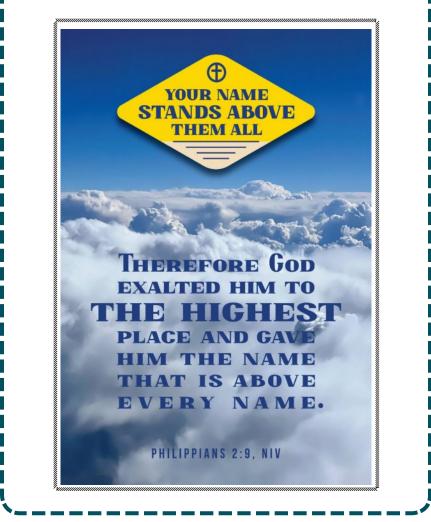
"And it will be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people."" -- Isaiah 57:14



Ryan Clark, from near Wauseon, OH along with Roberta and Tim Kouneski, of Baltimore, MD at the PA Family Camp, Everett, PA Christ Church of Bedford, PA

The angel "said with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.' " *Revelation* 14:7





Question of the week:

Since "Christ has suffered in the flesh," what is it that Peter enjoins upon Christians?

Last week's question: In Psalm 106, the psalmist uses the expression "gather us from among the nations." This is prophetic reference to what? *Answer: The Gentiles being brought into the church in the process of being saved*" (*Psalm 106:47*).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 85 Morning Assembly – 127 Evening Assembly – 58 Wednesday Night (11/22) – 69 Butte Lord's Day – 10 GF Lord's Day – 63,79 *Wed.* - 56



The Epistles to the Evangelists

The Firm Foundation Stands

The war for the minds of men is, at the core, a war of *words*. Words are carriers of thought and concept, and it is on these that the eternities of mankind rests. Hence God chose to communicate to the whole world by "the sacred writings," and He chose to have that word preached and taught. Satan, the god of this world and the god of confusion, uses false and lying words to confuse, distract, and redirect mankind away from the path of truth and life. Paul had just charged Timothy to instruct the brethren not to wrangle about words because such wrangling leads to the ruin of the hearers. Worldly and empty chatter, he said, leads to further ungodliness. All about *words*!

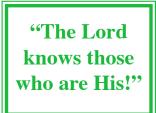
• A prime example – Disconcertingly, the apostle has a prime example for Timothy, in discussing how the wrong kind of talk "will

spread like gangrene." "Among them," adverts Paul, "are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth" (2 Timothy 2:17,18). He is willing to name names, and flatly says that they are gone! The crime: they were "saying that the resurrection has already taken place." Words!

- Taken place? It is possibly a little difficult for the modern Christian to process how someone could go around saying that the resurrection had already occurred. That is because the saint of today has the complete teaching concerning Christ's coming and the concomitant resurrection. Furthermore, the words are in print. In the case of the first century Christians, they often did not have the words in print, and had to rely upon trusted leaders for information. It is easy for rumors to abound where there are shadows around, and thus the talk spread.
- The resurrection While the false teachers were spreading the lie that the resurrection had taken place, it is clear that *the resurrection* had not. The word of God is very consistent in speaking of only one, not multiple resurrections as would have to be the case if the pre-millennial "rapture" system were true. Looking to the faithful saints' participation in the loaf and the cup, Jesus said, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:54). That "raising up" the

resurrection — will be on the last day. The Lord also spoke of "an hour" in which "all who are in the tombs" would hear His voice and would come forth in either a resurrection of judgment or a "resurrection of life" (John 5:28,29).

Foundation – In his argumentation with an imaginary Jew described in the book of Romans, the apostle deals with the unbelief of some and that relationship to the authenticity of the message preached. "If some did not believe," Paul posited, "their unbelief will not nullify the faithfulness of God, will it?" (Romans 3:3).



Similarly, the fact that "the faith of some" had been upset because of some "empty talkers" does not invalidate the truth of the scriptures concerning the resurrection of the dead. "Nevertheless," intones the apostle, "the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.' " (2 Timothy 2:19). No matter how confusing the rumors or how turbulent the events might be on earth, the firm foundation of God stands!

The faithful saint knows what he believes because he has studied and tested the word of God and found it to be true. He has examined his own salvation and checked his belief and obedience against the word of God and found it to be consistent with what is written. He knows that he is indwelt by the Spirit of Christ because he can point to his obedience to God in immersion in Jesus' name. He has set his mind on things of the Spirit rather than the things of the flesh. He is confident, then, on an objective basis, that he is in good standing with the Supreme Judge, based on what God's word says. How encouraging and strengthening these *words* from the firm foundation then become: "The Lord knows those who are His"!