



## Get Serious and Embrace the Word!

Ladies and gentlemen. It is high time to embrace the Word of God. All too often, we embrace the many and varied things of the world, yet, we find our spiritual lives lacking the great qualities of the Word of God like peace, joy, abundance, and so forth. Do you embrace the world more than the Word? If you do, *may this serve as a wake up call to get serious about embracing the Word of God.*

Some of our greatest, biblical examples of men and women of God embracing God's Word comes from the Old Testament. The Book of Hebrews records the unique perspective of how these people



embraced the Word of God.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they

desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. Hebrews 11:13-16

Of the many things we can learn from this section of verses, we can initially note that those great believers who lived before us, had their eyes on the promises of God. In fact, they were so focused on the wonderful promises God made unto them that they embraced them.

I'm sure you know what "embrace" means. What was the last thing you embraced or held close to you? Do you know that you can embrace things physically or mentally? Do you embrace money,

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social status, fear, and defeat? Or do you embrace God's promise of abundance, the family of God, believing, and spiritual success?

*We all embrace many things, but are they the things of the Word.*

These Old Testament believers embraced God's promises. They held them quite close to their hearts, but not just for an outward show of affection. They did more than that. They confessed the promises. They refused to believe that they belonged to this world, and they stated their belief in this by saying that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. What was the significance of saying this? When they said this, they were really plainly declaring, "that they seek a country." What country? A heavenly country is what they were seeking. What are you seeking? I hope it, too, is a heavenly country. Many of those Old Testament

believers had never been to the Promised Land. They had only heard of it. So, they weren't trying to get back to the Promised Land. They were embracing a promise of something far greater than that, the promise of a heavenly country.

Do you know what the heavenly city that they were so excited about is? It is a city that God is making right now and it is spoken of in Hebrews, and also the Book of Revelation.

*But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, Hebrews 12:22*

In Hebrews 12, we learn that this city is the city of the living God and that it is called "the heavenly Jerusalem." Wow! Doesn't that sound cool? As a side note, there's going to be an amazing number of angels running around that place.

I can't wait to see it. What about you?

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. Revelation 21:1*

Right after this current heaven and earth are destroyed, something fantastic is going to happen. *A totally new heaven and earth are going to be created.* (Did you notice that there wouldn't be any more sea (ocean) in this new place?) Then, something is going to be placed upon this earth from heaven. Guess what that will be?

*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:2*

If you guessed "the heavenly

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Jerusalem,” the heavenly city of the living God, you get the prize! This is the promise that those Old Testament believers were embracing. Man, were they excited about what is to come. Jerusalem, to them, was the place of all places. That’s because that’s what they were taught. Jerusalem was supposed to be where God lived. Well, that didn’t work out because of the people’s unbelief, but God still promised that, one-day, it would happen again. This is why they so longed for the “New Jerusalem.” That was their promise and, not only did they embrace it, they confessed it too.

As New Testament Christians, we can get pretty excited about a lot of upcoming, spiritual events, but if we really want to get excited, we must become excited about God’s promises made directly to us. Certainly, we will get to enjoy the New Jerusalem too, but there are other things that we have coming

to us that others won’t enjoy.

*Perhaps the first, and most important thing we must learn to embrace is the fact that we are born again sons of God.*

No other people in any other time have ever been given this birthright. The closest others have come to this is sonship by adoption. Being a son of God by actual birth is far greater than being a son of God by adoption.

*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 1 Peter 1:23*

We, as Christians, are born again of incorruptible seed, something that will last forever. I believe, that if you can’t get to the place where you seriously embrace this, you will not go very far in your spiritual

walk. The reason for this is you will never see how special you are, how different you are from others who have gone before you, others around you today, and others who are yet to come. You are a Son of God by birth, not adoption.

The Israelites were adopted.

*For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Romans 9:3-4*

Paul told us here that the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service, and the promises pertained to the Israelites. Yet, how often do you hear in our Christian churches talk about adoption, servants, covenants, the Ten Commandments, and so

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forth? It's amazing that Christians put up with this kind of nonsense today, but they do. We are sons of God by birth, creation of the seed of God in Christ in you, are far removed, far different than Israelites by adoption. *It's time to seriously embrace that we are a special people, far different and special than any others from any other time!*

The second greatest promise you can and SHOULD hold onto is the promise of the return of Jesus Christ! I'll say it right up front: many Christian teachers and preachers teach that this is foolishness – a sign of weakness. I'm here to tell you that that's a lie. Jesus Christ has yet to return to gather his saints, and it is one of the most important teachings you could ever embrace.

For the Lord himself shall

descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

*It's time to embrace the comfort of the Word of God that only something as significant as this could possibly bring.*

The Old Testament Israelites had the promise of the New Jerusalem; the New Testament Christians have the promise of the Return of Jesus Christ—the gathering together. The New Jerusalem is for the adopted sons of God; the gathering together of the Christians is for the born again sons of God. The Israelites

have the New Jerusalem for their heavenly country; Christians have the gathering together and all that follows are their heavenly country.

Have you lately found yourself longing for comfort? No small wonder if you have. Why, with all the nonsense happening on the battlefields of our times, who wouldn't want greater comfort than the almighty dollar can bring? Truthfully, we need all the comfort we can get, and God has supplied this means of comfort through the promise of the return of His Son, Jesus Christ.

The same people who teach that Christians will have to endure the great wrath are the ones who teach that looking unto the return of Jesus Christ is foolishness. Here's what God's Word has to say about that.

Now we beseech you, brethren,  
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by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

No one can guess when Jesus Christ is going to come back for us, NO ONE! But they will try! Anyone who tries this is a deceiver. Don't fall for one single aspect of what they have to say, not one. ***The Day of Christ is NOT the gathering together.*** This Day of Christ will be fulfilled in the Revelations period after we are gone. It is during the "Day of Christ" period that the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. This won't happen until AFTER

the gathering together. Notice the words, "falling away first?" This refers to, "the gathering together" of Thessalonians 4. In other words, the Day when Christ comes to rule on this earth will NOT happen before he, Jesus Christ, comes to this present earth to gather together all Christians, both dead and alive. Learn to seriously embrace this truth for it will bring great comfort.

We stand in between getting born again and the gathering together. Within this uniquely awesome lifespan, we have the opportunity to learn, believe and live hundreds and hundreds of the promises in God's Word - the Bible. We should make it a life's quest to drink in as many as possible, but only after we understand what embracing is all about. I recently suggested to someone the importance of getting serious about embracing God's Word. I'd like to suggest that to you, right

now, as well! ***Get serious about embracing God's promises.*** Are you too stressed, day in and day out? Then it's time to get serious about embracing God's peace. Are you fearful day in and day out? Then it's time to embrace God's care. Are you in financial ruins, or nearly there because of ill made decisions? Then it's time to embrace God's abundance. Is your marriage on the brink of disaster? Then it's time to embrace God's rules of marriage and love.

God's Word has the answers you need if you would only get serious about embracing them. I'll bet that most people reading this Artios Letter hold God's Word. I'll wager you confess it and tell others about It too. But if your life needs serious repair, and only you can say that it does, you need to do more than hold God's Word. ***You need to get so serious about embracing it that you***

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*can finally say, God's Word holds me!* I embrace It, believe in It's promises, and I confess It daily. I have awoken to the importance of seriously embracing God's promises too!

Much Love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown