

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

Dear Reader . . .

God bless you richly in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ.

On August 1, 1997 we opened the doors of our Teaching Center. Through God's great grace and mercy (and because His Son has tarried) we now have the joy of celebrating our first anniversary.

Our words seem to fail us in our expression of thankfulness for our God and for you. We are overjoyed to have such a wonderful family. Truly our Father has filled it with so many beautiful saints.

Thank you for your prayers and loving support towards our efforts to publish the Gospel.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank your for your faithful stand upon His Word. We are honored beyond measure to stand with you.

May God grant us the strength to continue to bear “It is written” as our ensign.

All the saints from the Teaching Center salute you.

We at the top of the world pray for you daily

In His love,

Linus A. Mathis III

P.S. Sunday August 2, 1998 will find

us celebrating our first anniversary with cake and punch. We are blessed! But, our mission has not changed nor do we feel we have “arrived.”

Of course if the Lord arrives, we'll depart. See you here, there, or in the air!

I Timothy 2:4

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Empty Filling Stations

by Linus A. Mathis III

Not too long ago I drove into a local gasoline station for a fill-up. The attendant (one of the nicest guys around) promptly informed me that the pumps were down. Disappointed but not discouraged I was forced to go to another filling station. As you can well imagine, the first location brought their pumps back on line before the day was out. Sadly, I was on empty and forced to seek another source. Thank God for seasonable remedies!

Some of you may remember the fuel "shortage" of the early 70's. If so, you must also remember how frustrating it was to pull into your favorite service station only to find that they were out of product. Empty filling stations were all too common in those days. Thank God that's over!

Fortunately, broken pumps and empty filling stations are the exception of the day, not the rule. If your current filling station were to experience these difficulties with any regularity, I'll wager you'd go elsewhere. You certainly wouldn't keep going back to an empty filling station! Would you? The object of going to a filling station is to get a fill-up! Isn't it? Of course. No one would pursue the folly of an empty filling station, or one with broken pumps either.

There's a record in Matthew 22 where the Sadducees were quizzing Jesus Christ regarding the resurrection. They didn't want answers to their questions because they didn't even believe in the resurrection. What they did want was to tempt him and trip him up. They wanted to get him to miss the mark and sin. His answer to them is illuminating.

Matthew 22:29

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Ignorance of the Scriptures and the power of God (the nine manifestations of holy spirit) is why folks are deceived today. If you do not know the Word of God and if you do not have His spirit in you in operation, you will err. This is the genuine and if you don't know it, if you aren't familiar with it, you will accept the counterfeit. You see, you can only tell the counterfeit apart from the genuine if you are knowledgeable of the genuine. Why?

Because the phony is made as close to the real thing as possible, e.g. counterfeit twenty dollar bills aren't three feet long and purple.

If I were in church I'd want to get filled! Wouldn't you? I want to know the Scriptures AND the power of God. Don't you? It must be for me as when the Apostle Paul was alive. The Gospel wasn't in word only but also in power.

I Thessalonians 1:5

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

However, please note that the GOSPEL WAS PREACHED. In other words, the Scriptures and the power of God. Church should be the place where a person can hear the Word of God taught and get filled with His spirit. He promises to fill those who hunger and thirst.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed [happy] *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled [based upon their hunger or appetite, i.e. no hunger, no filling].

But you must be in a place where there is product and where the pumps are in order! Nothing less will EVER do!

Spiritual hunger and thirst can be every bit as real as physical hunger and thirst. Have you ever been thirsty or hungry? If so, you understand what I'm saying.

I know, within the depth of my soul,

that there are people who live what the following Psalm expresses:

Psalms 119:131

I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.

Let me assure you, God will fill you today. But, He isn't going to do it at an empty filling station. You have to be where His Word is being taught. His Word must be the focal point, not a man's opinion nor the creeds and dogmas of an organization. You can get all the opinions you want from the TV talk shows. No opinion will bring deliverance. They're all incapable of quenching the thirsty soul.

God is not a respecter of person. He must give you what He gives another.

Acts 10:34

Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Galatians 2:6

But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed *to be somewhat* in conference added nothing to me:

He does, however, respect conditions. When you observe them, then you receive. His primary condition is to believe His Word. How then, I ask you, can you believe that which you haven't heard?

Romans 10:13-17

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Leave that empty filling station and find one that can do the job without making any excuses. And for those of you who may preside over an empty, get some product and fix your pumps. If I've struck a nerve then you might also consider the following:

Galatians 4:16

Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Jeremiah 2:13

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Jeremiah 23:1-4

Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost [some texts read - the Lord] hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

I Peter 5:2

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

If the shoe fits wear it, if it doesn't, keep walking. This won't hinder your fill-ups.
