

*"The Lord gave the  
word: great was the  
company of those  
that published it."*

(Psalm 68:11)

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# The NEWSLETTER

March - April, 2010

## SWORD OF THE LORD C O N F E R E N C E



DR. SHELTON SMITH



DR. JOHN HAMBLIN

**APRIL 5-7 7:00PM**



**VICTORY**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

4000 Avalon Blvd  
Milton, Florida 32583  
850-623-0086

**Victory Baptist Press is a ministry of the Victory Baptist Church of Milton, Florida**

**Founder:** Dr. Thomas F. Woodward (1935-1994) **Pastor:** Tim Fellure **Editor & VBP Director:** Jim Fellure

The Newsletter is the official publication of **Victory Baptist Press** and is sent free of charge to those who request it. The main purpose of the Newsletter is to promote missions with an emphasis on the printing and distribution of the word of God. While we may not agree with every statement printed from outside sources, we will make every effort to keep the paper as free from error as possible. To receive the Newsletter send your complete mailing address to: P.O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572-0766

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## Editor's Notes



*Jim & Mary Fellure*

Dear Friends,

I recently had the privilege of attending three nights of a four-day stewardship conference at our home church with Evangelist Jim Brown preaching. When we think of stewardship, money is usually the object, but Brother Brown had as much to say about "faith" as he did about "finances." The meeting came just at a time when I was becoming overly anxious about the needs of VBP being met. With all the news about the downturn in the economy it would be very difficult not to wonder what will happen to the financial strength of America and the ability to raise money to keep the presses rolling and the Bibles going out, but Brother Brown's preaching reinforced my conviction that our future success as a ministry does not depend on our ability to raise money, but on God, who is never handicapped by a lack of resources. When the meeting was over I coined my own definition of faith. To me it is simply having **confidence in God**. There are people who we all have very little confidence in because they have broken their word too many times. We may like them, and even enjoy their fellowship, but neither you nor I would want to depend on them in a crisis. Thankfully, God is not that way. If He were, we would all be in a heap of trouble.

"**God is good all the time**," is a little catch phrase that has gained a lot of popularity in the last few years. May I also say that "**God**

**is right all the time**." He has never been wrong, He has never been late, and He has never broken a promise,

That great pulpiteer, Dr. Raymond Barber, might say something like this, "The Bible contains the mind of God, so let's open the Bible to Philippians 4:19 and see what God is thinking about today." "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." God is thinking about meeting our needs. Amen! But can He do it? Absolutely. The same book that says He will, says He is able to do it. "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, ..." (Ephesians 3:20).

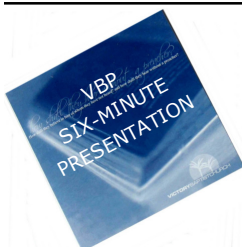
The divinely inspired words of Peter, "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8), is usually taken to mean that time means nothing to God. James Meikle, in his excellent devotional book, *Solitude Sweetened*, gave it new meaning when he said, "what God can do in one-thousand years, He can do in one day." This takes us far beyond what we are able to ask or think.

A one-thousand year supply of paper provided in one day. He could do it, but for now we only need one truck load, and I have confidence that God will supply the need.

By the time you receive this newsletter, field reps. Bill and Vicki Richburg, and Eric Petti will be in Peru with missionary Don Rich finalizing the plans for the distribution center for South America. When they return, after seeing the need in Peru first-hand, they will, no doubt, have more of a burden than ever before. This would be a great time to have either one of them in your church to give a report on the Peru project. Their contact information is on page four.

Thank you for your faithful support and prayers,

*Jim Fellure*



**GET A FREE DVD:** This DVD showing the actual operation of the VBP print shop is only six minutes long and would be great to show in a church service or to friends in your home. To get your free, postage paid copy send your request and mailing address to Victory Baptist Press, P. O. Box 766, Milton, FL 32572, or email us at [news@victorybaptistpress.com](mailto:news@victorybaptistpress.com).

## MEMORIALS

Victory Baptist Press recently received memorial gifts from

Vickie & Eddie Munday  
In memory of

**Joyce Campbell**

From

Bucklin Free Methodist Church

Tom Elliott

Billy J. & Peggy Rich

Oren & Kay Freeman

Mike Oborny Family

Kenneth S. Smith

Jean Tuxhorn

Bob & Polly Abernathy

Roberta Reckes

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Gene Cowan

Nola Schott

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Bohumil (Bernig) Oborny

Thomas, Cindy, Cody

& Ashley Teater

Malcolm Teater

Jeffery & Nichole Teater

Danielle & Malachi Teater

Marty Dole

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Charlotte & Ed Dye

Jerry & Marsha Teater

Ralph P. Dunn

Gene & Elaine Griffin

J. L. & G. D. Furman

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Jack & Alice Hartle

Peggy Feldman

Jerry & Freda Schmidt

David & Barbara Massey

James & Barbara Nickels

Kay Horse

Marietta Hodgens

Don & Betty Rogers

Warren Smith

Steve & Brenda Morrell

Carolyn Shelton

In memory of

**Bertie Hughs**

"...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works Do follow them."

## The Print Shop



Al & Heidi Berg

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Missionary to Papua, New Guinea, Ted Mullins, once described why service for the Lord is so satisfying - there are always new challenges to face. That is why, on the other hand, a factory worker making thirty or more dollars an hour often hates his job. There is no challenge to putting the same bolt in the same place for twenty or more years. Although some of the jobs in the print shop can be monotonous, it always seems there are new challenges to face.

Recently, I was printing some four-color covers on our Multilith 1850, not the easiest thing in the world to do, but over the years I have learned a few tricks of the trade and get real satisfaction when the job comes out right. This particular batch was a battle all the way. I had some rollers that had given up the ghost, but it took me a few phone calls and following of instructions (as if I had never run a press before) to figure that out. Once I determined for sure that that was my problem, I thought, "Great, I will order some new ones and in a day or two get back on this project." Not so. The manufacturer said one of them was out-of-stock, and it would be a little

over a month before they would have one. In the meantime, we finished printing a run of 5,700 Spanish Bibles and binding several thousand Spanish New Testaments. The rollers finally got here, and, never having changed these particular rollers before, I followed the instructions very carefully. After about three attempts, I was finally in business again. Then the paper feeder started acting up. After fiddling with it for most of a day, the paper finally started feeding as it should. Just one stack left to go, but an appointment had to be kept before I could finish it. No problem. I would just come back and work a little late, clean up the press, and go home in time for supper. The stacker fouled up, so supper was late.

Oftentimes things do go smoothly, but there are enough of these challenges to keep the job from being anything but boring. One time, years ago, when a teenager was helping me in the shop and things were going well, he complained about how boring the job was. I explained to him then that the reason the job was boring to him was that he was just folding paper. When I do it, I am folding the Word of God. That is really the difference to me. I believe that the word of God will accomplish what God purposes. Many will get saved, and those that read it and do not get saved will die without excuse. Many Christians will have a Bible for the first time and be able to grow in the Lord in ways that they could not without a Bible. Please pray that God will continue to help us as we face all the challenges we have in the print shop. In spite of the economy, it looks like this is going to be another great year for Victory Baptist Press.

A note of special thanks for the help



we have had recently in the shop. Tom and Ruth Aberish are some snow birds from Wisconsin that have worked nearly every day in the shop since they got here in the late fall. They have been slightly disap-

pointed that we have had a colder winter than normal for northwest Florida. Also, Bro. Troy Hardy showed up a few weeks ago and has done what he can in the shop every day. Sometimes I think he wears himself out in the shop and crawls into his camper to rest up for the next day. (He is over seventy years old.) Recently, several volunteers from our church started coming out on Tuesday evenings to put scriptures together, and there are also several churches and ministries around the country we have sent signatures to for collating and shipping. All of these are a tremendous help in getting the printed Word of God out to the world.

On a personal note, I ask you to pray for my daughter Sarah. She had to sit out this semester from Bible college because of her Crohn's disease. Her doctor prescribed a very expensive medicine that we just recently found out the drug company will provide to her free of charge because of her income. Praise the Lord for that, but pray that it will work for her. Sarah rarely complains, but she has been in a lot of pain from time to time in the last month or so. When she can, she helps me in the print shop and also does some of the proofreading. Please pray that whatever the outcome, God will be glorified in her life. He is always in control.

God bless you,

*Bro. Albert Berg*

Thomas F. Woodward  
Endowment Fund

Gain=20.57% since 1/1/2010

### Would you like to give a gift that earns dividends even after you are gone?

Are you looking for an investment that can help further the Gospel for many years after you have given? Make a donation to the Thomas F. Woodward Endowment Fund today and have the joy of knowing that you will still be giving many years from now.

Make your donation to Victory Baptist Press marked for the endowment fund, or give online at [www.victorybaptistpress.com/vbp2\\_035.htm](http://www.victorybaptistpress.com/vbp2_035.htm)

Note: Gifts to Victory Baptist Press are tax deductible.



## VBP Field Reps



**BILL and VICKI RICHBURG**

P. O. Box 508,  
Six Mile, SC 29682  
864.506.2380  
billrichburg@victorybaptistpress.com

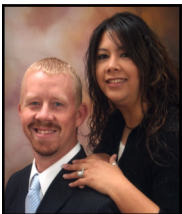
The Richburgs left a full-time ministry in South Carolina and became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in 1999. Brother Richburg now serves as our general field director.



**MARTIN and ANNE FULLER**

317 Chick Springs Rd.,  
Greenville, SC 29609  
706.294.5832  
martinfuller@victorybaptistpress.com

The Fullers became field representatives for Victory Baptist Press in 2002. Brother Fuller attended Tabernacle Baptist College of Greenville, SC, and was on staff there under Dr. Harold Sightler. He also served as an assistant pastor and youth director, and pastored for 12 years.



**ERIC and RENEE PETTI**

P. O. Box 766,  
Milton FL 32572  
850.449.6357  
epetti@victorybaptistpress.com

Brother Petti sat under the teaching of Pastor Tim Fellure for four years and has been a diligent student of the Word. Pastor Fellure says "Rarely have I seen a young Christian grow as much in as few years...You will have to look long and hard to find another man with the zeal and fire of this young preacher. He is completely sold out to Christ."



BR0. BOB SCHMIDT AND HIS WIFE, LEONOR, ARE TRAVEL AGENTS AND DO THEIR BEST TO GET THE BEST FLIGHT RATES AVAILABLE FOR THE BRETHREN. BROTHER BOB SAYS THEY CAN DO ESPECIALLY WELL WITH OVERSEAS FLIGHTS.

## VBP Of Latin America

### January/February, 2010 Prayer Letter

Dear Churches and Supporters,

We were recently given damaged, uncovered Bibles from the director of a fundamental Bible society who prints large quantities of Portuguese Bibles for resale. In the past month, we sorted through six thousand Bibles. The Bibles contain various defects which make them ineligible for resale, but still perfectly readable. Some have signatures out of order and others have crooked cuts. Right now, we are making the necessary repairs to these Bibles and putting covers on them. What a blessing to be able to send these whole Bibles to missionaries free of charge!

The Lord has been very gracious to our family. This past month, a young lady from the USA came to spend a few months with us. She has been such a blessing to our family, church, and printing ministry. She has graciously helped with everything from sorting Bibles to cleaning floors.

We have seen three ladies receive Christ in the last two weeks. One of them is coming faithfully to church. The difference that Christ makes in somebody's life is amazing. This lady was going to commit suicide. She planned to call her sister to say goodbye and then to drink a poison she had already prepared. Somehow, instead of calling her sister, she dialed Pastor Marcelo's house. They had never met before. After a few minutes of conversation, she decided not to end her life. She came to church the next day for both services and gave her life to Jesus Christ, the only One who can change a wretched life into a brand-new one. Our church has many young people and adults who come alone. This year, we are making a special effort to pray for the many unsaved family members. Last week, the mother of one of our young men accepted Jesus in her house. Our prayer is that this young Christian will grow in the Lord.

We also were able to print the books for three different Christian schools. Abeka Books has translated some of their curriculum into Portuguese, and we are excited to play a small part in a Christian education for the next generation here in Brazil.

We would appreciate your prayers concerning a glue binder for the print shop to be able to cover the Bibles we received, a van for our family, and a preacher to take over the work in a town not far from us. This work already has two families and about twenty children coming every Thursday night for Bible study, but they need a pastor.

Thank you for your faithful support.

God Bless,

*Bro. Miza Oliveira*



## Blessings & Benefits Mrs. Pam Leake

A couple of weeks ago, my husband and I were experiencing the effects of the much-promoted "global warming" record-breaking snowfall, extremely low temperatures, and power outages. After so many snowstorms and interruptions to my daily routine, I was tempted to complain to the Lord about what we were "going through."

However, one day when the power was out and the house was cooling down rapidly, I curled up on the sofa, trying to keep warm under a cozy blanket, to read a few more chapters in a book we had ordered from the VBP Bookstore - *The Adventure of Missionary Heroism* by John Lambert. The stories of the hardships endured by missionaries of previous centuries, yet their perseverance to fulfill the call of God on their lives to take the Gospel to the lost, have kept me spellbound. God used the most unlikely men and women who labored without any of the conveniences and tools available to us today, and they got the job done!

Well, as I sat in the cold house, without lights, reading by the daylight coming in through the window, I found myself in the chapter on James Evans, an Englishman who "was never satisfied unless he was...carrying the name of Jesus Christ where it had not been heard before." With the chill in the house becoming more pronounced, I read on as Mr. Evans journeyed farther north into Canada to reach the heathen Indians of that land. Phrases such as "nothing from horizon to horizon but a vast unbroken sheet of snow," and traveling in temperatures at "40, 50, or even 60 degrees below zero in a blinding, choking blizzard," began to somehow make me feel warmer. The account of how they had to continually dip their boiled buffalo meat back into the boiling water just to be able to eat it before it froze in their hands made our simple supper cooked on the camp stove seem like a feast!

I realized that the Lord had brought me to that exact chapter at that particular point in time as I experienced the loss of those "comforts" we all take for granted until we are without them. How insignificant my "trial" seemed! The missionary story was very effective at stifling any complaint that rose to my lips. Instead, I had to praise the Lord for His perfect plan that included calling out those servants of long ago to endure trials beyond any I will likely face, and the reminder that God is able to use whomever He desires to go wherever He desires to accomplish His perfect plan, provided they are willing. He's still seeking and calling men and women to serve Him...I wonder how I measure up.

*Pam Leake*

PS - I highly recommend the above-mentioned book to challenge your heart!

**NOTE:** Pam is the wife of Ed Leake, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church and director of Colonial Press of Charlottesville, Virginia. You may email her at: [pamleake@colonialbaptist-cville.org](mailto:pamleake@colonialbaptist-cville.org)

## BORROWED ILLUSTRATIONS

### It's a Racket!

A man entered a sporting goods store and told the proprietor he was taking up tennis and needed some equipment. He was sold a designer warm-up suit for \$250, a pair of shoes for \$100, three cans of balls for \$30, a book of tennis tips for \$15, and a membership in a local tennis club for over \$1,000. As he was leaving the store the sportsman realized that he had forgotten the most important thing. He asked, "Could you also supply me with a racket?" The owner beamed with joy and replied, "Of course, how about a half interest in this shop?"

### Thanks To The Weevil

In Enterprise, Alabama, there is a monument to an insect, honoring the Mexican Boll Weevil. In 1895, the Boll Weevil began to destroy the major crop of the county, cotton. In desperation to survive, the farmers had to diversify, and by 1919, the county's peanut crop was many times what cotton had been at its height. In that year of prosperity, a fountain and monument were built. The inscription reads: "In profound appreciation of the Boll Weevil and what it has done as the Herald of Prosperity this monument was erected by the Citizens of Enterprise, Coffee County, Alabama." Out of a time of struggle and crisis had come new growth and success. Out of adversity had come blessing.

### God Is Still God

Gladys Aylward, missionary to China, was forced to flee when the Japanese invaded Yangcheng. But she could not leave her work behind. With only one assistant, she led more than a hundred orphans over the mountains toward free China.

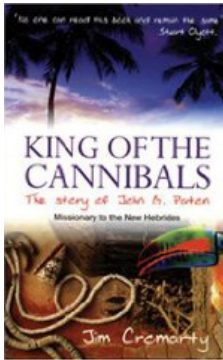
"During Gladys's harrowing journey out of war-torn Yangcheng...she grappled with despair as never before. After passing a sleepless night, she faced the morning with no hope of reaching safety. A 13-year-old girl in the group reminded her of their much-loved story of Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea.

"'But I am not Moses,' Gladys cried in desperation. 'Of course you aren't,' the girl said, 'but Jehovah is still God!' When Gladys and the orphans made it through, they proved once again that no matter how inadequate we feel, God is still God, and we can trust in Him.



# Victory Baptist Press Bookstore Sales

*Located On The Beautiful Gulf Coast of Northwest Florida*



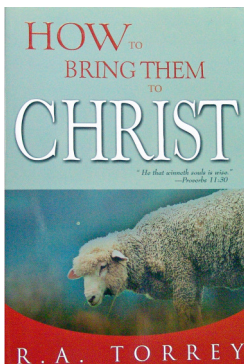
## **King of the Cannibals, The story of John G. Paton,**

by Jim Cromarty.

Here is one of the greatest missionary stories of all time retold for modern readers, especially young people. Who can fail to be thrilled by this chronicle of peril and high adventure, and who can fail to be challenged? In John Paton, we see a life of unashamed consecration to Jesus Christ characterized by obedience to Scripture,

burning concern for the lost, contentment in hardship, and extraordinary courage. We admire God's tenderness in caring for his servant, and also His power as He steps in so many times to deliver him from certain death. Jim Cromarty tells the story skillfully and draws out of it scores of lessons and practical suggestions. No one can read this book and remain the same.

288 pages. **\$15.98**



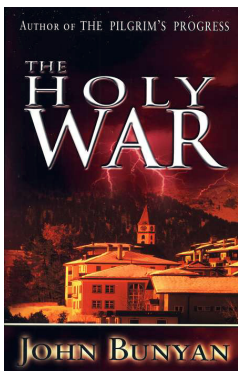
## **How To Bring Them To Christ**

by R.A. Torrey.

Most Christians intensely desire to bring others to the Lord but somehow find themselves overwhelmed with fear, uncertainty, and rejection. Author R.A. Torrey, who won thousands to the Lord, takes you step-by-step through receiving the power to witness and dealing with indifferent and skeptical people. Torrey's

personal examples and practical soul-winning principles will give you the confidence you need.

110 pages. **\$8.25**



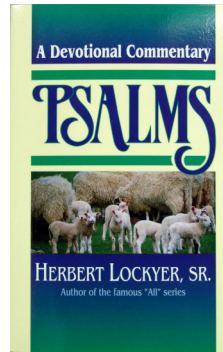
## **The Holy War**

by John Bunyan.

Once upon a time in the town of Mansoul, a fierce battle raged to take control away from the rightful Prince. Who will be the conquering Prince? Diabolus or Emmanuel? And what can the inhabitants do to resist the attacks of the evil one? Your soul is under attack from the forces of evil.

Through this powerful allegory, you will learn how to: build up your defences, flood your mote, and prepare for war! Bunyan will illuminate your understanding and show you: When your soul is in line with Christ, you can accomplish anything. Spiritual attack is constant and can be deadly. The enemy will stop at nothing to possess your soul. Christ the conqueror is on your side, and with His help, you have nothing to fear.

334 pages. **\$7.00**



## **Psalms:**

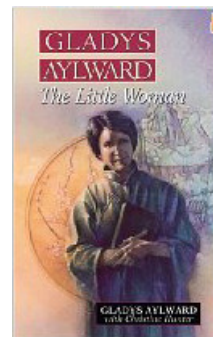
### **A Devotional Commentary**

by Herbert Lockyer, Sr.

This careful, one-volume commentary will bless the casual reader as well as the Bible student. Ranging widely among historians and classic literature, Dr. Lockyer brings to bear his own remarkable biblical insights gained in a lifetime of study of all 150 Psalms.

This devotional commentary was the crowning work of his 96 years, and a feast of information and inspiration awaits the reader.

792 pages. **\$30.00**

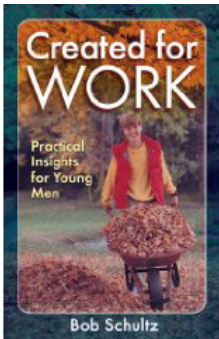


## **Gladys Aylward, The Little Woman.**

Nothing is impossible with God. The story of *The Little Woman* proves it! Read the true-life story of Gladys Aylward who, by faith, trusted God to provide for all her needs. With less than ten dollars in her pocket, but armed with enormous faith, Gladys Aylward courageously answered God's call to become a missionary in China. But it was no

easy task. Witness the way God empowered her to overcome tremendous obstacles to fulfill His plan for her life. Read how this "little woman" based her entire life on trusting God's promise: "Be not afraid of them-I am your God."

153 pages. **\$6.50**



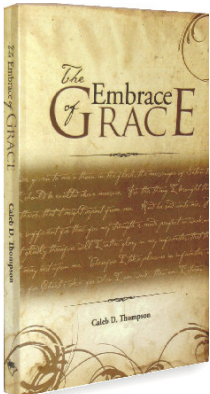
### **Created For Work**

by Bob Schultz.

Modern culture seems addicted to ease and entertainment. It has produced a generation of educated yet often dishonest, unproductive, and weak-willed men. *Created for Work* inspires young men and offers the tools and encouragement they need to embrace God's ways and always give an honest day's work.

An absolutely must read book.

181 pages. **\$10.50**

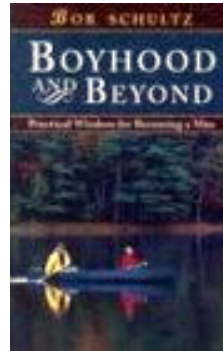


### **The Embrace of Grace**

by Caleb D. Thompson.

Five years into a fourteen year sentence in the Texas State Penitentiary for consenting to the discipline of a child, Caleb opens the dark shades of trial and sheds fresh light on the Grace of God that sustains the soul in its most difficult hour.

213 pages. **\$15.00**



### **Boyhood And Beyond**

by Bob Schultz.

Wisdom and common sense are gleaned from short chapters covering topics such as authority, inventiveness, and honesty as well as learning to overcome things like fear, laziness, and temptation. Most importantly, these chapters will encourage boys to become the men God wants them to be. An absolutely must read book.

219 pages. **\$10.50**



### **As For God, HIS WAY Is Perfect**

By Joshua Thompson.

In this excellent book Joshua Thompson has given to us a keen insight into prison life. He has laid bare his heart in revealing his personal frustrations, emotional confrontations, and spiritual experiences. Joshua has shown how one can serve God even under the most difficult circumstances.

191 pages. **\$12.00**

**We welcome your orders by regular mail, however, purchases made online at [www.victorybaptistpress.com](http://www.victorybaptistpress.com) will usually be shipped three to five days faster.**

**Victory Baptist Press Bookstore** is a ministry of Victory Baptist Press. Any profit made from the sale of our competitively priced books, goes toward the printing of more Bibles and scripture portions. This is just one more way we get the Word of God to a lost world.

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Pastor Tim Fellure

## Christianity On Trial

### Acts 26:24-29

Acts 26 takes us to Caesarea where Paul has been in prison for two years. The Jewish elders were in a blood-thirsty rage again and wanted to kill him just like they had killed Jesus and Stephen. However, they needed the Roman government's permission so two corrupt Roman politicians – Festus, the governor and Agrippa, the king – met and decided to interview Paul. They knew that the Jewish nation was stirred up against this preacher, and they wanted to hear his side of the story.

So Paul was brought before Festus and Agrippa for a private inquiry and invited to speak freely. His defense soon turned into a sermon: he spoke of his past life, his conversion on the Damascus road, and his commission to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. The politicians listened intently, and each formed an opinion. Three men stood before the Gospel – Festus, Agrippa, and Paul – and all three walked away with three different persuasions.

### 1) Festus: *Christianity is Insanity!*

**26:24** – Festus was, no doubt, a pagan who knew nothing of religion except the idolatrous temple worship that swallowed the world at that time. Like most powerful men, he regarded religion with secret contempt, unworthy of the attention of a great man like himself. He listens as Paul gives his testimony and his darkened mind turns away at the truth. When he can be silent no longer he interrupts Paul rudely and loudly with his verdict, *"Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad."* His opinion is that this is all insanity. What Festus heard from Paul is that he had lived a privileged life but gave it all up to be a preacher, all because he heard a man who had reportedly died

years earlier speaking to him by the side of a road one day. He saw Paul as a lunatic. He may not be a criminal, but he was crazy.

Do not think that the spirit of Festus is dead. Many of those you come into contact with every day are of the opinion that you are crazy for what you believe and how you live. They live as if they had nothing to care for but the physical, nothing to gain but possessions, and no world to prepare for except this one. They live their life with no thought of the life to come. Their only god is themselves and their bible is their own vain intelligence and will.

And they think you are insane! You refuse to work on Sunday, don't laugh at their dirty jokes, won't go to the bars and dance clubs, don't smoke and drink, are faithful to your spouse ... and you are insane. You don't support the homosexual agenda and you oppose abortion, vote against the gambling industry taking over the state, put your children in Christian school...and you are insane. You don't idolize the heroes of the world and you go to church three times a week, pray over your meals in public, don't listen to worldly music, dress with modesty and decency... and you are insane. You believe in the virgin birth, a literal interpretation of the Bible, the physical return of Christ, a burning hell...and you are insane.

### 2) Agrippa: *Christianity is Inconvenient!*

**26:27-28** – Agrippa was nothing like Festus. He had been brought up in Jewish regions and was well familiar with their customs and religion. When Paul spoke of the prophets, Agrippa knew who he was speaking of. He understood the message of Paul and probably had a secret conviction that there was much truth in the testimony he was hearing. There is some debate as to whether Agrippa spoke sincerely or sarcastically, but I must give him the benefit of the doubt.

Agrippa listened intently and maybe even asked some questions along the way. Paul preached the Gospel and there is power in the Gospel. That hardened sinner began to soften – he could feel something stirring inside him. He weighed what he had heard and wanted to believe what Paul had said about Jesus Christ. He was almost there, but there was so much to give up. He had his position, the respect of his superiors, an easy life...what would happen to him if he became one of the Christians?

*"Almost persuaded."* He believed what

he heard was true, but he wasn't fully persuaded. He was so close, yet so far away. One of the greatest tragedies in all of life is for a person to be almost saved, but lost. What a tragedy it would be for you to hear the Word of God faithfully preached, to tremble under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit, and yet turn and walk away and never be saved.

Have we not met Agrippa before? Do we not know of a legion of men who have no objections to the truth of the Gospel and who even make a feeble attempt at some spirituality? They know the difference between truth and heresy, admire the convictions of godly people, respect the Bible as a divine book, and even give appeasement offerings to the church. But the inconvenience of confessing Christ stops them from going any further. They desire the life of Christ but are not willing to take up the cross of Christ. They mean to one day, but the convenient season never comes.

Agrippa stood at the threshold of the door of salvation and turned away. Heaven's most gifted and persuasive preacher presented the demands of the Gospel to the king, and he shrugged it off. And when Paul walked out of that court, the Holy Spirit walked out of Agrippa's life.

### 3) Paul: *Christianity is Imperative!*

**26:29** – What a paradox! One man is in power, and one is in chains, but the one in chains is in the more desirable state. One man has every material possession he could desire, while one man has nothing, and the poorer of the two is in the more desirable state. One man is surrounded by friends and admirers, and one stands alone, but the one who stands alone is in the more desirable state. At least, that is how Paul saw it. *"I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds."*

These are the words of a man who was thoroughly convinced that he was in the right. There is no hesitation in his voice and no doubt in his soul. This is the language of a man who knows in whom he has believed and is persuaded that nothing – neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present nor things to come nor height nor depth nor any creature – can separate him from the love of God. He had no questions about the merit of the claims of Christ, no doubts about the truth of the scripture, and no fear of the future state of his soul.