

THE GRAPEVINE

Summer 2015

BIBLE TEACHING RESOURCES
by DON ANDERSON MINISTRIES

*"But we all, with unveiled face,
beholding as in a mirror the glory
of the Lord, are being transformed
into the same image from glory to
glory, just as from the Lord, the
Spirit."*

—2 Corinthians 3:18 NASB



Beholding the Glory of the Lord

But we are all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18 DAV).

Phillips translates the above verse this way: "But all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transfigured by the Spirit of the Lord in ever-increasing splendour into his own image."

Christians sometimes wear veils of their own. I have noticed three.

1. The mask of adequacy – This says I've got it together and I don't need anyone.
2. The mask of acting – This says, I am not who you think I am or who I appear to be.
3. The mask of arrogance – This says I am smug, sinless, and self-righteous.

2 Corinthians 3:17: "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (DAV). What does this mean? John 8:32: "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (NASB). Liberty for the Christian means freedom as follows.

1. It is a liberty that we have new life in Christ.
2. It is a liberty that we are free from the law and the shackles of sin and death. Galatians 5:1: "It is for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery" (DAV).
3. It is a liberty that we are able to behold His face. Israel couldn't do that.

When God is at work, the veils of adequacy, acting, and arrogance flee. I'm free, I can be me. Notice again 2 Corinthians 3:18. The conjunction

"but" suggests a contrast. We all with "unveiled face," as Christians, are free. The veil has been removed when we are in Christ.

The "unveiled face"—that is what it means to be free. "We all with unveiled face beholding"—this means we look intently, beholding the glory of the Lord. We recognize why He came, who He is, and what we have in Him.

Isaiah 60:5 – "Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy" (NIV).

**"Listen to me.
Do you want to
be Christ-like?
Then spend
time looking at
Jesus."**

1 John 3:2-3—"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, if He should appear, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. And every one who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (NASB).

With "unveiled face," all who behold "as in a mirror the glory of the Lord" are "transformed." This is TRANSFORMATION by CONTEMPLATION. It is not imitation but transformation.

Romans 12:1- 2 (Phillips)—"With eyes wide open to the mercies of God, I beg you, my brothers, as an act of intelligent worship, to give him your bodies, as a living sacrifice, consecrated to him and acceptable by him. Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God re-mould your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity."

J. Vernon McGee put it well: "Listen to me. Do you want to be Christ-like? Then spend time looking at Jesus." Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer at Dallas Theological Seminary used to stop students as they sang the hymn lyrics, "Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord." Chafer called

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mailbag

Thank you for *A Great While Before Day*. It is a wonderful start to my day.

Again, I want to thank you for Warren Wiersbe's *Pause for Power!* It's helping me, by God's grace, to get through my days. I'm still so very sad and lonely without Ray. Our God is AWESOME! You are both in my prayers. I'm so sorry to hear of the Parkinson's. I know that our Lord will meet your and my every need and more! May God hold each of us in His arms cradled like the tiny children we are! Amen!

I miss you so much. I looked forward to your teaching every fall and spring. Thank you for sharing your wisdom on CDs and writings: They keep you in my life daily. You have no idea how you have increased my faith in God and understanding of His Word. Thank you is simply not enough.

Thanks for *A Great While Before Day*. Pray you are well. Thank you with all my heart for your wonderful devotionals. They have been so helpful to me—please continue them forever.



A new photo book by JAKE BILLINGSLEY with Scripture added by DON ANDERSON
— Available for order from Bible Teaching Resources —



Letters from Prison

by Pearl Anderson

Prison ministry is not for the squeamish or faint of heart. Sometimes when I watch TV advertisements featuring young people sitting in bars, drinking alcohol—practices which too often lead some into the drug scene, I want to shout a warning: “Be careful. Danger ahead!”

If only they could fast-forward to see what could happen... and does happen to thousands who harm their futures by adopting habits that take control of their lives. Drugs seem to follow certain lifestyle choices: a slide down a slippery slope that ruins what could have been a bright and successful future.

After ten years of reading letters from prisoners incarcerated in Texas jails and penitentiaries, I now have a very different take on the alcohol related fun the actors seem to be having in beer and whiskey commercials.

2 Timothy 3:2 describes a bleak future for rebellious men: “For men will be fond of themselves (selfish), lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy.”

2 Timothy 3:6 describes the future for the women: “For of these are those who are worming their way into houses and captivating silly women having been overwhelmed by their sins, who are being led on by various desires.”

The late John Denver’s song “Some Days are Diamonds (Some Days are Stone)” relates the pain of suffering and hurt as the “face...in the mirror” becomes “more and more a stranger,” and the “danger” is revealed as the narrator becomes someone he “never thought” he would be..

The path down the slippery slope is obvious in letters from prison. Below is from an inmate, now in his 60s, which we received at BTR, in response to a long standing program of providing *Life Recovery Bibles* and workbooks to inmates, upon request. Many years ago, Don Anderson contributed to the study notes of this fine resource.

I would like to give you a brief history of my journey so you will understand my interest in your Life Recovery Bible and Life Recovery work Book.

The reason is I have not been able to beat my addiction to drugs. I was clean for a while but then I did some cocaine and was back in it.

Fortunately I am in a unit that has several faith-based programs and classes. Lots of opportunities here of which I avail myself. Recently I became a Christian. I felt compelled and called, and I’m not giving it up. I know that to give in is death.

I asked God to help me. I could not do it alone anymore. I would like to have a Recovery Bible and Work Book. Maybe, hopefully, there is something there to aid me in my battle.

The second and third letters are from two female inmates:

I am writing to you in request of the *Life Recovery Bible*, workbook and devotional.

I have come to a point in my life that I have lost everything and everyone that meant anything to me. All for a man and a drug that I thought enhanced my life but only numbed and tore it apart. Now that I am in jail, the pain of losing the important ones, as well as my relationship with God has been magnified intensely. The only support and hope

I have left is a restored relationship with God and realization that I cannot do this on my own.

I used to have a great relationship with God but somewhere along the way replaced the “high” I felt when serving Him with the “high” of drugs and lust. I know that He has placed me here in order to minimize distractions while rebuilding my life in Him.

This is a great help in regaining that relationship –the only relationship I truly need. Thank you for your service to the people seeking God here in jail/prison.

Hello, I am writing to request the *Life Recovery Bible*, workbook and devotional.

I am currently incarcerated in a County jail but likely on my way to Texas Department of Criminal Justice prison. I was in a deferred probation but I

ended up in the hospital because I overdosed on drugs. I am in recovery working on a program, but I have continued to struggle and this last relapse almost claimed my life.

I am a mother of a three year old little boy. Please pray for him.

I want to give my life over to God and work a whole hearted program. I have the alone time in here to focus and I just need the tools to do it. I would be ever so grateful and truly blessed.

“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1 NASB).

THE MAVERICK WAY

by Red Steagall

Garner and Melody Roberts gave me an autographed copy of Red Steagall's book, *Ride for the Brand*. What a treasure! Here's one of my favorites:

A maverick's never worn a brand,
At least not one that shows.
He's free to travel where he will,
The trail is one he chose.

A stray is one who's been a part
Of someone else's band,
And drifted to another range,
But he still wears the brand.

His leaders cry, "You've lost your mind,
That's not the way it's done.
A chosen few can make that move
You don't look like the one."

Then safe inside the pasture fence
Afraid to stand alone,
Unsure of his opinions, he's
No longer on his own.

Now what if all the skeptics had
Discouraged Ford and Bell,
Or Roosevelt said, "Let's don't fight,"
The day Pearl Harbor fell?

If Jonas Salk had not come up
With polio vaccine,
Or some bright mind had not perceived
The television screen?

The mavericks make a difference. They
Know where to find the feed.
They don't cry out "Take care of me,
The grass has gone to seed."

The tough times make them buckle up
And bow their necks and pull.
They never lay their shovel down
Until their bucket's full.

If I appear a renegade
And don't conform to style,
Don't think me strange or crazy, just
Ride down my trail awhile.

But if I choose a path that you
Find rocky, rough or steep,
The herd has left an easy trail
The ruts are wide and deep.

Remember, nothing ever grows
Till someone plants a seed.
The scenery changes only for
The steer that's in the lead.

So try to use your talents so
That some kind soul will say,
"That feller there's a maverick, he
Ain't just your average stray."

1990

"The Maverick Way" from *Ride for the Brand-The Poetry and Songs of Red Steagall* by Red Steagall.

Used by permission.



students to change the first line from “Take time to be holy” to “Take time to behold Him.” If you want to become holy, behold Him

Beholding Jesus in the written word means focusing on His person. I find myself singing the words of the great old Fanny Crosby hymn: “Turn your eyes upon Jesus; Look full in His wonderful face; And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace.”

A prayer of A. W. Tozer also captures the essence of beholding Him: “O Lord, I have heard a good word inviting me to look away to Thee and be satisfied. My heart longs to respond, but sin has clouded my vision till I see Thee but dimly. Be pleased to cleanse me in Thine own precious blood, and make me inwardly pure, so that I may with unveiled eyes gaze upon Thee all the days of my earthly pilgrimage. Then shall I be prepared to behold Thee in full splendor in the day when Thou shalt appear to be glorified in Thy saints and admired in all them that believe. Amen.”

2 Corinthians 3:18 states that as a result of beholding Him, “we are being transformed in the same image from glory to glory.”

The word for “transformed” is similar to that which we call metamorphosis: to change into a new form. Jesus took on the form of His heavenly glory and was transfigured before them on the Mount of Transfiguration. It is to be changed into the same form; it is let yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your minds (Romans 12:2).

Morph means the form or the outward appearance, the shape, the form of God, the form of a servant (see Philippians 2:6). Paul tells the Galatian Christians in 4:19: “O my dear children, I feel the pangs of child-birth all over again till Christ be formed within you. And how I long to be with you now” (DAV).

Metamorphosis is when a caterpillar is turned into a butterfly.

Romans 8:29: “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be like His Son in form or appearance” (DAV).

In the book *Seven Men*, Eric Metaxas pays tribute to Chuck Colson and the amazing things that happened in his life after he came to know Christ:

Throughout his ministry, Chuck loved to say that no matter what, Christians must be at their posts, doing their duty. And that message—stay at

your posts—was on the pins that mourners were given at the Washington National Cathedral memorial service, attended by the great and the powerful of the land, who sat side by side with those who, like Chuck, had once been locked away behind bars. People Chuck had loved and served, dined with and prayed with.

Chuck’s message to stay at your posts was echoed by his daughter, Emily, who told mourners,

Today is a celebration of my father’s life, but today is also about us—you and me. What will we do in the shadow of such an extraordinary role model?

There is work to be done. I encourage you to continue the work God has begun through my father’s life. Do the right thing, seek the truth, defend the weak, live courageous lives.²⁵

Chuck’s last words to us, which he left with his family, were a final witness to the God he served. “I want my funeral services to be joyful,” he wrote. “I don’t want people to be sad because I believe with every ounce of conviction in my body that death is but a homecoming, and that we’ll be in the presence of God. It’s the culmination of life. It’s a celebration.” (190-91)

That agrees with what John says in 1 John 3:2-3: “Oh, dear children of mine (forgive the affection of an old man!), have you realized it? Here and now we are God’s children. We don’t know what we shall become in the future. We only know that, if reality were to break through, we should reflect his likeness, for we should see him as he really is! Everyone who has at heart a hope like that keeps himself pure, for he knows how pure Christ is” (Phillips).

Amen, come Lord Jesus!

MEMORIAL GIFT

In memory of Jack McLean
By Laura Morrison

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