

On The Frontier

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

No Visible Means Of Support

by Linus A. Mathis III

Man has long craved stability. The assurance of knowing all will be cared for is a basic concern among clear thinking men and women. This is why markets have been developed for insurance companies, security firms, banks, retirement funds, pension plans and the like. As you might expect, the list of strategies is long and "ever" expanding.

Efforts taken to assure permanence for family and loved ones is viewed as responsible and embraced by culture. Consequently, the demand for superior means to accomplish said end is immense. Thus, we are pressed at every turn by those who promise certainty and solidarity. The rational of seeing to the well being of one's family is not without value to be sure. Nonetheless, the best of man's efforts are temporal. How curious that mortality and frailty should be so quickly forgotten in the wake of accomplishment and pride.

Psalms 49:6-13

They that trust in their wealth,
and boast themselves in the
multitude of their riches;

None of them can by any means
redeem his brother, nor give to
God a ransom for him:

(For the redemption of their soul
is precious, and it ceaseth for
ever [it is forever unattainable:])

That he should still live for ever,
and not see corruption.

For he seeth *that* wise men die,
likewise the fool and the brutish
person perish, and leave their
wealth to others.

Their inward thought *is, that*
their houses *shall continue* for
ever, *and* their dwelling places to
all generations; they call *their*
lands after their own names.

Nevertheless man *being* in
honour abideth not: he is like the
beasts *that* perish.

This their way *is* their folly: yet
their posterity approve their
sayings. Selah [pause and deeply
consider this].

Even though this their way is folly,
their decedents delight in and give
credence to this kind of thinking.
The truth is, you can't take it with
you. Any wealth you amass will be
consumed by others upon your
expiration. No matter how great or
how little it is. Compare the
absurdity of the thinking illustrated
in verse 11 with the "facts of life" as
set forth in verse 14:

Verse 14:

Like sheep they are laid in the
grave; death shall feed on them;
and the upright shall have
dominion over them in the
morning; and their beauty shall
consume in the grave from their
dwelling.

It matters little what position a man

holds or to what earthly heights he
has attained. If that man is without
God, if he has rejected the Lord's
Messiah, he is no better off than a
beast. There is no promise of life
after the grave for him. Conversely,
the upright (those who have accepted
the Christ) shall have dominion over
them (the unrighteous, those who
have rejected the Christ) in the
morning. The morning being the first
resurrection, that of the just, the
resurrection of life. Think of it!
When the Lord returns and we are
gathered together unto him and the
dead in Christ have been raised, we
shall reign with him here on Earth
for 1,000 years!

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy *is* he that hath
part in the first resurrection: on
such the second death hath no
power, but they shall be priests of
God and of Christ, and shall
reign with him a thousand years.

What a "MORNING" that will be!
At long last the reigns of rulership
will be given over to righteousness,
for our Lord shall return as KING
OF KINGS AND LORD OF
LORDS. The kings of the Earth shall
be subdued under our Lord and
Saviour and that's just for
"starters." Hallelujah!!!

Revelation 1:4-7

John to the seven churches which
are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you,
and peace, from him which is,
and which was, and which is to
come; and from the seven Spirits
which are before his throne;

And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 5:8-10

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Today man flaunts his sin. Insolence and pride have been enthroned. Lust parades in our streets and violence is worshiped. Unrighteousness sets the stage and writes the rules. But, take comfort. There's a day coming when all this will change for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the

archangel, and with the trump of God. Oh baby, what a day that's going to be! Big changes all around. All this (and more) has been promised from days of old.

Psalms 2:1-9

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*,

Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Consider the conformation given the above record by the following passages:

Revelation 2:26-28

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

And I will give him the morning star.

Revelation 12:5

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and *to* his throne.

Revelation 19:11-16

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Glory be to God for the magnificence of His Word and the brilliance of His promise! How blessed we are to call Him Father!!! What a thrill to join in on the wonderful inheritance which surely awaits us!

Back to Psalms:

Psalms 49:15-20

But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;

For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and *men* will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.

Man *that is* in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts *that* perish.

If we desire stability for our loved ones and for ourselves we must go to God for it. The material realm is deceptive and in the final analysis, most inadequate.

I Timothy 6:3-16

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus

Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

I give thee charge in the sight of

God, who quickeneth all things, and *before* Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

If we ignore the promise of the Lord's coming we will find it easy to fall into the temptation and snare that the desire to be rich brings. Should this happen we shall find the disappointment that accompanies material gain. When all is said and done, material pursuits will leave us frustrated and unfulfilled. But, with the Hope of Christ's Return burning within our souls, each breath brings with it the promise of "morning." We must keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Verses 15 & 16:

Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

No man has seen or can see our God.

Exodus 33:17-23

And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

And he said, I beseech thee, shew

me thy glory.

And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

And the LORD said, Behold, *there is* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:

And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:

And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

Not even the great man of God Moses could see the "face" of God. The beauty of His Divine presence is so awesome as to cause mortal life to expire. Such power is incomprehensible, but that's our God. He is so majestic and commanding in presence that man can not literally behold Him. But Moses desired to see God's grandeur. To protect him, God had Moses put his face in the crevice of a rock and then passed behind him. Look at the result:

Exodus 34:30-35

And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.

And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.

And *till* Moses had done speaking with them, he put a Vail on his face.

But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the Vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel *that* which he was commanded.

And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the Vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The observed result of Moses' exposure to God's imperial presence was that his faces shone so brightly as to blind the children of Israel. He had to cover his face when he addressed them for they could not look at him. (At least not without their "Foster Grants.") But even more importantly, Moses now had the Word of God which he gave to the children of Israel in commandment. Consider how greatly this relates to us:

II Corinthians 3:3-18

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency *is* of God;

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

But if the ministration of death, written *and* engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which *glory* was to be done away:

How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

For if the ministration of condemnation *be* glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.

For if that which is done away *was* glorious, much more that which remaineth *is* glorious.

Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech [the freedom to speak openly with candor and boldness]:

As a son of God filled with His spirit you are a much more efficacious agent of communication than a tablet of stone. You have the epistle of Christ written upon the fleshy tables

of your heart by the spirit of the Living God. He has made us able ministers of His Word. What He has done for us far exceeds what was done for Moses. The magnificent events of the Old Testament were merely a shadow of things to come. The ministry which God gave Moses had to be done away with to make room for the righteousness He wrought for us through His Son. The accomplishments of our Lord will endure eternity. Consider then how much more lustrous this our ministry is. The message we have to give to the world is incomparable and the means by which we are able to carry it out superb. We need have no fear in our execution of this glorious privilege.

Verses 13-18:

And not as Moses, *which* put a Vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished:

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same Vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *Vail* is done away in Christ.

But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the Vail is upon their heart.

Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the Vail shall be taken away.

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the

same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Those who turn to the Lord shall have light, they shall be liberated. We have the joy of being the light bearers, the liberators!

II Corinthians 4:1-7, 14-18

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

And what a treasure it is! Nothing

earthly can compare. You may be able to see the riches of the world but we know that the things we see are temporary, they will not last. This is why we can live as we do, free from anxiety in material matters.

Verses 14-18:

Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you.

For all things *are* for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

The things we live for cannot be seen. At least not right now. If you want to "see" the future and what most assuredly will come to pass, read the Bible. Those who want to know God must come to His Word for it's in His Word that He has revealed Himself. You see, He is invisible and it's a good thing for man He is. You can't see Him. But, you will see the Lord Jesus Christ at his coming and you can see His Word now.

Consider Moses once more:

Hebrews 11:24-29

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry *land*: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

This is how my life has been for over two decades. I've put my trust in Him who I cannot see by virtue of His Word which I can see. So, by the world's standards I'm a failure. Why? I've no retirement fund, no pension and little to speak of in the way of a bank account. As a matter of fact I rarely get a pay check. I live, as some would say, with no visible means of support. Right! I'm supported by He whom no man has seen. I live because the invisible God holds me up and I love it. I wouldn't have it any other way. It's an awesome way to live and always invigorating, I assure you. Men have yearned for the machine of "perpetual motion" and searched

(but in vain as did Ponce DeLeon) for the fountain of youth. They've joked regarding the proverbial "sky hook." But only those who accept Christ have these "intangibles" realized. This is the reason I've "hung" all that I am in Him, the only True "sky hook."

I'm not suggesting that you toss your financial portfolio or scrap your savings. You should consider the well being of your loved ones and make provision for them in accordance with the dictates of your own heart and abilities. What I am proposing is a spiritual perspective like the one God gave Paul by revelation.

I Timothy 6:17-19

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

A scrutiny of my life will not reveal any "visible means of support." But be assured, all they that trust Him will NEVER fall.

I Timothy 1:17

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Counselor's Corner

During the publication of these eight volumes of On The Frontier one thing has remained constant. The imperative that my wife Sue presents me with monthly. That is, keeping the saints (you, our wonderful readers) apprised of our lives here in Alaska. She tells me that if she were you, she would most certainly wish to know how we (us and our family) were doing. So, finally, I'll give that a go.

However, space constrains me to be brief at this time.

Thankfully, we are all very healthy and blest. Our daughter, Lydia, has turned fourteen (gulp) and been promoted from middle school to high school (double gulp). Soon we will face the rigors of living with a high schooler again. We've survived it once and with the help of the Almighty shall survive it again (triple gulp).

Linus IV had a house built with a beautiful unobstructed view of Pioneer Peak. He is rapidly learning what assessments and mil-rates are all about (I'm not certain I've spelled that properly, but if you're a home owner you know what I mean).

We are still in the same home we purchased when we moved to Alaska but are considering selling it for a smaller one on a larger tract of land. That may or may not happen this year. We live in a rural section but would actually prefer something even a bit more "countrified."

Ruth, our black and white Alaskan Malamute has whelped a litter of ten sired by big Boaz our male Malamute. And we own another female (which I traded a pup from

Ruth's last whelping for) named Shyrah. Her name is from the Hebrew phrase "song of songs" or "the most beautiful song." She is wolf grey and white and we plan on breeding her in about a year. Right now we have, are you ready for this, thirteen Alaskan Malamutes. But, we'll sell the pups in a month or so. It's a nice boost to our income and a lot of fun.

Summer is in full swing so Alaskan saints are hard to find sometimes but we still serve up the Word at the Teaching Center. We've also acquired another suite for the kids. In time we may build or buy our own building but that's not our real goal, seeing the Word have free course is.

That's it for now. Maybe I can persuade Sue to give you details with more substance next month. After all, it's her idea.

When you think of us pray for us.

We at the top of the world pray for you daily. God bless you, we love you.

Linus, Sue & family
