



# THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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## Choose Your Own Adventure

By: Misti Chancellor

If you have ever read a “choose your own adventure” novel, you know that at each segment of the book, there is the opportunity to make a choice. The choices you make affect how the novel will end. In life, there are many opportunities to make choices, and each of these choices influence how our lives will turn out. In most of life’s choices, you cannot flip ahead and see the results of the choices you make. You might have a general of idea of the consequences and benefits of the choice, but you can’t really tell for sure how things will be. I say that this is true in most of life’s choices... however, there is one choice that, though the short term twists and turns to the trail are vague and obscure at best, the long term outcome is crystal clear. I’d like to show the choice, and then allow you to choose your own adventure, with the long-term outcome in view.

The scene (for our purposes – though there could be other settings): A church building.



There are several ways you could have gone to arrive at this point in the story of your life. You might have been raised going to church, or you could have been allowed to skip it until one day you became curious about it. You might have been brought by family, or by a friend, or just wandered in on your own. You might know a lot about the subjects being taught on, or very little. Regardless of how you came to arrive at this point, you are here.

As you sit in the service, something that happens during the service catches your attention. It might have been a verse of song, some scripture that was read, a testimony, or something that the minister said in his sermon. It caught your attention because God was trying to speak to you. You realize that you are lacking something within and something is pulling you towards God. The altar call is given, and you stand there, maybe trembling, maybe tears are running down your cheeks. The pull is strong... what will you do?

**If you choose to follow God, turn to page 3.**

**If you choose to resist the call, turn to page 4.**

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## Hear Christ

By: A. S. Chancellor

The world that we are living in today is “seeking” to find answers. Answers to problems in their lives, answers to the void they feel within, answers to questions that no one can answer. They are running after this or that trying to find pleasure in the things of this world, trying to find comfort and peace in things offered to them by sin. Sinner as you read this I want you to realize that God knows you; He knows who you are and where you are at in life. He knows all of your struggles, and problems, and He also knows the things that you need in able to find peace, rest, comfort and joy. Not only does God know and understand these things, He also cares. He WANTS to give you a happy life, He WANTS to bring you peace, rest, comfort and joy; in fact He is OFFERING them to you right now. Listen, can you not hear His voice? Can you not hear Him calling out your name? Christ calls people to Him, He longs for them to be near Him, just as much as man’s soul longs to be near Christ. In John 7:37-38 it says: “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, *If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*” What a picture is painted here. Christ, knowing that soon his death would come, is crying out! You see, He understands that the end is coming; He knows that shortly, He will no longer be with them on the earth so there is urgency in His voice. Are you thirsting? Is there something in your heart, in your soul that just cannot be satisfied by anything here on earth? That is the thirsting of which Christ is speaking! Listen to Him, and come, drink! There are others scriptures in the Bible that tell of Christ’s calling out to man. Sinner, I wish to stress to you that you do not need to do anything to be accepted of Christ. You don’t need to accomplish anything. All you must do is to hear His voice crying out your name, desiring to save you from sin, shame and death. Then, accept Him. Welcome Him into your heart and give Him control of your life. He will bring the changes that are needed. There are stories of many people who said, “I will follow Christ, but first I must get this done or He will never accept me. First, I must try to clean up my life before Christ will come into my heart. Sinner, know that it is impossible for you to do anything. Accept Christ NOW, and He will make the changes that are necessary. Listen to the still small voice of Jesus that is calling out your name before it is too late!

*(See the song Softly and Tenderly on page 4.)*

### How the Prophets Prayed

An excerpt from *The Secret of Prayer* by E. E. Byrum

The true prophets of the Lord were men of prayer—men who relied upon God for their wisdom and understanding, who were faithful in prayer and communion with the One who is mighty to deliver.

That noted man of prayer, Elijah, the prophet, James sets forth as an example (James 5:17), and gives us to understand that he was a man like the people of his day. Nevertheless, because of his earnest entreaties unto the Lord, he stands forth as a towering monument of faith among the faithful. Reference is made to him as being a righteous man, with the encouraging words to us that the “prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” His prayer that it might not rain is not recorded, but there is a mere statement that he prayed such a prayer and that it rained not on the earth for the space of three years and six months. He prayed again, and soon the heavens were black with the approaching storm and the rain fell in torrents.

The experience of Elijah at the brook Cherith, the supplying of the widow with food from the handful of meal, the continual increase of oil in the cruse, and his experience with the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, were manifestations of the power of God through his servant, which, no doubt, increased the confidence of Elijah towards God. In like manner, this should encourage the people of today to place greater confidence in the Lord, and to exercise greater faith.

In his lamentations before the Lord, Jeremiah, in bewailing the pitiful condition of the children of Israel, lifted up his voice unto the Lord:

“I called upon thy name, O Lord, out of the low dungeon. Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry. Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou sadist, Fear not. O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life. O Lord, Thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause. Thou hast seen all their vengeance and all their imaginations against me. Thou hast heard their reproach, O Lord, and all their imaginations against me; The lips of those that rose up against me, and their device against me all the day. Behold their sitting down, and their rising up. I am their musick.” Lamentations 3:55-63.

Jeremiah had known what it was to be cast into prison, to be compelled to stand in the mire in a dark dungeon; he knew what it was to suffer as a servant of the Lord and in behalf of his people, and the Lord considered his faithful servant and heard his plaintive plea.

When Nehemiah heard of the sad condition of the Jews, at Jerusalem, although he was several hundred miles distant, he was greatly concerned about the matter and went to the Lord in earnest prayer.

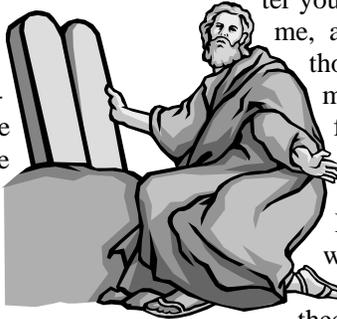
“And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, and said, I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel, thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father’s house have sinned. We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept thy commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: but if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.

Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king’s cupbearer.”

There is a beautiful lesson to be learned from this petition of Nehemiah. He held a high position in the kingdom, and notwithstanding this, he was anxious to go to Jerusalem and aid his poor brethren, who were suffering, and there suffer with them, and bear the persecution heaped upon them by their enemies. Through this prayer, the Lord opened a way whereby his desires might be realized. In making his petition unto the Lord, it will be noted that he humbled himself, and acknowledged his wrong and the wrongs which had been committed by the people, and then referred the Lord to his promises. He first met the conditions required in order to receive help and could then justly expect the desired help from the Lord.

In answering this prayer, the Lord manifested his great compassion and love in fulfilling his promises to those who turned to him in obedience, even though they may have wandered far away from the paths of righteousness. It is a lack of obedience which so often hinders answers to prayer. Obedience begets confidence, and with proper confidence, it is an easy matter to exercise faith, and the prayer of faith will result in bringing about the desire of the heart.



### Choose Your Own Adventure

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Congratulations! You are now part of the family of God. Welcome to the adventure, for that is what it is certain to be. Expect to have times of great joy, and also times of trial, but realize that in the times of trial, that God will bring you through.

As you go through life, you will face many things, but you have someone to walk with you, talk with you and be your dearest friend.

You can look forward to the final outcome and know what it will be, even though you may not know what you will face before you get there. Let me describe the final outcome to you, so that you will have a goal to press towards, a reason to remain firm in the trials that life hands you.

When God calls a halt to this earth, or when you pass from this life, you will stand before him. You can face him without fear, because all is clear between you and God. You can look into his eyes full of love and hear him say, "Well, done, my child, enter into the joy of the Lord." You will be able to walk into heaven, and enjoy all of the lovely wonder that God has put there for his people. You will be happy, because you will be with your beloved – Christ your Savior, and your father God. You will be able to rejoice with all the others that have joined you in that heavenly land.

Keep this outcome in mind. Press towards the goal and never give up. It simply isn't worth it.

There's a city of gold in that land far away,  
With its streets and its buildings so rare;  
With its glories untold, in its bright, golden ray,  
Oh, what will it be to be there?

In the city of love, in that land far above,  
Where the saints, all immortal and fair,  
Are uniting their voices in anthems of love,  
Oh, what will it be to be there?

In that city above there's a mansion for me,  
Which my Savior has gone to prepare;  
With the angels in heaven my soul soon shall be,  
Oh, what will it be to be there?

Oh, the Lamb is the light of that heavenly home,  
And they need not the sunbeams so fair;  
There the darkness and shadows of night never come,  
Oh, what will it be to be there?

Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
While eternity prolong;  
All the saints in heaven's kingdom  
Singing one celestial song.

(By: W. Schell)

### The Child in the Midst

(Mark 18:1-14) - Excerpt from *Our Little Folks* Dec. 1, 1912

Little boy or girl, if some one should ask you who is your best friend, what would you answer?

You best friend, the very best friend of every little boy and girl, is Jesus.

Much is written in the Bible about children. Jesus one day used a little child to teach his disciples a lesson.

The disciples were wondering which one of them would be the greatest in Christ's kingdom. Each one wished to be better than the other. Now this was not right. Jesus felt sorry to know his disciples had such a feeling in their hearts. He wanted them to know how God looked upon true greatness, so he put a little child in their midst and said, "No man can be great in the kingdom of heaven unless he becomes like a little child. No man can ever enter the kingdom unless he humbles himself like a child." Jesus did not mean to teach that grown men and women must be made small again, like children, in order to be saved, but he meant that they must be humble, and be willing to think others better than they.

God cares so much for children that he has angels in heaven to send to help them when they need help. He also will send angels to help grown people that are humble like little children. We can not see these angels, but they often are near us to keep us from harm.

When it is dark, or there is a storm or any danger, remember that God will take care of you.

#### Memory Verse

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven—  
Matthew 18:10



#### Questions and Answers

1. Who is the children's best friend?
2. What did Jesus one day do with a little child? *He put a child in the midst of the disciples to teach them a lesson.*
3. What were the disciples wishing to know? *They wished to know which one would be greatest in Christ's kingdom.*
4. What did Jesus answer? *He said, "Unless you become as this little child, you can not enter heaven."*
5. In what way does God show his love for children? *By having angels watch over them to keep them from harm.*
6. How do you suppose these angels feel when little children become naughty and do not want to mind papa or mama?

## Choose Your Own Adventure

(continued from Page 1)

You have made your choice. Many are praying that you will have another opportunity to change the choice you made, but there is no guarantee. Life will still hand you trials, and it will be hard, because you have no one there to help you shoulder the burdens. You may have friends and experience short-lived pleasures, but you will always be seeking for something to fill that ache inside. Nothing this world has to offer will fill that empty spot. Worse yet, is the final outcome. If you continue to resist when the opportunity comes, even if life seems to rock on pretty well, consider your final fate.

The Bible tells us that all wicked people, including liars, are destined for a “lake of fire” that burns forever. Jesus called it “eternal torment.” It is an eternal separation from the creator of your soul. It is eternal death – no reprieve. The Bible tells us about a rich man who ended up in this place by his own poor choices... he was begging for a drop of cold water to quench his thirst. He was begging that someone help his family to avoid the place he was in. He wanted help, but help was not to be found. He wanted comfort, but there was none for him. He could see the beauties and splendors of heaven, but they were forever out of his reach. He could see all that he could have had, and now would never enjoy. This is the place where the devil and his “angels” will be when God calls a halt to it all.



Where is thy hope, poor sinner?

What are you going to do?

Hope is a God-given anchor,

Lavished so freely on you;

If it is fixed in the Savior, on that bright shore you will land,  
But if in sin you still linger, Sad your end.

Where is thy refuge, sinner?

Look where your pathway will end;

Repent, or you'll perish forever,

Awful destruction's at hand;

Heaven or hell you are choosing, fixing and sealing your fate,  
God and His mercy refusing, Lost! Too late!

What can you plead, poor sinner,

In the great judgment day?

Heaven now offers you favor,

Oh, do not cast it away;

Slighted the warnings repeated, Leave you in Satan's control;  
And with all heaven rejected, Lost, your soul.



Where will you go, poor sinner?

How will your soul escape?

Think of thy lot, when, forever,

Cast in the dark, burning lake;

If then you're lost and forgotten, writhing in flames of despair,  
You will remember you've chosen to be there.

Lost, forever! Lost, forever! Oh, how sad! (By: B. E. Warren)

Do you really want to be there? We pray God will be merciful to your soul and you will be given another opportunity to make a different choice. If you would make a different choice... go back and take the other path. You will never regret having done so.

## Softly and Tenderly

By: Will L. Thompson

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling,  
Calling for you and for me,  
See on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
Watching for you and for me.

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
Pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
Mercies for you and for me.

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,  
Passing from you and from me;  
Shadows are gathering, death's night is coming,  
Coming for you and for me.

O for the wonderful love he has promised,  
Promised for you and for me!  
Tho' we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
Pardon for you and for me.

Come home, come home  
Ye who are weary come home;...  
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling,  
Calling O sinner, come home!

### Excerpts from *An Accumulation*—By: A. K. Chancellor

There is both labor and sacrifice expended in true love.

The infilling of the Holy Ghost brings about an exhibition of  
Christ in one's life.

Waiting on God to get one's leadings is essentially the same as  
possessing one's soul in patience.

Holiness puts us into a state of probation—there is still a tree in  
our midst which we are not to touch.

Regardless of what men assign to us as our reputation, our  
standing with God is what counts the most.

Though desires can be killed, even the strong ones—in a per-  
missive society they are too often indulged to the hurt of the  
soul.

The difference between high ideals and actual attainment is the  
difference between goal and performance.

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

### Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the  
Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are  
interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address,  
or website.