthew 7:7). B is believe (Mark 11:24). C is claim or receive. (Matthew 21:22; John 11:41).

Back to Merwin Whitehead: Pastor Wright, as they sat together, came right to the point. He explained to Merwin that Sabbath keeping is not of works but of rest. "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Hebrews 4:10.

But there is a struggle, a fight of faith to enter into God's rest. Said the great apostle. "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life," 1 Timothy 6:12. And again, "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" Hebrews 4:11.

To believe that God will do what our own efforts and wisdom see as impossible, involves the fight of faith. So it was with Merwin Whitehead. Pastor Wright suggested, "Let us kneel right down here and believe God's promise to take care of you, and then all you have to do is to notify your employer that you will not be reporting for work on the Sabbath. God will do the rest. It is God's business to provide your living. Your business, your part, is simply to believe."

Pastor Wright and Merwin knelt together and claimed the promise of Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you." They asked God to supply for Merwin his material and physical need, for he had made God first in his life. They told God that they believed just as Jesus instructed. "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." They prayed as Jesus our Saviour did at the grave of Lazarus they thanked God that they had received the answer to their prayers. He said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me." John 11:41.

Merwin Whitehead left the Pastor's home trembling but determined to put the promise of God to the test in simple faith. The next morning he approached his employer: "I cannot work next Saturday. It is the Sabbath of the Lord." The employer misunderstood. He thought Merwin was telling him that he was going to quit his job.

"We want you to stay with us," the employer exclaimed.

"I want to remain," Merwin replied, "but I cannot work anymore on the seventh day of the week. It is the Lord's holy Sabbath day."

Relieved that Merwin was not going to quit his job, the employer replied, "Oh, we will gladly let you off on your worship day."

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

"But it has to be every Saturday," Merwin emphasized, "not just every other Saturday as theretofore."

"I understand," his employer replied once again, Relieved that he could still retain the excellent services of such a valued workman.

When Merwin walked out of the employer's office and down the hallway, he could scarcely believe what had transpired. It was so easily done once he really believed God and took Jesus Christ at His word to add all the temporal necessities.

"I can hardly believe it! It does not seem possible! Why, it works!" Merwin said almost out loud as he walked briskly down the hallway and out to his car, Merwin could wait no longer to telephone Pastor Wright and share the good news with him. "Pastor Wright, it works, I can hardly believe it. I have my Sabbaths off! God has answered our prayer!"

"All right," replied Pastor Wright. "now how about coming over, and we shall claim another promise of the Lord. This time it will be for the reunion of you and your wife from whom you are separated."

Merwin lost no time in getting over to the pastor's home. They fell on their knees once again and claimed another Bible promise. It was for what the Lord would do. It was not of their works, but of the Lord's. He promises to supply all our need. Merwin needed a restored home, and God had made him fit for his wife to live with as a new creature.

For a week or two, the pastor heard nothing of Merwin. Then someone called Pastor Wright on the telephone and said that Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead were in a little church a few miles distant that Sabbath day. "Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead?" the pastor asked in astonishment. Now it was his turn to be amazed at the rapidity with which the Lord answered their prayer.

Pastor Wright gave us this report just as we worked on this chapter. I did not have my tape recorder turned on as I usually do for such experiences so cannot give every detail correctly. The pastor is many miles from here besides, but I believe he also told me that Merwin had also claimed a Bible promise for victory over tobacco and his prayer was likewise granted.

The next time Pastor Wright met Merwin he asked about his wife's returning. Elated, Merwin replied, "It happened this way: she called me on the telephone and asked if she could come home. I said, 'Yes, come, of course.' And she packed up, and I went over and got her. When I went to pick her up, the time was extremely limited, so I asked the Lord to help us sell off in one day the furnishings, as it would be wiser to purchase where I lived than to move the furniture. A man came in and paid us double the price I had placed on the things."

My friends, righteousness means right doing, and Merwin's right doing was by simple faith in the promises of our Lord.

Forgiveness for sin is a gift; So is repentance; Also the new heart; Victory too. Eternal life is likewise the free gift of our Lord. According to Dr. Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible, one of the Greek words translated "believe" is also sometimes translated "Obey". To believe in God's power is the only way a sinner can obey.

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

"For me to live is Christ." Philippians 1:21. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

The change from the carnal to the spiritual nature is not accomplished by man's efforts or caprice. "For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD." Jeremiah 2:22.

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Romans 7:14-17.

The holy Sabbath was given 2000 years before the law was written on the tables of stone. It was presented in Eden before sin raised its ugly head. It represents the creative power of God, "He spake and it was done: He commanded and it stood fast." So the holy worship day stands, not for puny man's power to obey, but for the Creator's power. He alone, therefore, can create "a clean heart. . . and renew a right spirit within" us. There is therefore not one trace of legalism in the true concept of the keeping of God's holy worship day. The Sabbath came before sin, and it will continue when all the redeemed live in the new heavens and the new earth.

Thousands of men and women and boys and girls everywhere are finding the power of our Lord as the only source of obedience to the command to keep His holy day.

There was Bud; he heard our story of the young couple who had a two week honeymoon with pay. He also heard of the gentleman whose salary was tripled after he began trusting the Lord in simple faith to keep the Lord's holy day.

"I have an experience that surpasses that one, Bud exclaimed his face beaming. Then he told of how he had a good paying position in the city of Chicago, but because of circumstances he could not continue the job.

He began looking for other positions. Several opened wide with better pay than the one he had given up. There was only one catch—he would have to work on the Sabbath, but he could not consent to disobeying his Lord. In simple faith he prayed earnestly. He believed that God would provide his needs as he continued trusting God. "He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6.

Bud believed in God; and he believed, "The just shall live by faith." Repeatedly he was offered good-paying jobs if he would only work on God's holy day. But how can a trusting soul compromise? He believed that with God all things are possible. How could it be otherwise with a Creator by Whose word, "were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." Psalm 33:6.

Bud fought the good fight of faith for several weeks. Then another position opened. "Today, " said Bud, "God is going to give me four times as much money as I received in the job I gave up in order to keep God's holy Sabbath day." To rest completely on the seventh day given over by the world to rat-race commercialism one must first find rest in God. but Bud had found that rest.

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

The holy Sabbath day stands for justification: for the life of Jesus our Creator is imputed to us. The Sabbath points the way to sanctification: for our new life is one of holy living. In fact, our total redemption through the blood of Christ is based on creation—for which the Lord's holy day is the memorial.

Writes the great apostle, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins [justification]." "For [because] by him were all things created, that are in heaven. and that are in earth. visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him." Colossians 1:14, 16. A new heart experience [sanctification] is only possible through creation. Ezekiel 36:26, 27.

Take another example of both justification and sanctification by faith. It is that of Mr. and Mrs. Blue. These dear people had heard a series of evangelistic meetings we had held in their city. They had invited us to their lovely home. Mrs. Blue and Carrol, their teen-age daughter, asked many questions. I tried to answer the questions with a Bible answer, praying that God would make it clear to them. Mr. Blue sat there and slept much of the time. When he woke up, he assented to all he had heard, which I didn't think was very much.

Sometimes our Bible studies extended far into the night. We were always refreshed as we left the Blue home. One reason was that the youthful Carrol was fully as enthusiastic about the Bible truth as was her mother. We weren't too sure about Mr. Blue. Often when we glanced in his direction during the studies, he appeared to be sleeping. Yet he was clearly agreeing with what we were teaching. So it went for weeks. Mrs. Blue seemed somewhat embarrassed that her husband fell asleep so easily. She explained that he worked hard, and it was difficult for him to stay awake when he relaxed.

Before many weeks passed, Mr. and Mrs. Blue and Carrol all professed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and requested baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. My wife and I were very happy for their commitment.

During this period of study Mrs. Blue came sometimes every day seeking our prayers for victory over tobacco. She wanted more than forgiveness—justification. She prayed for sanctification—a holy life. We spent many hours with her, endeavoring to share with her the power of Christ. We made clear that it was not a matter of making resolutions, alone. They are like ropes of sand. We must come to God like little children, that is, in childlike faith. We must receive from His hands what He is eager to bestow—both forgiveness (justification) and cleansing (sanctification).

I tried to help Mrs. Blue understand that our part is to ask, believe, and receive. God's part is to give. When we rely on our own power, we're sure to fail.

"Christ Jesus. . . is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." 1 Corinthians 1:30. Only as we believe and act on His promises can we be "his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Ephesians 2:10.

These promises are as firm as Calvary itself. It was there that the new covenant promises were sealed by the blood of Jesus Christ. This is the blood by which we have been redeemed. The blood that sealed the new covenant and cleanses us from all sin, which has been confessed.

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

Moreover, it is because of the conditions of the new covenant that we are Sabbath keepers; for the new covenant, the New Testament, Christ's last will and testament, could never be changed or added to after He died. Galatians 3:15. Thus the keeping of a day other than the seventh could not possibly be a part of the New Testament or new covenant. Jesus closed His testament when He died.

This is why, after carefully studying all the New Testament texts where the first day of the week is mentioned, the Blue family discovered that there was no transfer of the sacred blessing from the seventh day to another day of the week.

The Bible makes clear that baptism and the new life along with the Lord's Supper are memorials of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

These sacraments were instituted before Christ's death on the cross. They are therefore part of the new covenant, for nothing could be added to His will and testament after His death—just as no man's will and testament can be added to after death seals it.

Every true Christian is a spiritual Jew or Israelite. (Israel is a spiritual name meaning "overcomer." The seventh day is a sign between God and Israel. It is therefore the sign of new covenant Christians.)

When the three members of the Blue family accepted all they had been taught, they were baptized. As stated earlier, we had some misgivings however, regarding Mr. Blue's knowledge of the faith, since he had slept so much during the studies. But he went along with plans for baptism.

Months passed, perhaps a full year. Then we learned of the sanctifying power of Christ that had taken place in Mr. Blue's life during that period before baptism.

Unbeknown to any of us, as well as to Mrs. Blue, he had become involved with a young woman. Before he was baptized, however, he had a heart-to-heart visit with her. He told her that their affair was now ended. He explained that he had given his heart to the Lord, and he was going to be true to his wife. The young woman tried both her charms and her tears, but all to no avail. Mr. Blue was determined. By simple faith in Christ he was a new covenant Christian, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."

Although Mr. Blue had slept much of the time as we studied together, the Holy Spirit had awakened his soul to righteousness—righteousness by faith. God had written His holy law in Mr. Blue's heart, not merely the fourth commandment but the seventh commandment and all the rest.

That is exactly what He promises to do when we accept Him by faith. God had given him a new heart and caused him to walk in His statutes. But Faith in Christ is rewarded in restoring backsliders too. Let us share an example.

Years after the Blue family were baptized we were called to conduct a series of studies at a Christian college. It was the spring Week of Prayer. Carrol Blue, Who had so eagerly accepted Christ, was now a student at this college. She had, however, become discouraged and had backslidden. We were looking forward to seeing Carrol after years of separation. While she loved us personally, she was ashamed of her own spiritual condition.

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

But there are new covenant promises for backsliders, and they are so beautiful. One goes like this: "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely." Hosea 14:4. Another is "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he [God] shall give him life." 1 John 5:16. The Christian life of righteousness is free gift.

The college assigned us an office for personal interviews during that week. Students came in as they usually do at a time like this, to talk over their spiritual problems and to seek guidance and help. Carrol came too, but she didn't come for help. As soon as she sat down, she began to chat about old times. It was what we call "small talk." She was careful, however, not to get onto the topic of religion, except to make it clear that she was no longer a Christian.

There are times when we can, under the direct tutelage of the Holy Spirit, do things which are out of the ordinary, as I did that day while visiting with Carrol. It is my opinion that most continued backsliding takes place not from choice, but from the loss of hope. When Carrol let down in her daily devotions of prayer and Bible study, she backslid. Then Satan told her there was no hope of her being saved. "We are saved by hope," Therefore we have right to claim the promise of 1 John 5:16 for a backslider. It reads: "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he [God] shall give him life."

When Carrol made the statement, "I am not a Christian anymore." I quickly replied with a smile, "But you are going to be one again, I know!"

"No," retorted Carrol, "I am not going to be a hypocrite and pretend. You know how much I love you folk, but I have really decided—this is not for me."

"But God is going to show you how you can receive the power you need to serve Him," I beamed back.

"No!" replied Carrol, this time with much more definiteness, "I just will not be a hypocrite."

"I am going to claim a Bible promise for you, Carrol," I said, "and God is going to fulfill this promise to me this week."

To put a time limit on God was a new experience for me; I just don't do it. But I felt strongly impressed to do it this time.

Carrol became more determined, "No, I'm not going to be a Christian, I tell you," she said with finality.

"Oh, yes, you are, Carrol," I repeated again with a smile. "I have asked, and I believe, and I am claiming God's promise to save you, and my Lord is going to hear and answer my prayer before this very week closes."

Carrol was frowning noticeably and shaking her head defiantly. Our friendship almost seemed at stake. But Carrol knew in her heart that I loved her and believed in her sincerity. She had forgotten that a righteous life comes from God and can only be sustained daily by His keeping power.

"Just promise me one thing, Carrol," I said, "that you will attend the meetings this week, whatever else you do." Carrol promised, and we parted friends.

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

But Carrol knew I was storming the throne of grace for her. She decided to attend the meetings but to leave the meeting place at the time we extended our invitation for decisions for Christ.

We held two meetings each day—one at the chapel hour in the forenoon, the other in the evening at the large church tabernacle. Thursday night an altar call was extended. As the call began, I noticed Carrol slip down the aisle and through the back door.

Hundreds of young people responded that evening to the sweet voice of the Holy Spirit. It was one of the most rewarding altar calls I had ever witnessed. Scores of backsliders came to the altar with tears streaming down their cheeks.

Others came to the Lord in the chapel service the next morning, many of them were returned servicemen whose emotions were not always obvious. I saw only one big tear on the cheek of a GI as he joined the others. What a wonderful service it was! As usual, and true to her word, Carrol was present, yet again she left as the call for surrender was made. Time was running out, and Carrol knew it. Yes, she knew that our meetings would soon be over.

On Friday night another call was extended. Still others responded. Among them was a young man whom I had known years before. He felt he had gone too far in his backsliding. But we explained the expansiveness of God's mercy. And he made his decision and found the peace he was looking for. Again, Carrol slipped out of the auditorium just as the call was begun. She had been present for the services. As she had promised; but she felt she could not stay for the altar call.

Our last service was conducted on Sabbath morning at the eleven o'clock hour. Carrol decided she would break her promise to us and absent herself for the entire morning service, including Sabbath School. That way she felt she would not be under pressure to decide for Christ. It had been a powerful week. Everywhere there were young people rejoicing over the merciful salvation of our Lord, so full, so free. The spirit of victory filled the air.

Carrol was afraid that if she attended the last morning service she might not be able to maintain her resistance. Yet she was sure that if she did surrender to the Lord, she could not hold out. She did not understand, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Philippians 2:13.

She said to herself. "I'll slip over and say good-bye to the Coons at the close of the service. They probably won't know I wasn't present."

"When it was about time for the service to close," reported Carrol later, "I made my way over to the tabernacle. As I drew near, I heard singing. Assuming it was the closing song, I stepped into the rear of the tabernacle. Something seemed to draw me down the aisle. On my way to the front a lady expressed some word of appreciation that I was surrendering my heart to the Lord. That hardened me, and I turned right around and stalked out of the tabernacle. I returned to the dormitory and decided to wait until I saw the people coming out of the building.

"Growing a little weary of waiting, I ventured over to the meeting once again. I slipped in the doors, hoping no one would notice me. The call was still in progress. People were still coming down the aisles. Before I realized what was taking place in my soul something seemed to be drawing me. An unseen power guided me right up the aisle again. Suddenly I was standing at

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

the altar, but I was almost angry. I didn't want to be there, and I felt your prayers had forced me to the altar.

"I was indignant that I had come as I stood there, staring you in the face and blaming it all on you. There were so many people at the altar that you didn't notice me. You had no idea what had happened."

I interrupted Carrol, "Yes, I did notice you as you stood there glaring at me. I was offering a prayer based on a new covenant promise that God made in Acts 5:31. Here is what it says: "Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance . . . and forgiveness." And then, Carrol, I prayed this prayer publicly: 'Dear Lord, there are people standing here at this altar this morning who have come for repentance. Please fulfill Thy promise and give them the repentance Thou has promised.' I asked, I believed, I returned thanks that I had received the answer."

Carrol said, "While you were praying, God changed my heart." Then she added, "You can't imagine the hell I've passed through this past week." Then with glowing countenance she beamed, "But now it's like heaven in my heart."

Friends, Carrol received the righteousness of God that day by faith. We thanked God together, and as I shook her hand, I spoke confidently of the great blessing she could yet be to the cause of God.

What a change takes place in the human heart when Christ takes control. He will do the same for each of us if we will only let Him. This sanctifying work is that of the Holy Spirit, and it is by faith that Carrol continued to grow in grace. The holy Sabbath was given by our Creator as a sign of His almightiness to sanctify, to make men holy.

But why should we doubt His power, when "the world was made by him."

Dear reader, we invite you to come just now and let our Lord both forgive your sins and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Will you join, wherever you are, in singing the following song as if we were sitting together? And when you are through singing, will you fall on your knees or even pray where you sit, if it is too public to kneel, and tell God you are a sinner? Then ask, believe, and claim His promise of forgiveness and cleansing and eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that 'Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God. I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

With many a conflict, many a doubt;
"Fighting within, and fears without,"
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind:
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love I own
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, and Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Charlotte Elliot.

PS. As we have been going through the above song, we have pictured readers coming to Jesus in simple faith. It has seemed that we could see the tears of repentance in your eyes and trickling down your cheeks. And if we never meet in this world, we shall meet around His throne. There with the canopy of His rainbow of mercy and eternal salvation we shall sing, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." We shall join "every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them." in singing "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Revelation 5:13.

RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH
If we will be believing,
Our Lord will vict'ry give,
If we will take, receiving,
His life we each may live.

To doubt is disobeying,
And doubt but brings us death.
Believing is obeying,
So trust with ev'ry breath.

Reflection: As your personal prayer circle, or you personally, conclude this book, may we prayerfully suggest that man's part is to struggle to believe God, to take Him simply at His word.

Seven Great Bible Facts:

Lovely Lord of the Lord's Day

1. We are not saved by works. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9.
2. Yet we are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works" "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10.
3. We may confess our sins and find forgiveness. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.
4. Our sins are covered as we confess. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. " (Psalm 32:1 .
5. The holy Sabbath day stands for a believing rest in Jesus rather than for a working off of the debt of sin. "For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Hebrews 4:4-10.
6. We should "labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief" (Hebrews 4:11).
7. The great struggle of life is one of faith. "Fight the good fight of faith, Lay hold of eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:12).