

A TESTIMONY

(Sister Ardelle Pierson, South Carolina, 1975-12-3.)

By way of introduction to you beloved brothers and sisters in Christ that I have not met: Bro. Lewis and myself are in our late 50's and our daily endeavor in the world is to operate a farm of about 900 acres—dairy, pecans, soybeans. We have four married children, none of whom have really made the Truth their own. For the past twenty-three years we have been isolated from all other brethren but greatly blessed with visits from time to time. Perhaps we were “leaners on the brethren” and the Father wanted us to lean on Him alone. I am also inclined to think we might not have had the graces necessary to be loving with those of different persuasions in the Truth, if we had a class and divisions began to separate our ecclesia. We dearly love all the believers in the Ransom, and love the folks that love the Lord. However, we number among our dear ones a few who are not speaking to others whom we love.

Oh we are so small and the glorious plan of God is so big! Christendom has such a limited view of the Son and His work for the Father. “Accept the Son as your personal Saviour, escape from sin and the earth, and get into Heaven”—doesn't that about sum it all up? But in Ephesians Paul starts with the Eternal Father—not the Fall of Man! He indicates that God's purposing was BEFORE the foundation of the world—to take out for Himself a family of sons and that it is to be realized through, and is to center in the all-glorious Son. All this we see was determined in God's plan, NOT BECAUSE OF THE FALL, but before the world was made. Jehovah did not need sin to fulfill His ultimate purpose. His Son was to have become our very life even if man had never sinned. Then further, we learn from the Word that He deals with us individually that we may be conformed to His own image!

The struggle in the narrow way goes on from day to day. Do some of you have problems similar to mine, and can you help me? Over and over I say, “THIS, TOO, IS FROM ME!” (Christ) A personal battle with failing health—“I have the power to give you strength but I do not choose to do so.” “This too, is from Me.” The overwhelming amount of records to be kept, the rising costs, the realization that the few who are working so hard are supporting the government and the millions on welfare all seem tools in the hands of Adversary to take possession of the mind. “This, too, is from Me! a Battle-ground.” We cannot go on, and we cannot quit keeping on. Day by day until He takes it from our hands. Tell me, how can these things be used to glorify the Lord?!

Day to day blessings too. Prayer without ceasing through the day. A pile of booklets by the door handed out as people come; the chart facing the door brings inquiries and opportunity to witness—yesterday one who had read some of the booklets wanted a Divine Plan (which was also on the stand by the door). Once in awhile someone phones

and asks for prayer because they are in trouble, or facing an operation. The mail brings letters of fellowship, such wonderful letters from my father, Brother Vernon Davis, in his 89th year, from Binghamton, N.Y.; and news of the dear brethren in that vicinity. From east to west from the special ones who are also struggling in the narrow way; with the Light of the Kingdom hope shining from each one. Oh my blessings are so great and I praise the Heavenly Father, and my beloved Lord and Saviour. I ask an interest in your prayers that I remain in Him Spiritually strong and make my calling and election sure.