

ENCOURAGEMENT BULLETIN NO. 138

**Do not fret because of evil-doers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.**
(Psalm 37:1-2, NKJV)

**How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children
of God!** (1 John 3:1a, NIV)

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Simply because you can't put your hands around something doesn't mean it's not there. In fact, those things that are most precious to us are the things that are invisible, aren't they? Love, tenderness, happiness, air, feelings, emotions – those things we cannot touch, but they are very real. And so it is with God's power: It may not be touchable, but it's real and it's obtainable.
(Max Lucado)

**He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off
all faces: and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the
Lord hath spoken it.** (Isaiah 35:8, KJAV)

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To rejoice in the hope of glory is to live in this world, feeling its pain, binding its wounds, challenging its presuppositions, and diagnosing its ills with no thought of self-preservation or personal disassociation, but rather with a communicable and palpable sense of the ultimate victory of the Lord and the possibility of sharing in that victory over sin and death and hell.
(Stuart Briscoe, "The Fruit of the Spirit")

**At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty
days, being tempted by Satan.** (Mark 1:12-13a, NIV)

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. . . the wilderness remains a place of purification and preparation – a place where a man can learn to distinguish between the clamouring voices of this world and the often quiet, gentle voice of God.
(Jamie Buckingham, "A Way Through The Wilderness")

**In him we were also chosen in order that we, who were the first to hope in
Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.** (Ephesians 1:11a, 12, NIV)

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Through Jesus, God calls back to himself a people who will live for "the praise of his glory." We come into fellowship with God individually, but we immediately become members of God's family, the church. Each of us is born individually but we will not survive unless we are looked after. We cannot sustain ourselves. . . . Christianity is personal, but *not* private.
(John Chapman, "A Fresh Start")

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23)

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. . . we should listen to words which build us up and encourage us. First and foremost among these are God's words. God's Word will never create an image of defeat or negativity. If the devil can get us to take his words of fear we will surely fail, but if we take God's words and keep our eyes and ears fixed on them, we will surely win.
(Margaret Court, "Winning Words")

Things human must be known to be loved; things divine must be loved to be known.
(Blaise Pascal, Thought #13, Waiting on the Lord)