

Edited by  
STEPHEN BAKER

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Volume 11  
Number 1  
**FEBRUARY**  
2014

## Editor's Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of YPS for 2014 and a belated Happy New Year to all of our readers. While I do not sign up to the concept of making New Year resolutions (as we rarely keep them for more than a day or two), I do think that it is good, from time to time, to sit back and review 'where we are' and 'where we think we should be going'. This, of course, should be done prayerfully and with a desire to seek the will of God for our lives. I came across a list of questions recently that prompted me to explore where I am in my walk with God. In the Old Testament, God asked the question through Haggai, 'Consider your ways!' Hag. 1. 5. We would be wise to occasionally make a stock check. It seems quite appropriate in the early months of a New Year! It really is an exercise that can be carried out any time and, possibly, the more often we do it the better.

### Here are some questions for you to consider:

1. What is the one thing that you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
3. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you want to make most progress this year, and what will you do about it?

There are many more; if you would like the full list email me at [stepcar61@gmail.com](mailto:stepcar61@gmail.com) or contact me through Facebook and I will send them to you.

What are we looking at in this issue? To start with, I need to make an apology. In the November 2013 issue, I attributed an article on Enoch to Paul MacLean of Manchester when it was written by Paul Robinson of Manchester – apologies to both of these brothers. Paul MacLean has an article in this issue on the subject of prayer. Robert Scott Thomson of the USA starts a helpful series on preaching with a tablet. The series on 'Adventures in Acts' by Jeremy Singer continues. This is the final article based on one chapter. We are going to cover the rest of the book in sections in later issues. Finally, Andrew Dutton writes to explain the truth of 'eternal security' and Paul Coxall of Aberdeen starts the first of four articles on Psalm 139.

Hopefully you will find something that grabs your attention and feeds your soul.

*Stephen Baker*

**YOUNG PRECIOUS SEED** is a supplement of *Precious Seed International* designed for those young in faith. Its purpose is to restate timeless truths from the word of God for a new generation of Christians and to kindle a biblical approach to current issues in the world in which we live. YPS is published by *Precious Seed International*, Pitcot Farm, Pitcot Lane, Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Radstock BA3 4SX, UK, and is available separately from the main magazine.

# Safe forever!

BY ANDREW DUTTON LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

One sunny, spring afternoon as I was walking through a busy shopping centre, a man stopped me to offer me a leaflet with Bible verses. As we spoke, I soon discovered that the man thought people could be saved and then lost. Such a false idea undermines the great message of the gospel and contradicts the teaching of the Lord Jesus. This article reminds us of the truth of *eternal security*.

## The teaching of the Lord Jesus

In John chapter 10 verses 28-30, the Lord Jesus makes the clearest statement of the security of believers.

It was winter time in Jerusalem and the Lord Jesus was outside of the temple at Solomon's Porch. The coldness of the season was matched with the hard attitude of the Jews that gathered around the Lord to question Him. Surrounded by hatred and opposition, the Lord Jesus responded to the questioning Jews with some of the loveliest words about His people:

### 1. 'I give unto them eternal life'

The first time 'eternal life' is mentioned in John's Gospel is in chapter 3, when the Lord Jesus explained the new birth to Nicodemus. At first, Nicodemus couldn't understand, he was thinking of physical birth; the Lord Jesus said, 'That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit', John 3. 6. Nicodemus realized that the Lord Jesus was speaking about spiritual life from God, in contrast to ordinary human life which is marked by sin. Eternal life is received when a person is saved and can be enjoyed here on earth. It brings forgiveness. Its full scope will be appreciated in heaven.

As the Lord Jesus spoke to the crowd of Jews in John chapter 10, He said 'I give . . . eternal life'. The Lord Jesus knew what the cost would be in order to give this. At Calvary, the judgement was to come down so heavily on Him; the punishment that He would bear to 'put away sin', Heb. 9. 26, enabled the Lord Jesus to say with power, 'I give . . . eternal life'.

### 2. 'They shall never perish'

Destruction, loss, separation, departure, ruin, death and punishment are all summarized by the word 'perish'. The awful consequence for the person that rejects the gospel is to be lost eternally and to suffer ongoing torment (this is clear from the words of the Lord Jesus, Luke 16. 20-26). There is a definite judgement and a final sentence for those who are not saved, Rev. 20. 13-14. This stark fact should motivate us to share the gospel with others. Perhaps it is only when we consider the dread of what it means to 'perish' that we who are saved can begin to appreciate the greatness of the words 'they shall never perish'. Positive, definite and sure: 'never perish'! We can rejoice that there is no possibility of being lost!

AND WHOEVER COMES TO ME  
I WILL NEVER CAST OUT



### **3. 'Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand'**

After the Lord Jesus said, 'I give unto them eternal life . . . they shall never perish', He didn't stop there. He provided further assurance. The Lord went on to say, 'Neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand'. Perhaps a believer might ask, 'What if someone or something pulled me away?' After all, the world offers so much temptation to take us away from the Lord. The Lord Jesus answers such doubts with complete confidence – we're safe in His hand! Paul sums up the extent of the believer's safety, 'Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord', Rom. 8. 38-39. The temptations of the world, and the powers of the devil can remove blessing and enjoyment, which is why we need to keep close to God and His word; however, through it all, we are secure in the hand of the Shepherd.

### **4. 'No man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand'**

Finally, the Lord Jesus provides additional assurance in relation to the Father, based on His greatness and power. No one can pluck the believer from the Father's hand, because He is the Almighty, and no created power is able to resist Him – He is the ultimate power! The Lord's statement, 'I and [the] Father are one', is very important in two ways. Firstly, the Lord declares His deity, and, secondly, describes 'oneness' in the work of power by which He protects His sheep; there is also 'oneness' between the Father and the Son in the desire and care for the sheep. The power that the Father has to preserve those who have been saved is equalled by the power of the Lord Jesus.

#### **The assurance**

There are many Bible passages that teach the eternal security of the believer, but how great to think of these words of the Lord Jesus describing His love and care towards His people! Those who are saved are forever secure in Him.





**ADVENTURES IN ACTS: PART 2**

# What happened at Pentecost?

**BY JEREMY SINGER BRIDGE OF WEIR, SCOTLAND**

Events that took place on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 are unique and unrepeatable. In this article, we explore how Pentecost is: (1) a fulfilment; (2) a birthday; and (3) an empowering. Today, we must be aware of the significance of Pentecost and realize these blessings for ourselves.

## Pentecost is a Fulfilment

On the evening before His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus is in the Upper Room with His disciples. He explains that He is going away and promises to send 'another comforter', John 14. 16. The Lord Jesus refers to the coming of the Spirit many times on this occasion, John 13-17. The nervous and confused disciples are expecting comfort and understanding when the Spirit comes.

Moments before His triumphant ascension, the Lord Jesus is on the mountain with His disciples. He gives them authority to preach the good news, Luke 24. 47, but how will they acquire the necessary power? He tells them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit, so that they can be 'clothed with power', v. 49 ESV.

As the Spirit arrives on the day of Pentecost, the disciples thankfully recognize that the Lord Jesus has fulfilled His promise. He is God, who 'cannot lie', Titus 1. 2 – He always keeps His promises.

Pentecost is more than a fulfilment of the Lord's promise; it is also the realization of an Old Testament picture. The feasts of Jehovah in Leviticus chapter 23 are a symbolic timeline of God's programme through the ages. If Passover speaks of Christ's death, and Firstfruits of His resurrection, then Pentecost speaks of the

beginning of the rewards for His sorrows. 'He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied', Isa. 53. 11. At the feast of Pentecost in the Old Testament, grain from the early harvest was used to make bread – two loaves – reminding us of Jew and Gentile united together in the church. We are the beginning of Christ's reward from Calvary, which will eventually encompass the whole universe.

Peter recognized that the events in Acts chapter 2 related to Old Testament prophecy, Joel 2. 28. Peter carefully stated that Pentecost is not the complete fulfilment of Joel – merely 'this is that', Acts 2. 16 – i.e., similar, but not all of it. Peter knew that Joel was predicting a moment when all Israel would know the Spirit outpoured upon them, causing them to mourn and repent for rejecting their Messiah, Zech. 12. 10.

## Pentecost is a Birthday

The church was founded on the day of Pentecost. Individual believers are now united together into a corporate body. The Lord Jesus anticipated this moment when he told Peter, 'I will build my church', Matt. 16. 18. The building commenced on the day of Pentecost with the Spirit's arrival. The believers were 'all with one accord in one place', Acts 2. 1. The Spirit filled the room in which they were gathered, so they were collectively immersed in the Spirit. This is the baptism described by Paul, 1 Cor. 12. 13. A baptism marks a new start: this Spirit-baptism marks the church's beginning. Like other major events, there were aftershocks, e.g., Acts 11. 15, but these are reminders of the original event rather than repetition.

# ADVENTURES IN ACTS



## Pentecost is an Empowering

How did a few cowardly, uneducated peasants manage to 'turn the world upside down', Acts 17. 6? Christ's resurrection gave them courage and the Spirit's indwelling gave them power.

The disciples became the Holy Spirit's containers as He filled them. They became the Holy Spirit's instruments, as He used them to bring about God's purpose. The character of the Holy Spirit was seen in the lives of the disciples. The Spirit was seen as *tongues* on each person. The disciples spoke in *tongues*, to tell the 'wonderful works of God', Acts 2. 11. The Spirit came as *fire*. The disciples had a searching message that brought *conviction* to many, e.g., Acts 2. 37. Later, Paul had a discussion with Felix about 'righteousness', Acts 24. 25. This is precisely the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit described by the Lord Jesus, John 16. 8.

## Live in the Good of Pentecost

It has happened once; it will not happen again. Nevertheless, we can enjoy the benefits of Pentecost. We should rely on the Holy Spirit to give us comfort and insight into divine truth. We should enjoy fellowship with other Christians in the body of Christ. We should experience the Spirit-filling that produces a sanctified sensitivity to accomplish His work in the world.



THE ACTS OF GOD

Lydia, Christ, Temple, Jerusalem, Samosas, Atne, Pa, Timothy

PREACHING WITH A TABLET

# Part 1: Why?



BY R. SCOTT THOMSON USA

“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments’, 2 Tim. 4. 13 ESV.

This is the first in a series of articles about using a tablet to prepare for meetings and to preach.

As an itinerant preacher and public speaker, I have found the tablet to be suited to my needs. Are you sceptical of this claim? Maybe you’re thinking ‘What’s wrong with a traditional print Bible?’ or ‘You just want to look like some kind of trendy Christian!’ or maybe even, ‘That’s a complete waste of the Lord’s money!’

Well, firstly there is absolutely nothing wrong with using a print Bible. However, let me assure you that using a tablet computer in the pulpit is not about looking trendy, nor is it a waste of money when done properly. And, that is what this series of articles is all about – getting the most for your (really the Lord’s) money by employing the best tablet tools and techniques for preaching.

So, why use a tablet for preaching and preparation? Here are just a few of the reasons:

**Portability** – the device itself is just the right size and weight to take virtually anywhere – across town or around the world.

**Multiple Translations** – anywhere you go you have instant access to numerous translations, including other languages and even the original languages.

**Virtual Library** – no matter where you go you can access an entire library. It doesn’t matter if you are at home, your office, in the pulpit or on an airplane – you will never have to worry about forgetting to bring along the right resource for your studies.

**Sermon Notes** – Again, never worry about forgetting your sermon outlines – you will have access to your sermon notes wherever you go.

**Inexpensive** – OK, so a tablet itself is not inexpensive, however the vast majority of apps and other resources you will need are either inexpensive, absolutely free, or something that you already own. For example if you already use Logos Bible Software on your Mac or PC you can instantly extend your access to this powerful tool with their free app.

**Multimedia Presentations** – Your tablet can send audio, video, and slide presentations to your existing AV equipment.

**New Possibilities** – Other possibilities include the ability to record your message in both audio and video, time how long you have been speaking, or use a ‘countdown’ timer to pace yourself, easily re-size your note’s font size, edit your notes while on the go and much more.

**Other Uses** – Of course, you can also use your tablet for all of the reasons everyone else uses their tablets: email, web browsing, music, photography, keeping up with the news, social networking, etc., etc.

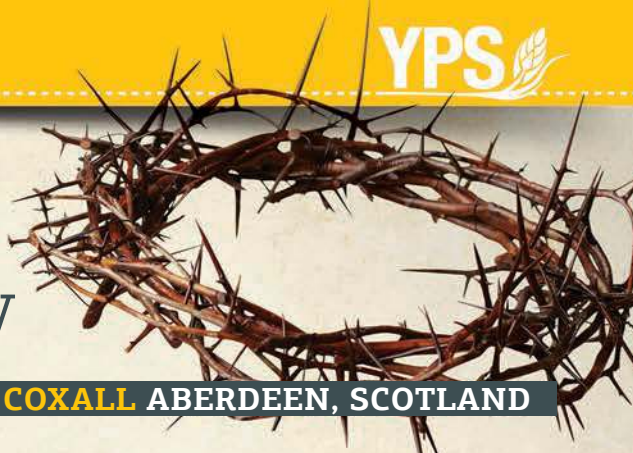
Some two thousand years ago when Paul wrote Timothy to bring him the cloak, books, and parchments I’m sure he never imagined that one day there would be this amazing device that could do all three of these things for him . . . yes, all three as he could use FedEx’s tablet app to schedule a pickup for his cloak.

Editor’s note: We have refrained from using specific brand names but most of our readers will be aware of how modern computer technology works. Also note that this article is only expressing the upside of using modern technology, there are downsides, which do need to be considered.

FROM PSALM 139

# Practical theology

BY PAUL COXALL ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND



**Theology** is the discovery, arranging, and presentation of truths about God. The discipline of 'theology' is very exciting as it gives us an understanding of what God is like. What we think about God will determine how we think and act in this world. As this is true then theology is extremely important. How we act, where we go, what we say, why we do what we do, and how we feel will all be determined by our thoughts about God.

**Psalm 139** is a short masterpiece in practical theology. We read what David knew about God and how this affected him. In the first six verses of the Psalm, David is taken up with God's knowledge. A term that many people use when speaking about God's knowledge is 'omniscience'. Omniscience means that God knows everything, things actual and possible. He does not have a favourite subject, as He knows all things equally well. He never discovers anything. He has never forgotten anything. He is never surprised. He never needs to ask questions to get information.

We, like David, can be captivated with the fact that God:

## **Knows us intimately**

When David said the Lord had 'searched him', v. 1, he did not mean that the Lord needed to acquire knowledge about him but that He knew him as if He had examined him comprehensively, and had seen into the most secret places of his being. David was not a special case. Although there are estimated to be over seven billion people in this world, God knows each individual intimately. We can be assured He knows all about us. No information will be discovered about a believer's life that will surprise God and cause Him to disown them.

## **Knows our thoughts**

David understood that what he thought was known to God, vv. 2, 4. People who are close to us ask,

'What are you thinking?'. Without asking us, even our closest friends do not really know our inner thoughts, 1. Cor. 2. 11. We respond to the question by giving the answer that we want others to hear. Imagine if our friends, work colleagues, or family did know all our thoughts! Yet God knows every single one of them. This knowledge should ensure we think righteously, Phil. 4. 8.

God knows what we are going to say and why we are going to say it, v. 4. 'Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether' ESV. The believer, like David, can be comforted and encouraged by this truth. What we say can be misquoted, and our motive for speaking can be wrongly judged, but we know that God knows the truth. This knowledge about God should also ensure we speak truthfully and with the right motive.

## **Knows what we are doing**

David recognized that God knew every move he made. In verse 2 the two opposites of sitting and rising represent all David's actions. The Lord knows our every move. When we relax by sitting down and when we rise up in action, He knows. When nobody else knows what we are doing He does. We can be assured that every action, private or public, that is done in service for the Lord is known by Him.

## **Knows how to protect us**

David spoke of the Lord placing a hedge around him, v. 5. He understood that he was protected by God as if there were an enclosure around him. Nothing could happen to him unless God allowed it. Satan's complaint to God concerning Job, Job 1. 10, was that there was a hedge around him. God did allow Satan to attack Job, but even then He set the boundaries, Job 1. 10; 2. 6. Every believer has the same guarantee that the Lord who loves them knows how to protect them.

*To be continued.*

PART 1

# Personal Prayer

BY PAUL MACLEAN MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

We have more methods of communication available to us today than ever before. Social networking, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging, and email are just some examples of the many ways people can keep in touch. Whatever method we use, whether electronic or not, learning to communicate effectively is important in every aspect of life. Communication must take place to enable our relationships with others to grow. The more we communicate with someone, the stronger our relationship with them grows.

In the same way, communication is a vital part of our relationship with God. In order to grow spiritually we must talk with Him, and allow Him to speak to us. Just as children talk to their parents to ask them for help and tell them about their needs, God expects us to talk to Him, our Heavenly Father, in the same way. As the following answers reveal, we must do this regularly if we want to grow closer to Him and become more like the Lord Jesus.

## Who are we communicating with when we pray?

Prayer is a powerful communication tool, more advanced and more sophisticated than any technology we use today. It is a special channel and unique privilege given to man, enabling us to speak directly to the living God, the Creator and Controller of the universe. God knows that when we use fancy words or pray long prayers, they can sometimes be meaningless because our motives are wrong, Matt. 6. 7. All He asks is that we speak to Him honestly and sincerely with reverence, meaning everything that we say. We should pray to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus, John 14. 13. We should remember that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit are helping us when we pray, even though we are often not exactly sure what to pray for, Rom. 8. 26, 27, 34.

## Where can we pray and how often should we do it?

It is essential to spend time alone with God in prayer, Matt. 6. 6. We should form the habit of doing this every day so that on bad days, when we don't feel like praying, we will do it anyway. Daniel formed this habit as a young boy, early in life. Even when he was an old man, Daniel was consistent in sticking to a disciplined prayer life. He continued his personal pattern of praying three times a day, even when it became obvious that continuing to do so would lead to his arrest, Dan. 6. 10! We read too of the Lord Jesus rising very early in the morning and setting aside time to pray, Mark 1. 35. The Lord Jesus was the Son of God who became a sinless man, still equal to God the Father, yet He felt His need to commune with God every day, Isa. 50. 4. If we want to grow closer to God then we similarly must create time to commune with Him. This may require us to cut less important things out of our day to make time to fit this in.

We can also pray to God throughout the day as many times as necessary: whether at school, in a business meeting, on an aeroplane, or playing sports. Even in remote places, where the latest technology may fail, a silent prayer can be heard loudly and clearly by God. It's wonderful to think that our prayers are always heard by God, who is permanently 'online' and fully aware of our individual circumstances. Even if we don't speak out loud He understands our every problem, no matter the size, and He is the one person who can guide us through every bottleneck of life however difficult it may seem.

*To be continued*

