"The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book.' " -- Jeremiah 30:1,2



Jay Wilson (on the left) with life jacket and water protective gear finishing up a rapid in the Grand Canyon Colorado River, Arizona

"He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

Acts 14:17



THE BEATITUDES "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in " Matthew 5:12, ESV

## Question of the week:

In Isaiah 43 God speaks of "rivers in the desert to give drink to My chosen people." How did He go on to describe that chosen people?

Last week's question: In the opening of Paul's epistle to the Galatians, he spoke of Jesus' giving Himself for our sins, and for what other purpose? Answer: And that He might deliver us from this present evil age (Galatians 1:4).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School — 62 Morning Assembly — 98 Evening Assembly — 65

## Wednesday Night (9/20) – 56 Butte Lord's Day – 9 GF Lord's Day – 80,95 *Wed.* - 65



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## The Epistles to the Evangelists

## **Guarding the Treasure**

In writing to the brethren in Rome, the apostle Paul spoke of "the Spirit of God" who "indwells you" (Romans 8:9). So how is it that some say that the Spirit does not indwell the Christian? Sometimes the question is asked, "How does the Holy Spirit dwell in Christians?" as a hostile question, meaning that if the answer cannot be perfectly explained, then the Spirit cannot dwell in the saint. A counter thrust in the argumentation would be (taking a cue from Jesus), "I will answer your question about how the Spirit indwells the Christian when you answer this one: 'How did the Holy Spirit overshadow Mary so that she conceived Jesus in her womb?' "Both of those questions are unanswerable by the human mind, so the questioner simply has cept the straightforward statement of the scripture; the Holy Spirit did

overshadow Mary, and a person who is obedient to Acts 2:38 receives the gift of Spirit. The apostle Paul is emphatic that if a person is not indwelt by the Spirit he is not a Christian, stating it in these terms, "But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him" (Romans 8:9). In writing his second recorded epistle to Timothy, Paul gives this charge: "Guard, through *the Holy Spirit who dwells in us,* the treasure which has been entrusted to you" (2 Timothy 1:14).

The treasure – The apostle had stated, just a few verses earlier, that he truly believed in the power of the Christ who had abolished death and brought life and immortality to life through the gospel. "I am convinced," he had added, "that He is able to *guard what I have entrusted* to Him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12). Now he tells Timothy to *guard the treasure* entrusted to him. Timothy, like all disciples of Christ, would need, in the words of the apostle Peter, "to make certain about His calling and choosing you" (2 Peter 1:10). The "treasure" of Timothy's salvation of his own soul would definitely need to be guarded; Paul pointed out to the Corinthian brethren that he would "buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:27). Since the possibility of being *disqualified* is there, the treasure of Timothy's fellowship with Christ certainly would need to be

guarded. But Paul had also enjoined Timothy to "retain the standard of sound words." Another thing to which Timothy had been entrusted was the preaching of the true doctrines of Christ. That "standard" would strongly need to be guarded as the treasure which would work to ensure the salvation of others.

The indwelling Spirit – Guarding the treasure is "through the Holy Spirit who indwells us." The battle for the saint to keep his salvation intact is very intense, as indicated by many scriptures on different aspects of this point. The apostle Peter, for example, has some very The battle for the saint to keep his faith intact is very intense!

strident warnings. "Abstain from fleshly lusts," he adverted, "which wage *war* against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11). He also added, "Your *adversary*, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to *devour*" (1 Peter 5:8). Clearly, there is an intense Satanically driven campaign to destroy the salvation of each saint, and he is going to need to be "strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man" to win that battle (Ephesians 3:16). Similarly, the pressures to compromise on "the standard of sound words" are very intense. The record of what was happening to the churches in Galatia as noted by Paul, and the tremendous battle against the ravages of the Gnostic antichrists referenced in John's epistles establish how much strengthening and encouraging each promulgator of the truth needs.

The modern saint would be well served to ponder, meditate upon, contemplate, and apply these words: "Guard, through the Holy Spirit who indwells us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you"!!

JAY WILSON