A SWARM OF BE’S
THE BE OF HIS PROGRAM

Glen E. Tropp

The Series of Lessons for our consideration the past few issues has centered around the General Theme, "A SWARM OF BE’S." We’ve noticed the following thus far:

I. THE BE OF THE PLAN OF SALVATION. ACTS 16:30-31
II. THE BE OF THE POWER FILLED LIFE. EPH. 5:18
III. THE BE OF HIS PRESENCE. JOSHUA 1:1-8

It has been pointed out before, but it needs to be re-emphasized, that our purpose in this study is to get "HEART KNOWLEDGE" of these truths which are found in God’s Word. Our major problem in the Christian life is not with the accumulation of the scriptures, but rather the application of those scriptures in our daily experiences in life. When the truths of God’s Word are received in our hearts - hearts which have been properly prepared for their reception - then these truths move and motivate us to become doers of the Word. Let us ever be mindful of the declaration found in James 1:22: “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

In our lesson today we’ll notice the BE OF HIS PROGRAM. The Scripture for this "Be" is found in Romans 14:7-9, specifically verse 9: "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s for to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might reign Lord both of the dead and living.”

God has a program for each of our lives. So many fail to grasp the reality of this statement. Seemingly, many feel that the Program of the Lord only includes the Salvation of the Soul from hell. Certainly this is included in His Plan, Purposes, and Program, but this is not all. He expects the saved to yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, serve Him, and become conformed to the image of Christ. A few of the passages of scripture which substantiate this declaration are as follows:

EPH. 2:8-10 specifically verse 10 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN

CHRIST JESUS UNTO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD HATH BEFORE ORDAINED THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM."

JOHN 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

GAL. 2:20 "Iam crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

PHIL. 2:12-16 "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in
you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmuring and disputings: That ye may be blameless, and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world: Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of vail.

ROMANS 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Our remarks about this Program will be localized to 3 areas. This is God's 3-Fold Plan for all Mankind. It can be described by using these three words: BELIEVERS, DISCIPLES, and CHRISTIANS. These steps must be followed as they were given. Let us notice these individually.

I. BELIEVERS.

The first step that God desires for all to take is Repentance of sins and the Reception of Christ into one's heart as personal Saviour. This is what is involved in becoming a BELIEVER in Christ. We'll not develop this area any further due to the fact that we've noticed this in a previous message. Let's move on to the next step.

II. DISCIPLES.

Many people believe the erroneous statement that when they become saved, they become Christians. This is not necessarily true. It's possible to be saved and yet not be a Christian, while on the other hand, it's impossible to be a Christian without being saved. The Word Christina means to be Christ-like. Many are saved but are not living a Christ-like life. The Problem seems to be in the failure to grasp the truth that before a person can live the Christ-like life, he must first of all learn how to be a follower of Christ.

He must learn how to live the disciplined life. This is the Second Step! This is a PROCESS DEVELOPMENT—not an instant experience because it hits right at the center of the self-ego of man. This process is hard for the individual to detect in his or her life but others who are viewing your life will see the change. You see, the closer we get to the Lord, the more sinful and ungodliness we see in our own life. We see our unworthiness and realize our infirmities but yet, even in the midst of this revelation, our lives begin to reflect Jesus Christ—the characteristics that He exemplified.

Becoming a follower of Jesus Christ means that you must learn to take instructions from Him, depend upon Him, and do exactly what He says. This principle is taught in Matt 11:28-30. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The success depends upon your availability to His Ability. Let me illustrate it this way. A man one time when out to a farm to see this farmer. The farmer was busy in the field plowing with a yoke of oxen. The man was confused at what he saw. In one side of the yoke was a big, stout, and robust ox, while on the other side there was this scrawny, and little ox. He watched this for quite awhile and when the opportunity presented itself, he asked the farmer why he had put this weak ox beside this stout ox. The farmer's reply was that the only reason he put the weak ox in was to fill out the yoke. Dear friends, the Lord Jesus Christ is the strong one in the yoke. He's the one that carries the load and does the job. He's the one that gives us the victory. He invites us to get into the yoke to walk with him and learn of Him. He is LORD!

Too many times we get to thinking that we are the "big shot" - the important one - but this is not true. Joshua had this lesson to learn. Notice this in Joshua 5:13-15. He had been chosen as the new leader but he needed to know that there was one over him who was going to give the orders and as long as Joshua listened and did what the Lord said, the Lord would give the victory. Notice now this scripture. "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, what saith my LORD UNTO THY SERVANT? And the Captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."

Another example of one's learning how to become a follower of the Lord was Simon Peter. A follower needs to learn how to take orders, listen, believe, and then become a doer. Simon's main problem was that he was filled with SELF. He thought he knew all the answers. He even corrected his Lord. Can you imagine that? Notice the passages and let them speak to your heart of the reality of this truth.

MATT. 16:21-23 "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: This shall not be unto thee. But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan; thou..."

(Continued Page 4)
A Swarm of "Be's" (Continued) art an offence unto me; for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

LUKE 22:31-34 "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee both into prison and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me."

JOHN 18:2-11 "And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: and Jesus oft times resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus answered, I have told you that I am; if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, of them which thou gavest me have I lost none. Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

LUKE 22:54-62 "Then took they him, and led him, and brought him into the high priest's house. And Peter followed a-far off. And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with them. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow was with him; for he is a Galilaean. And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly."

JOHN 21:15-19"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again, the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith to him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, when thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whithersoever thou wouldst; but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whithersoever thou wouldst not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he said unto him FOLLOW ME."

If you follow the teachings of these scriptures you'll find that finally Peter learned how to quit giving his opinion and start listening. He realized that we are not to stand around and question our Lord but rather accept exactly what He says -believe it- and then obey Him. Also when the blessings come -we are to give Him Glory. We are not to Glory in our accomplishments, but rather rejoice and thank Him that He has been so good to us in allowing us to share in His Glory!

Another example would be John. The Lord taught him how to be filled with love. You'll remember that he was a hot head. He had a real bad temper, and was called one of the sons of thunder; but you'll notice if you read I, II, III John that he learned how to be a disciple filled with the Lord of the Lord. The Lord had changed him.

As a disciple or follower of the Lord we notice there are some things we are to put off. These are listed in COL. 3:8-9 "But now ye also PUT OFF all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth, lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds. There are also some things that we are to put on. This is seen in COL. 3:12-14. "PUT ON therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." The Key Word in this step is DISCIPLINE. We need to learn how to discipline ourselves. If the human life is not restrained through discipline, then the end results will be the works of the
TRIALS FROM WITHOUT

JOHNNY WILLIAMS

III. THE RESULT OF TRIALS

We continue in this fourth lesson in our series through the Wonderful Book of James with a study of the Results of trials. James 1:3-4 reads: Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience, but let patience have perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire wanting nothing.

In these verses we focus on two words which point out the results of the "Trials from Without" that is permitted to come our way by the Lord. Those words are: (1) Patience, and (2) Perfection.

First we want to look at Patience. James said, THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE, v.3b. This same thought is also expressed by the Apostle Paul as he writes, by inspiration of God, to the Romans. Romans 5:3 reads: AND NOT ONLY SO, BUT WE GLORY IN TRIBULATIONS ALSO: KNOWING THAT TRIBULATION WORKETH PATIENCE. The Greek word for patience used in these scriptures is the word "Hupomone" which means "endurance or constancy." It is derived from another word in the Greek, the word, "Hupomeno." The meaning of this word is to "Have Fortitude" or to "Persevere." Even Webster's definition agrees with the meaning in the Greek. Webster says "Patience is a calm temper which suffers evils without murmuring or discontent." So, our trials here on earth, according to the Word of God, are sent our way that we may learn patience, to persevere, to be steadfast in our work, worship and witness during the trial.

God greatly used the ministry of the Apostle Paul to illustrate this very point. In his letter to the Philippians, he let us know in Philippians 1:7 that he was writing as a prisoner of the state. Then in verses 12-13 of the same chapter we see the patience. Those verses read, but I would you should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen to the furtherance of the gospel, so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places. Paul was saying, even though I have been placed in custody by the state, the blessing is that I have the opportunity to tell the people of the palace about Jesus. This is the example of the type of patience that James was talking about. It's not a passive "Oh well, so what" type of attitude. It is an active looking for the blessing, looking for the opportunity to serve God in the midst of the trial type of attitude. So many of us today have the opposite reaction. When trials come we use them as an excuse to quit, or to become unfaithful in our obligations to God, our Church, and our families. May God help us to hold on of this wonderful truth of God's Word and look for the blessing and the opportunity in our trials. I really believe that in the decade of the 80's, those who put into practice this principle will be the ones our churches will need to build with. This attitude was also taught by Jesus in Matt. 5:11-12. If nothing else will, this should settle once and for all the value of this principle in our daily lives.

Now, let us look at the second result of the "Trials from Without" - Perfection. James 1:4 says: BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE THE PERFECT WORK, THAT YE MAY BE PERFECT AND ENTIRE WANTING NOTHING. Before we go any further, let us get in our minds the proper definition of the word "perfect" as it is used in the scripture. It does not mean sinlessness. No one is sinless. Rom. 3:23 says, For ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. In I Jn. we read these burning words in chapter 1 verse 8: IF WE SAY WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US. Again in verse 10 of the same chapter we read, IF WE SAY WE HAVE NOT Sinned, WE MAKE HIM A Liar, AND HIS WORD IS NOT IN US. There are many things in these verses that space will not permit us to write. Let us just say for now, that these verses in God's Word settles the question of man's sinfulness. Man is inherently sinful.

What then does this statement of James mean? What is this perfection that we are to attain? Once again, we must understand some definitions. The word used here in the Greek is "Teleios" which means "complete, of Full Age." Another word which is sometimes translated "perfect" in the scripture is the word "Telles or Telo." This word means "The conclusion of an act or state. Both words carry the idea of completeness or fullness. The first time this word is used in James we find it used in relation to patience. But let your patience have her perfect work. James 1:4a. In other words, let patience work in your life to completion. Don't fight it. Paul again sheds some light on the subject in Romans Chapter 5. Verse 3 tells us that "tribulation worketh patience." Then in verses 4-5 he continues, AND PATIENCE, EXPERIENCE, AND EXPERIENCE HOPE, AND HOPE MAKETH US NOT ASHAMED BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD IS SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY GHOST WHICH WAS GIVEN TO US. The Greek word for experience, "Dokime", literally means "proof", and the word for hope is "Elipus" which means "expectation or confidence." Thus we learn from God's Word that when we let patience do its
completed work in our life we develop proof that our faith is real and a confidence in God that allows us to place our lives completely in His will. WHAT A WONDERFUL TRUTH! The next time we see the word perfect used it refers to ourselves. We are to let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire wanting nothing. When we allow patience to work in our lives, causing us to have proved faith and confidence in God, we are showing, as individuals, signs of "completeness." We usually call it Maturity. There are also levels of maturity. I, myself have never met a person who has reached the top but all of us, hopefully, are daily maturing in the Lord. Those who rebel in the face of trials show signs of immaturity. Those who allow trials to produce patience, then allow the patience to complete it's work show maturity. May God help us to understand and apply this truth that is badly needed in our modern daily living.

THE BIBLE AND ASTROLOGY

#6 CANCER

JERRY COFFMAN

Cancer, the Crab, is the fourth constellation in the Zodiac, and is the sign for those born June 22 to July 23. It is found in Greek legend as the gift from Juno; in Egyptian religion as the Scarab, symbol of their sun god; and, the Chaldean belief as the "Gate of Men" through which the souls of the newborn entered the earth.

While many spiritual lessons could be drawn from the meaning of the names of some of the brightest stars, "The Assy," and "The Manger," comment will be held to qualities and attributes found under this "sign."

It has been established that Christians are not motivated by legend or astrological beliefs, but by the living Spirit of God within them. What positive qualities that are attributed to people because they are born under the sign of Cancer, or any other star, are found naturally in the life of a Christian because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within them. Let me show you what I mean.

The keynote of Cancer is "I feel," sensitivity to the needs of others. This is peculiar to those born under Cancer. But all born-again believers have this quality because of salvation in Christ. It is called "agape," the special love that God has for men. All born-again believers can "feel" for others what God Himself feels, because they are indwelt by the Spirit of love.

Cancer's motto is "Loyalty Above All." Of this it is said, "Loyalty, performance, achievement - these are significant bearers of the vital and prolific produce of your character. You can go about in the world as in a field sowing. You can show influence - and sow in no way more decisively than the one which consists in the doing of deeds that live and fructify." But who has more influence than a Spirit-controlled believer (Acts 1:8). The Christian is referred to by two strong influences, light and salt (Matt. 5). His influence is based on the Word of God (Rom. 1:16, Heb. 4:12), and is positive and productive (Matt. 7:17; John 15).

While the personality of those born under the sign of "The Crab" is to withdraw into one's "shell" at any sign of attack or trouble, the Christian turns to God as his refuge and safety (Ps. 17:8; 27:5; 31:20).

The claw of the crab is the symbol of holding on to old beliefs. The believer involved in the work of the local church understands faithfulness to doctrine and practice, and the holding on to the "faith once delivered unto the saints."

It is said of those whose sign is Cancer, that they "take comfort in what they know will always be there." Their security is in the stars. But the believer takes comfort and security in the promises of Christ, "I'll never leave thee nor forsake thee." He will always be there. That's where real comfort is. That's real security.

(A Swarm of "Be's" Continued) flesh.

III. CHRISTIAN. The third step is Christian. In Acts 11:26 we find these words. "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they abounded in the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians at Antioch."

Notice here they were called Christians. They did not call themselves Christians but rather were called this by others. The reason being that their lives exemplified the characteristics that we see in the life of Christ.

We are not a very good Christian if we have to tell people that we are Christians. They should be able to see in our lives the principles and characteristics of Christ. They will never be able to call us this, in it's fullest meaning, until we learn how to be good and true disciples.

Which step are you on? Don't settle for anything less than God's Best for your life. Trust the Lord as your Saviour, discipline your flesh so as to truly be a follower of the Lord and then when others look at you they will truly be able to say "There's a Christian." This dear friends, is God's Program for your life. LET HIM BE THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE!
THOUGHTS TO PONDER

BY

PAUL MAGNESS

We face a greater problem than need... greed! The problem of need would be solved if the problem of greed could be solved. The basis of this view is Biblical not sociologi-
cal.

It is inconceivable that the infinite, eternal, immutable God of the Bible would have created earth with inadequate potential resources for the people He created to dwell upon it!

It is recorded in Genesis that when God completed His creative work He looked upon it and pronounced it all as "good". To God this could mean nothing less than perfection... en-
ough.

In the economy of God earth has adequate provision for human need—and all would be well if not for human greed. There is something deep in the character of human nature that makes it incapable of handling more than it needs. Instead of bringing lasting satisfac-
tion, affluence seems to generate dissatisfaction—with the result that enough is never enough! Luxuries soon become necessary... and more luxury is sought which in turn be-
comes necessary—and so the vicious cycle spirals humanity to self destruction.

As commendable as it may seem, compassion for the hungry and starving is not the best we can do... if while giving from an abundance we seek to justify continuing acquisition be-
Yond our needs.

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." There is a strong implication that it is basic to good health to give—-to be a channel rather than a reservoir of God's gracious gifts.

A lease on life --- that's all we have --- a lease! An indefinite lease at that — only God knows its length.

No man owns life—he has it to use—a lessee accountable to the Lessor, God.

It is consummate presumption to take life for granted — as though one had a corner on it for as long as he wished. Such is the er-
or of fools.

The wise recognize that life is short — that it is a gift. Good stewardship begins at that point.

(Read James 4:13-15)