

# Ye Are Our Epistle

Continued from page 29

Having now completed its useful service, it is being towed unmanned to its final port—the bottom of the sea. Its final contribution—its own destruction.

I was once like that ship—being towed unwittingly along to my own destruction. I was born again. I was spiritually outfitted for battle. But I didn't know it. Neither did I know the path I had charted for myself. But there I was, headed for Satan's target practice. Not even in a real battle. But someone caught me at the last second. They got me into a class called Power for Abundant Living. The class served me as an ammo depot. Now I had the knowledge of the spiritual power I had. Now I'm out here in the sea of life, using God's Word as my rudder—not in any mock battle, but in the midst of the spiritual warfare, always victorious.

In the two years since I took the class, my life has changed incredibly. I am continually thankful for the stand of all believers everywhere.

God's Word is alive and well here on board ship. I really believe we can run a class either at sea or soon after our return to home port.

S.H.  
FPO New York



## He Knows What is Best

He knows what is best for me

He who made earth, sea and sky

He who ordained the pathways of the wind

Who made the valley low, the mountain high

Knows better than I know

What is, for me, the best.

He will show me what is right

He who set in perfect harmony a universe of stars

My star, a calling only I am able to fulfill

Will He reveal to me,

If I but look to Him

For He will show me what is best.

# Our Times

The way  
God meant them.

The way I see it, when men begin using words that God divinely used in the Scriptures, the tendency is always to degrade that word. The word used in the Word ends up being less than God intended it to mean.

Take the Greek word *agon*. Man took that Greek word in the Scriptures and brought it down to the level where today it means "agony." *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* shows its meaning as an "intense pain of mind or body: anguish, torture." It also gives the word "distress" as one of its synonyms. Another one of the definitions states it as, "the struggle that precedes death."

God's usage of words in the Word is always perfect and done with a mathematical exactness and scientific precision. The Adversary cannot touch the integrity and accuracy of the Word, so he endeavors to hinder the purposes of God's Word in another way by tampering with the words used in the Word. The Devil is the "god of this world" so he, working through people, takes marvelous words like the Greek word *agon* and degrades the meaning to "agony."

In the original scriptural usage, the Greek word *agon* meant "a contest, contesting in the games," the Olympics. Any contest implies an expending of oneself or a striving. But this expending of oneself and pushing oneself was for a reward. If an individual really expended himself, agonized, he won the prize. He received the reward for his labor. The word "fight" in II Timothy 4:7 is the word *agon*.

So here is the contrast between the truth of a word and the degradation and deception that men add to it; namely between God and the Adversary. God's Word indicates that we are

to "strive to the best of our ability, expend ourselves and we will receive the prize." The Adversary, through using people, says "struggle, agonize until you die." The Adversary by deceptive means and working through people is always doing his utmost to keep us from seeing the beauty of God's Word. The Adversary desires to make the "running of the race of life" so unappealing that we just want to quit and go with the masses; yet, life could be and is the greatest joy to those who know the accuracy of the Word.

The Adversary is doing precisely what the Word says he will do in Colossians 2:18, trying to "beguile you of your reward." Note also II John 8. The Adversary, working through people, does not want us to run the race of life successfully in order to keep us from getting our rewards at the time when they are given by God.

There are other words; e.g., the verb "prevent" in I Thessalonians 4:15 meant originally for one to get before another. But because whenever one man got before another it was always to the hindrance and hurt of that other, the word gradually took on the meaning "to hinder." So with the word "simple" in Romans 16:18 and 19. It meant originally "sincere, open and honest." But in man's judgment, anyone who so acts is a simpleton, a fool. Hence, man soon began to use the word "simple" to denote a very foolish person! So in the French with the word "chef," which means "chief." But as man makes "a god of his belly" the one who can best gratify its lusts has a unique claim to this word.

We would be better off using words the way God meant them to be used.

Sister Paul Wierwille

When unto Him I lift my eyes

Unto my Lord that dwelleth in the heavens

Then His joy shall be my strength

His peace my song, His hope my rest

My help is in His name,

For in that moment my soul seeks His counsel

He will guide me in the way

That is for my life, best.

—Lynn Keyes