

# Early Church Today

March/April, 2009

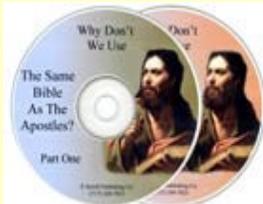
## In This Issue

- ~ Wisdom From The Past
- ~ I Can Do All Things...
- ~ Oh, How Great Peace
- ~ Power of Forgiveness
- ~ We Recommend
- ~ Eternal Thought?
- ~ Gemma Galgani said...
- ~ God Shall Supply
- ~ Po Folks
- ~ C. H. Spurgeon said...

***I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me.***

Phil 4:13

## We Recommend



### ***Why Don't We Use the Same Bible as the Apostles?***

Outstanding! This teaching is very carefully researched and unbiased. You can see how that, because of one man, Christians in the west have been deprived of the Old Testament from which JESUS and His disciples quoted, and the one used by the early Christians. You really must hear this.

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## Wisdom From The Past

Who enters on a voyage, contracts a marriage, becomes the father of children, or sows seed into the ground, without believing that better things will result from doing so? . . . If the hope and belief of a better future is the support of life in every uncertain enterprise, . . . why should not this faith rather be rationally accepted by him who believes on better grounds . . . in the existence of a God who was the Creator of all these things? *Origen (c. 248, E), 4.401*

From: *A Dictionary of Early Christian Beliefs*, © 1998 by David W. Bercot, editor.  
Hendrickson Publishers.

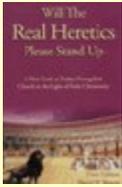
“Oh, how great peace and quietness would he possess  
who should cut off all vain anxiety  
and place all his confidence in GOD.”

Thomas a'Kempis

## Power of Forgiveness

From 1948 to 1994, South Africa maintained legalized racial discrimination. The Afrikaans' called this segregation “Apartheid.” During this time, horrible acts of violence and cruelty were committed based solely on the color of someone's skin. After 1994, once apartheid was over, a new government was set up under Nelson Mandela. Soon after he was in leadership, Mandela set up an investigative commission called “Truth and Reconciliation Commission” that looked into many of these acts of racial violence and human rights violations. Many former government and military officials were brought to trial and punished. John D. Roth, in his book, *Choosing Against War* says that

“At one meeting early in their work, the commission gathered to reach a verdict in a particularly painful case involving an elderly South African woman. At the hearing, a group of white police officers, led by a Mr. Van de Broek, admitted their personal responsibility in the death of her 18-year-old son. They acknowledged shooting the young man at point blank range, setting his body on fire, and then partying around the fire until the body had been reduced to little more than ashes.



**Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up**

This book changed my outlook on the Christian faith. While reading it I realized that my faith had been only two dimensional. This work added a third dimension, that is depth, to my faith. Outside the Bible, it is the most profound work that I have ever read. I have recommended it to hundreds of people over the years, and recommend it to you.

[Learn More](#)



**The Kingdom of God**

Well done! We highly recommend this teaching.

[Learn More](#)

Who fathoms the Eternal Thought?

Who talks of scheme and plan?

The Lord is God!

He needeth not

The poor device of man.

John Greenleaf Whittier

Eight years later, Van de Broek and his fellow officers had again intersected with the woman's life, this time to take her husband into captivity. And then, some time later, Van de Broek had come knocking at her door once more. Rousing her from bed in the dead of night, he brought the woman to an isolated setting by a river where her husband lay tied to a pile of wood. As she watched, he and the officers doused the man with gasoline and then ignited a fire. The last words her husband spoke to her, in the midst of the blazing pyre, were, 'Forgive them.'

Now at long last the time had come for justice to be served. Those involved had confessed their guilt, and the Commission turned to the woman for a final statement regarding her desire for an appropriate punishment.

'I want three things,' the woman said calmly. 'I want Mr. Van de Broek to take me to the place where they burned my husband's body. I would like to gather up the dust and give him a decent burial.'

'Second, Mr. Van de Broek took all my family away from me, so I still have a lot of love to give. Twice a month, I would like for him to come to the ghetto and spend a day with me so I can be a mother to him.'

'Third, I would like Mr. Van de Broek to know that he is forgiven by God, and that I forgive him, too. And, I would like someone to come and lead me by the hand to where Mr. Van de Broek is so that I can embrace him and he can know my forgiveness is real.'

As the elderly woman made her way across the silent courtroom, Van de Broek reportedly fainted, overcome with emotion. And then the silence was broken when someone began singing, 'Amazing Grace.' Others soon picked up the words of the familiar hymn, so that finally the entire audience in the courtroom was joined in song."

What a testimony of love! Everything that had been dear to this woman was brutally taken from her. Yet somehow, she was able to die to her losses, her pain, her regrets and her rights and was able to reach out and hug the very man that caused all her pain. *How?*

. . . Because there was something more real in this elderly woman's life than life itself; more true than temporal circumstances; more meaningful than any earthly reward. She had died to herself years before and was *alive* in Christ. . . . Nothing could take that away from her!

From: *A Change of Allegiance*, page 173, © 2008 by Dean Taylor, Radical Reformation Books, Ephrata, Pennsylvania

"If I saw the gates of hell open and I stood on the brink of the abyss,  
I would not despair, I would not lose hope of mercy,  
because I would trust in You, my God."

Gemma Galgani

***My God shall supply  
all your need  
according to his  
riches in glory by  
Christ Jesus.***

Phil 4:19

Saints of the early  
church reaped great  
harvests in the field  
of prayer  
and found the mercy  
seat to be a mine of  
untold treasures.

Charles H. Spurgeon

***...it is good for me  
to draw near to  
God: I have put my  
trust in the Lord  
GOD, that I may  
declare all thy  
works.***

(Ps. 73:28)

## **Po Folks**

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the firm purpose of showing his son how poor people can be.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked.

"Oh Yeah" said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father proudly.

The son answered, I saw that we have one dog and they had four.

We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end.

We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night.

Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others.

We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

With this the boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

<http://www.homewithgod.com/Cards/pofolks.shtml>