





her, but they cannot rob her of a single plume. Like the albagross, she can sleep on the bosom of a tempest. She has gone through the fires of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace and not got burned, through the waters of the Red Sea and not been drowned, through the shipwreck on the breakers of Melita and not been lost. Let all earth and hell try to hunt down the speckled bird, but the gates of hell shall not prevail against her." Praise God!

God compares his treatment of his people to the eagle's care of the eaglets. Deut. 32:11; "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings, so the Lord alone did lead him." The old eagle first shoves the young one out of the nest in order to make it fly, and then takes it on her back and flies with it, and shakes it off in the air, and if it seem like falling, quickly flies under it and takes it on her wing again. So God does with us. Disaster, failure in business, disappointment, bereavement, are only God's way of shaking us out of our comfortable nest in order that we may learn how to fly. You niver will learn to fly in that comfortable nest. Like an eagle, Christ has carried us on his back. At times we have been shaken off, and when we were about to fall he came under us again and brought us out of the gloomy valley to the sunny mountain. Never an eagle brooded with such love and care over her young as God's wings have been over. us. Across what oceans of trouble we have gone in safety upon the Almighty wings.

It was thought in ancient times that an eagle could not only molt his feathers in old age, but that after arriving to great age he would renew his strength and become entirely young again. To this Isaiah refers when he says: "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles." Even so the Christian in old age will renew his spiritual strength. He shall be young spirit and enthusiasm for Christ; and as the body fails, the soul will grow till at death it will spring up like a gladdened child into the arms of God.

In refering to the brevity of life Job says: "Swift as an eagle that hasteth to its prey." The eagle goes like a thunderbolt for speed and power when it sights its prey, So fly our days.

Jesus said, as a hen gathers her chicks under wings, so he wants to gather us. When danger comes, such as a hawk flying over head. the mother hen gives a funny little sound and the little chickens come running and she spreads her wings over them. the little chicks sometimes peak out but if they are wise they will stay until all danger is past. If we want safety we must stay close to Jesus.

Twenty times the Bible refers to birds nests in showing the wonderful care of God for His people.

Over fifty times does the old Book allude to the wing, "Wings of a dove," "Wings of the morning," "Wings of the wind," "Sun of righteousness with healing in his wings," "Wings of the Almighty," What does it all mean? That man should go upward. We must get ready for our flight. from this earth to glory.

Song I fly away by Brenda White  
Thank you Brenda for that good song  
We are starting a revival tonight at the Wesleyan Church  
at 7 o'clock with Bro. F. C. Hoynes  
as our speaker. I would be happy  
to see each one of you there. Thank you  
for listening.



WLBQ May 15, 1981

Sept 29, 1983

Nov 1987

The Circle

This is Pastor Ransom Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church coming to you this Friday with the last message for this week. I certainly hope and pray that some of you listening have received some good from the messages.

This morning I am reading a verse from Isaiah, 40:22; "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth." While yet people thought that the world was flat, ~~and~~ thousands of years before they found out that it was round. Isaiah, in my text intimated the shape of it, God sitting upon the circle of the earth. The most beautiful figure in all geometry is the circle. God made the universe on the plan of a circle. *and*

There are in the natural world straight lines, angles, parallelograms, diagonals, quadrangles; but these evidently are not God's favorites. Almost everywhere where you find His work you find the circle dominant, and if not the circle, then the curve, which is a circle that died young! An ellipse is a circle pressed only a little too hard at the sides.

It is he that sitteth on the circle of the earth. The stars in the great circle of the galaxy, the moon in a circle, the sun in a circle, the universe in a circle, Halley's Comet in a great elliptical circle coming back around every 77 years. Nothing in space seems to be traveling in a triangle or a rectangle or a straight line but in circles, with best of all, God's throne in the centre of it all.

The history of the world goes in a circle. If the world stands long enough, we may have a city as large as they had in old times. Babylon, five times the size of London. Years ago you could go into the potteries in England, and ~~you~~ find them making cups and vases after the style of the cups and vases exhumed from Pompeii. The world is not going back. Oh, no! but it is swinging in a circle, and will come around to the styles of pottery known so long ago as the days of Pompeii. The world must keep on progressing until it makes the complete circuit. Styles of dress even make a circuit. I have told my wife if I keep my clothes long enough they will come back in style again.

I would like to call your attention to another way a circle is formed, in the moral and spiritual part of life. I want to show you that we ourselves start the circle of good or bad actions, and that it will surely come around again to us unless by divine intervention it be hindered. Those bad or good actions may make the circuit of many years; but come back to us they will, as certainly as that God sits on the circle of the earth.

Jezebel, the worst woman of the Bible. Slew Naboth because she wanted his vineyard. While the dogs were eating the body of Naboth, Elijah the prophet put down his compass, and marked a circle from those dogs clear round to the dogs that should eat the body of Jezebel the murderess. "Impossible!" the people said; "that will never happen." Who is that being flung out of the palace window? Jezebel. A few hours after they came around, hoping to bury her. They find only the palms of the hands and the skull. The dogs that devoured Jezebel and the dogs that devoured Naboth. Oh, what a swift, what an awful circuit!

Now here is a better circuit, You resolve that you will do what good you can. In one week you put a word of counsel in the heart of a Sabbath School child. During that same week you make an exhortation in a prayer-meeting. It is all gone; you will never hear of it perhaps, you think. A few years after, a man comes up to you and says: "You don't know me, do you?" You say: "No, I don't remember ever to have seen you." "Why," he says, "I was in the Sabbath School class over which you were the teacher; one Sunday you invited me to Christ; I accepted the offer. You see that church over there? "Yes," you say. He says: "That is where I preach." Or he invites you to his home and he introduces you to his fine Christian wife and three fine children that make up a lovely Christian family.

Or a man comes to you and says, "I want to introduce myself to you. I went into a prayer-meeting some years ago: I sat back by the door; and you arose to make an exhortation; that talk changed the course of my life, and if I ever get to heaven, under God I will owe my salvation to you." In only ten, twenty, or thirty years, the circle swept out and swept back again to your own grateful heart.

But what is true of the good is just as true of the bad. You utter a slander against your neighbor. It has gone forth from your teeth; it will never come back, you think. You have done the man all the mischief you can. You rejoice to see him wince. You say, "Didn't I give it to him! That word has gone out, that slanderous word, on its poisonous and blasted way. You think it will never do you any harm. But I am watching that word, and I see it beginning to curve and it curves around, and it is aiming at your heart. You had better dodge it. You cannot dodge it. The Bible says, "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."



A gentleman passing along the ~~avenue~~ <sup>street</sup> saw a son dragging his father into the street by the hair of the head. The gentleman, outraged at this brutal conduct, was about to punish the offender when the old man arose and said: "Don't hurt him; it's all right; forty years ago this morning I dragged out my father by the hair of his head!" It is a circle.

From the far north I heard it was a custom that when a parent ~~god~~ <sup>real</sup> old they would put him on a sled and pull him out a long ways from home and leave him to freeze to death. One day a boy saw his Father loading his grandfather on a sled and asked to go with him. When they arrived at the place where the boys father had decided to leave his grandfather. The father turned to go back home but the boy ~~stay~~ <sup>stayed</sup>. The Father told him to ~~come on~~ <sup>come on</sup> but he said to his Father, "I want the sled," The father said, "son, why do you want the sled," He replied, "Well Dad, I will need It when you get old, so I can pull you out here.

The circle turns quickly, very quickly. Oh, what a stupendous thought that the good and the evil we start come back to us! Do you know that the judgment day will be only the points at which the circles join, the good and the bad we have done coming back to unless divine intervention hinder - coming back to us with welcome of delight or curse of condemnation?

Oh, I would like to see Paul at the moment when his influence comes to full orb. No one can tell the wide sweep of the circle of his influence, down through the centuries, save the One who is seated on the circle of the earth.

I should not like to see the countenance of Adolf Hitler when he faces almighty God for the murder of millions of Jews and others.

We must not make the mistake of thinking that this circle stops with this life; it rolls on through heaven. John says: "I heard the voices of many angels round about the throne, ~~#####~~" Again he says; "There was a rainbow round about the throne." Heaven an amphitheatre of glory.

You and I today are in orbit around something. It is the good or the bad. You might think if you are in a bad orbit that nothing change the circle you are in. But the God who is seated on the circle of the earth and seated on the circle of the heaven can ~~cange~~ <sup>change</sup> your orbit and you will be in orbit around ~~that~~ <sup>which</sup> is worth everything. The plan and the will of God. Let us pray, Dear Lord of heaven and earth, we ask today that those who are listening ~~today~~ may realize that they are in a great circle, May they examine themselves and may the Holy Spirit show them if they are not in the right circle and may they look to you for help. and be willing to let you guide them in the right path. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



Prov. 4:23 <sup>It is a privilege to come to you again</sup>  
Keep thy heart with all diligence  
for out of it are the issues of  
life

WL BQ NOV 87

A volcano can remain silent  
for hundreds of years then one day  
it may blow the whole top of  
the mountain off. belching forth  
fire, lava, dust and ashes. you  
know why this happens? It's because  
of pressure built up inside.  
a lot of damage is done  
when this happens.

So it is with some who  
call themselves Christians. as  
the Bible says. Out of the abundance  
of the heart the mouth speaketh  
they seem to be very quiet and  
sweet and good then all of a  
sudden they cannot contain what  
they feel inside and simply blow



these top. They say harsh cutting  
things. They make accusations  
they blame and put others  
down. They exhibit a very un-  
christlike spirit. This comes as  
a great surprise to other people.  
It doesn't seem possible that  
they could do such a disgusting  
thing. Why does this happen?  
Paul in writing to the Corinthians  
described it as a carnal nature.  
"and I, brethren, could not speak unto  
you as unto spiritual, but as unto  
carnal, even as babes in Christ, I have  
fed you with milk, and not with  
meat; for hitherto ye were not able  
to bear it, neither yet now are  
ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for  
whereas there is among you envious  
and strife, and divisions, are ye not  
carnal, and walk as men?"



Paul address them as brethren, <sup>3</sup>  
yet they were not spiritual as  
he would desire them to be but carnal.

They were not exhibiting the fruits  
of the Spirit as listed in Gal. 5:25  
Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness,  
goodness, faith, meekness and temperance  
but were exhibiting carnal fruits  
such as envyings, strife and divisions.

God is never pleased when we ~~sin~~ <sup>engage</sup>  
in such things as are mentioned in Gal.  
5:19-20 Adultery, fornication, uncleanness

lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred,  
variance, emulations, wrath, strife,  
seditions, heresies, envyings, murders,  
drunkenness, revellings, and such like.

we notice here that such sins as  
strife, envying and wrath are listed right  
along with such awful sins as  
murder, adultery, drunkenness and  
revellings.

Paul says if ye bite and devour one  
another, take heed that ye be not consumed  
one of another. That means we



should not be chewing on each other<sup>4</sup> with words. In the next verse he says, "Walk in the spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

Rom 8:6 says to be carnally minded is death but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

James tells about the danger of using our tongue. It says the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. out of the same mouth we bless and curse. These things ought not so to be. The cause of Christ is greatly hindered when the church consists of double minded Christians.

Jesus said "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another. The old man of carnality needs to be crucified before we can be of greatest service for the Lord."



The tongue can no man tame;  
but God can tame it and  
after all it's not the tongue that  
is the root of the matter but  
the ugly spirit in the heart. Out  
of the abundance of the heart  
the mouth speaketh.

Keep thy heart right and all  
will be right. Our hearts must  
be purified by faith in Jesus Christ  
and the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Then we can say. "Knowing  
this that <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ Old man is  
crucified with him, that the body  
of sin might be destroyed, that hence-  
forth we should not serve sin. Rom 6:6,7  
I'm glad God has the power to  
cleanse us and to keep us. But  
we must yield ourselves to Him.  
If we walk in the light as  
He is in the light, we have



fellowship one with another and  
the blood of Jesus Christ <sup>His son</sup> cleanse  
from all sin.

Keep your heart with all diligence  
by walking in the light as He gives  
it to us that all Jesus requires  
submit yourselves to Him, and you  
will find rest for your souls.

Dear Friend, if you are listening  
today and see yourself as a defeated  
Corrupt Christian. Double-minded  
wanting to serve Christ but failing  
so often to measure up to a  
life of holiness. You need not  
go on like you are. You can  
come humbly to the Lord and  
ask Him to make you a  
vessel fit for His use. You  
can serve Him in the beauty  
of holiness. He will not fail  
you. Praise His name.  
Psalm 73:36 <sup>Isaiah 54:17</sup> That all to Christian perfection <sup>Isaiah 54:17</sup> snow.



Let us pray.

Heavenly Father we are glad we  
can come to you in all our need.  
Be with that soul today who  
is hungering <sup>or thirsting</sup> after righteousness.  
You have said blessed are they  
that do hunger and thirst after  
righteousness for they shall be  
filled. May Thy grace be  
given in full measure to them  
and may your presence be real  
in their heart. May they look  
to thee in faith and trust for  
we know you have promised to  
give us the desires of our heart.  
for we ask this in the precious  
name of Jesus. Amen.



W L B Q Sunday Oct, 18, 1981

JUNE 10, 1983

## The Big Ifs

This is Pastor Ransom Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church coming to you again) this 3rd Sunday of October. Summer has ended and fall is here with its many changes. The trees are beautiful now and nature is making its preparation for winter. One thing we can be sure of things are constantly changing. The weather is always changing, the seasons change, and we are changing, we are growing older every day and perhaps a little wiser. But one thing we can be sure of, ~~is~~ that God never changes, He is always the same, yesterday today and forever.

~~this~~ <sup>morning</sup> afternoon I would like to speak to you about a little two letter word, "If". There are more than 1,500 ifs in the Bible, but on some of these two-letter words hang eternal destinies. Some of them are big ifs, they are both challenging and disturbing. Let us begin with this one, since we have all sinned and must be forgiven or else be lost, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9). This is a wonderful promise just the one that we need. but it is not absolute only conditional. Its fulfillment does not rest upon an unfailing God but upon the act of a free moral agent over whose will God has no final control. We will only receive pardon ~~only~~ if we confess our sins,

Now comes the if of fellowship. What a wonderful way to live in fellow ship with the Father and His Son! Paul tells us that we are "called unto the fellowship of his Son! But here again we meet the conditional if: "If we walk in the light ... we have fellowship" (1 John 1:7). Here again we are thrown back upon the conditional If. Fellowship is not guaranteed, only if we walk in the light. Broken fellowship never depends on Gods part but on our part. We have the choice, If we are willing to go with God and do His will we can enjoy blessed fellowship but if we hold back and rebel we well surely be disappointed.

The forgiveness of our trespasses is promised: "Your heavenly Father will also forgive your trespasses." This is a most wonderful promise. but like the others, it hinges upon our act: "If ye forgive men their trespasses" (Matt 6:14). Nothing is guaranteed here except on conditions to be met by us. In my opinion this is where many people fail to receive forgiveness. Some try to act like they are forgiven but they know in their heart that God has not really forgiven them because they are still holding a grudge and do not want to eat their humble pie and make peace with the ~~one~~ they think has wronged them. Some hold on to an unforgiving spirit untill they die, It must be a fearful thing to stand before God and find out you were not forgiven because you have harbored hard feelings toward someone. The Bible says confession is good for the soul, Well we must realize that forgiveness of others in not only good for the soul but is a must for the soul, it is either forgive or not be forgiven.

One of the most astounding promises of God is "Ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). This sounds like you can ask for anything you want and you can have it. you couldn't ask for a greater promise than that. You might say that sounds great but how could that be true, can we dare to believe it. Yes of course, because Jesus spoke this great promise, but there is more to it, the big if, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you." Here Jesus is making the answers to or prayers conditional, He says if you would have your hearts desire, you must agree that what is best for you is what I want for you and you must realize Gods way is always the best.

To have achieving faith has ever been a challenging goal. Listen to these great words of Jesus "Nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matt. 17:20). The anchor to which this limitless promise is tied is "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed." Here again the promise is conditional according to the measure of our faith.

How comforting the words of Jesus "Ye shall abide in my love" (John 15:10). But only on this condition: "If ye keep my commandments."

"We are made partakers of Christ" (Heb. 3:14). What a glorious promise." also we note that "God dealeth with you as with sons" (12:7). But both of these promises depend upon us for their fulfillment. The disturbing if hovers over them. To realize them, one must "endure the chastening of God" and we must "hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."



The burden still rests with us. We determine the outcome. God only makes it possible; it is for us to make it actual. The if opens or closes the door.

God has built us for a "temple of the Holy Ghost" (1 Cor. 6:19), but we can keep this Guest only "if we hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Heb. 3:6). Here again the if meets us.

The honor of high heaven is promised us: "Him will my Father honour" (John 12:26). But this honor is conditioned on "If any man serve me."

We are promised a bountiful harvest in our efforts to win souls: "In due season we shall reap" (Gal. 6:9). Sometimes we think our work is in vain, this is a very encouraging promise, We shall reap, Yes, that is, "if we faint not."

Perhaps the most wonderful promise to be fulfilled this side the grave is "Ye shall never fall" (2 Pet. 1:10). This promise like the others is conditional "If ye do these things" What things? the things clearly stated in verses 5-7 And beside this giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. Many people take the the promise "Ye shall never fall" without the condition and only deceive themselves into believing that no matter what they do they will never fall They had better not deceive themselves or they will be lost.

Now we come to the great promises concerning the resurrection to eternal life . The resurrection in Christ is promised. All will be raised, but only those in Christ will be raised to life eternal. The Christian's promises here are numerous, such as: "We shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:5); We shall also live with him" (V.8, also 2 Tim. 2:11; "We shall also reign with him" (2Tim 2:12). These great precious promises all have their cocontrolling ifs, such as; "If we have been planted together in the likeness of his death"; "If we be dead with Christ"; "If we suffer with him."

Then comes the presentation to the Father of which Paul speaks: "You... hath he reconciled... to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight" (Col. 1:21-22). What a day that will be when the "saints come marching in"! But to do so they must have met the requirement: "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Col. 1:23). Then come the rewards for those who have built upon the foundation "gold, silver, precious stones" (1Cor. 3:12).

The challenge of the ifs we all must face, we all have the power of choice, ~~#####~~ God ~~gives~~ <sup>fulfills</sup> to us in accordance with the way we respond to His plan for our lives.

I wish to thank you for listening today, and hope that this message has been a help to you. I would like to be of service to you and would like to help you to know God and to serve Him . If you need someone to talk to just give me a call on the telephone and I will do my best to help you. If you need a good church to attend I would like to invite you to the Wesleyan church on the Logansport Rd here in Morgantown. A warm welcome awaits you and It is a good place to pray and find a close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us lift our hearts in prayer, Heavenly Father, we are so glad that you love us and have given us many wonderful promises, we know you are not asking too much for us to not only say we love you but obey you. bless each one listening today and may they have a close walk with you for we know that is the only way to find satisfaction in this life and in the life to come in Jesus name we pray, Amen.



This is Pastor Ransom Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church, comming to you again this morning, thanks to station W L B Q.

Today I want to call your attention to something that I think is very important in the Christian life, C ONFESSION, CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL. In James 5:16-20 we read "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. "

On a wall of a tailor shop was a sign: I think people should confess their faults. I'd confess mine IF I HAD ANY," Everyone seems to believe in confessing wrongs but so many never see that they need to confess, It's always the other fellow. Jesus said, Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brothers eye and beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye." He knew that this was ~~a~~ common ~~of~~ people then and that it would always be common among the human race.

There is something about confession that makes ~~is~~ a hard job. There seems to be something in human beings that many times wants to confess but the devil won't let them. All should realize that our first step toward God is one of confession, as with David when he had sinned He said, I acknowledge my transgression and my sin is ever before me." In I John 1: 9 we read "If we confess our sins He is faith ful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." A minister was riding on a train one night, coming from the west, when a cowboy ~~god~~ on the train. After a while he sat down beside him and said, "Are you a preacher?" He said, "Yes." And he said, "I would like to ask you a question, Can a murderer be saved?" The minister said, "Yes, if he will confess his sins and believe in the blood of Jesus." But when he saw that it meant to confess and meet conditions, he was ready to quit. Sin is a rejection of light. And the rejection of much light brings much guilt. Unless the sinner is willing to confess he cannot be saved. A boy stole a log chain from a farmer. He came to the altar several nights but seemed to get no victory. Then the next night he carried the log chain home, laying it on the farmer's front porch. Then he came back to the altar the following night to seek salvation, but no victory! That word "confess" is a big word when you are seeking God. The next day he went to the farmer's home, knocked on the ~~door~~, and confessed that he had stolen the log chain. The farmer, who was a good old saint of God, pulled him into the kitchen and they got down together and prayed. In a few minutes he arose with glorious victory in his soul. He came back to the church and shouted all around with a shine on his face that made many souls hungry. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whosoever confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Just remember this , no unconfessed sin ever goes under the cleasing blood of Jesus. There is only one way to be justified in the sight of God and that is to confess our sins and believe the merits of Jesus blood to save us from all our sins.

Many people do not have the joy of salvation because they are too proud ~~to~~ to stubborn to confess a wrong they have done to someone, but there is something about confession that opens heaven over our souls and pleases God. A young man was praying to be saved but it seemed hard for him to get anywhere or for the saints to pray. Finally he slipped his arm around his mother and confessed that he had lied to her. In a few minutes he was happily saved. He had confessed the thing that had kept him from God.

The reason King David was forgiven of the terrible sins he had committed is because he openly confessed and asked God for mercy. Jesus told the story of the pharasee and the publican, The pharasee prayed a very self righteous prayer. but the publican standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon, his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. Acts 3:19 says. Repent ye therefore, and be conferted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord:" Also Ps. 34:18 "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

I remember so well in ~~the~~ service at church my son stood to his feet ~~and~~ made a confession; He said, Dad ~~238~~ You remember when that rabbit died and you didn't know why, Well I just got tired taking care of the rabbits and she starved to death, and I am sorry. This confession surely touched my heart and brought instant blessing to him. Yes confession is good for the soul. I also remember sometimes my wife or I had ~~had~~ to correct our sons, after we had gone to bed one of them would call "Mother". She would go to them and they would tell her they ~~were~~ sorry so that they could feel at rest and go to sleep. Oh if dear people today would only see that if they would confess, take a humble attitude and forgive they would ~~would~~ have the peace that passeth all understanding.



I received a phone call one evening from a girl I taught in school, She said 2 Mr. Gibbs. You remember the last Math test we took. Well I cheehead on the test and I want you to give me an F. than she began to cry. I am sure she found relief from her conscience when she made that confession and I certainly admired her for it.

A minister related this story: I was called to a hospital to see a woman who was dying. She said to me, "I have a confession to make." I was surprised when she made the confession I had thought it must be something terrible, kbut this is it. She said that while she was working in the ten-cent store she stole a toothbrush. While she was making this confession the nurse said she was out of her mind. But she said. "No, I am dying and I want this thing s straightened up." God forgave her; a confession was made down at the store, and she had complete victory. There is no little sin in the sight of God. It does not take the stealing of ten dollars to make one a thief, but one dent stolen makes the guilty one a thief. It is not the much stealing but the one thief that makes a thief. The one who tells fifty lies is a liar: also the one who tells one lie is a liar, and they will both go to hell unless they repent. The Scripture says, "All liars have their part in the Lake of Fire."

If you<sup>are</sup> listening today and have never had to make a confession that you were wrong, If you have never gone to someone and said, I was wrong and I am sorry. I don't have much confidence in your religion. I believe you need to pray and ask God to soften your heart so that you can see your own faults as much as you see the faults of others. Confession is good for the soul.

The old Methodist class meetings used to have a time when they would confess their own faults one to another. I have been in some of those meetings when God's blessing came down and hearts were mealed together in Christian love. I believe when we see confession and humiliktly among us Heaven will come down today and glory will fill our souls and put conviction in the hearts of sinners. Let us pray, Dear Lord we know there may someone today that has hesitated a long time about making a confession, they have wanted to but could not seem to bring them selves to do it, give them the courage today to do what they know they should do so that they may have peace and rest for their soul, in Jesus name, Amen.



W L B Q May 12 1981

## The Finger of God

Goodmorning, This is Pastor Ransom Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church coming to you again on this spring morning.

Today I would like to talk to you about one small part of God. "The finger of God".

Pharoah was sulking in his marble throne room, plague after plague had come, and sometimes the Egyptian monarch was disposed to do better, but at the lifting of each plague, he was as bad as before. The magicians of the palace, however, were compelled to recognize the divine movement, and after one of the most exasperating plagues of all the series, they cried out in the words of my text: "This is the finger of God," not the first nor the last time when bad people said a good thing.

We all recognize the hand of God, and know it is a mighty hand. You have seen a man keep two or three rubber balls flying in the air, catching and pitching them so that none of them fell to the floor, and do this for several minutes, and you have admired his dexterity; but have you thought how the hand of God keeps thousands and thousands of round worlds vastly larger than our world flying for centuries without letting one fall? Wondrous power and skill of God's hand! But I only want to speak to about just one finger of this great hand. Only two other places does the Bible refer to this finger. The rocks on Mount Sinai are basalt and very hard stone. Do you imagine it was a chisel that cut the ten commandments in that basalt? No, in Exodus we read that the tables of stone were "Written with the finger of God." Christ says that he cast out devils with "the finger of God." The only instance that Christ wrote a word, he wrote not with a pen on parchment, but with his finger on the ground. Yet, though so seldom reference is made in the Bible to a part of God's hand, if you and I keep our eyes open and our heart right, we will be compelled often to cry out, "This is the finger of God."

A fine christian father often prayed and longed to see his wayward son saved. Revival after revival came but his heart seemed hard as stone. One evening his son was riding home on horseback, a thunder storm came up and just as the boy crested the hill in sight of home lightning struck him. His father saw the horse and rider go down. He rushed to where the boy was, to find the horse dead and the boy lying under him. Down on his knees the father began to pray. The boy lived, though the horse died and the boy had a burned place all down his side.

You might say well I guess the boy turned to God then, since God had so miraculously spared his life. Such was not the case, He was shook up but went on to trifle with God. A few months after that he was struck by lightning again as he was going along near a barbed wire fence.

A man who lived near Russellville, Ky. attended a revival meeting where someone spoke to him about giving his heart to God. He answered sham rouffly, saying, he had made up his mind to go to hell and take a gang with him. A short time after that he was on his way to Russellville and a train hit him as he was crossing the track, killing him and most or all of his family.

Yes, God sometimes points out things to us in the tragedies of life.

There are other ways that God points, Now, God, in the dear old Book, says to us innumerable things by the way of direction. He plainly tells us the way to go. But in every time of our life, if we will only look, we will find a providential gesture and a providential pointing, so that we may confidently say, "This is the finger of God." It is a remarkable thing that sometimes no one can see that finger but yourself. You should follow the divine pointing, as you see it, although the world may call you a fool. There has never been a man or woman who amounted to anything that has not sometimes been called a fool. Nearly all the mistakes that you and I have made have come from our following the pointing of some other finger, instead of the finger of God. But now suppose all forms of disaster close in upon a man. There are men of vast wealth who are as rich for heaven as they are for this world, but they are exceptions. If a man grows in grace, it is generally before he gets \$100,000, or after he loses them. Suppose a cold spring or a late autumn or the coming of an epidemic corners a man, and his notes come due and he cannot meet them, and his rent must be paid and there is nothing with which to pay it, and the wages of the employees are due and there is nothing with which to meet that obligation, and the bank will not discount, and the business friends to whom he goes for accommodation are in the same predicament, and he bears the whole concern. He stands wondering and saying: "I do not see the meaning of all this; I have done the best I could. God knows I would pay my debts if I could, but here I am hedged in and stopped." What should that man do in that case? Go to the Scriptures and read the promise about all things working together for good, and kindred passages? But he needs to do something beside reading the Scriptures. He needs to look for the finger of God that is pointing toward better treasures; that is pointing toward eternal release; that is urging him to higher realms. No



human finger ever pointed to the East or West or North or South so~~o~~ certainly as the finger of God is pointing that troubled man to higher and better spiritual resources than he ever enjoyed. I am speaking of God fearing men. Such men are so broken by calamity that they are humbled and fly to God for relief. Men who have no conscience and never expect anything are not much affected by financial changes.

One man said to a aged minister of much experience. "All the events of my life seem to have been divinely connected. Do you suppose it is so in all lives?" He answered, ~~R~~Yes, but most people do not notice the divine leadings." I can say from my own experience that the safest thing in all the world to do is to trust the Lord. I never had a misfortune, or a persecution, or a trial, or a disappointment, however distressing at the time, that God did not make turn out for my good. My one greatest desire is to follow the divine leading. I want to watch the finger of God.

Nations also would do well to watch for the finger of God. We should take notice how God has blessed nations or allowed nations to be destroyed in the past. Sodom and Gamorah were destroyed because of there sins of immorality. God has never changed his idea about these sins and will bring distruction on us if we fail to see how God is pointing. We ought to quit our nation sins of Killing unborn babies by the millians, Homosexuality is becomming a national curse. Our Sabbath breaking and our drunkenness, and our corruptions of all sorts as a people. The tendency is in self satisfaction at our prosperity to forget the mercy of God that has kept us Brom being blotted out for our crimes

In closing this morning I would like to say that It seems God's finger is always pointing forward, The pathway of the just is as a shinning light that shinneth more and more unto the perfect day. I like the words of the song "It is better farther on." Thank God for this blessed promise. We are journeying toward the clestial city whose builder and maker is God. We may be pilgrims and strangers here but we are going on toward glory. Many people like to live in the past and talk of the good old days, then someone says I can remember some things about them that wasn't so Good. But to the one that knows not Christ there is nothing but darkness ahead. We as Christians should never look back but live today and believe in the fact that it is better farther on.