

## So Soon Removed From The Gospel

Joella Pickup

Satan has so polluted the Gospel of Christ that, even as a teen-ager, I was aware of the scarcity of congregations whose members strove to “speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.” Mankind is so full of itself that, as our preacher friend, Rob Turner, said, “Man is always trying to whittle on God’s end of the stick.” In my reading, I have found some bits of spiritual wisdom that are in full accord with the Word of God. Following are some profound comments by an anonymous author.

“At the beginning of Christianity, when the Gospel was first preached, the western world was overrun with Eastern magicians and soothsayers. They claimed the knowledge and ability to communicate with a higher world. Their theory was that between God and man were various grades or emanations by which we might gain the highest knowledge.”

Known as Gnosticism, this teaching soon penetrated the Truth of God, blending into and perverting it even penetrated the apostles had died. Gnosticism flattered the pride of man by “tracing the origin of evil, not to the perverted will of mankind, but to Creation, saying it was the necessary consequence of the union of matter and spirit. Thus, human perfection was not attained by following a lowly Savior in a narrow Way, but by embracing speculations concerning the nature of unseen mysteries.” Guided by the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul wrote the Colossian letter opposing such teaching, which included false humility and the worship of angels (Colossians 2:8-10, 18). In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and in Him we are complete. Christ is the only mediator between God and man (Colossians 3:17).

Gnosticism was a great enemy of the Gospel of Christ, but certainly not the only one. The book of Galatians sets forth the problem of Judaizing teachers who taught that “the benefits of the Gospel could be appropriated only by meeting the requirements of Judaism, (circumcision), and that through this door only could they enter the Christian fold. Paul wrote, countering this false teaching, showing that Jesus, Himself, was the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, not the Jewish nation. The Law of Jews was ADDED because of transgression.

Its purpose was as a tutor leading to Christ, who justifies by faith and obedience to Him. Christ’s death for Sin made the Law obsolete. Christ took it away, “nailing it to His cross.” (Colossians 2:14; Ephesians 2:11-19).

The book of Ephesians is a general letter warning Christians not to fall back to the evil habits of their former lives, but concerns how a disciple of Christ should “walk”, worthy of the

“vocation wherewith ye are called—endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” The child of God must be loving, forgiving, clothed in the armor of God, being filled with His spirit so that the fiery darts of the evil one are quenched (Ephesians 6:10-18).

These three books (Galatians, Ephesians, and Colossians) discussed here in brief are filled with so much food for our spiritual needs. Let us all study the Word of God daily. Physical food will sustain the hungry body, but spiritual food sustains and brings salvation to the hungry soul.

*“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.”—Galatians 1:6-7*

# Janie Nicholson—A Worthy Woman

This week, our church family lost our beloved sister, Janie Nicholson. Anyone who has ever had any contact with, or knowledge of Janie would agree with the Preacher of Proverbs that Janie certainly was among those of whom he speaks: “Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.” (Proverbs 31:30-31). We mourn with Buddy, Leigh Ann, and the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She will be sorely missed.

Janie (Ellis) Nicholson was born Nov 5, 1931 in Camp Hill, Alabama. She grew up in several locations, because her father, George Ellis, was in construction, so they had to move where the jobs were. Her older sister was Clara Mae, and her younger sister Rosa Lee was called Bobbie. Their mother, Cora, died in childbirth when Janie was 7 years old. Her dad tried his best to take care of them on his own but after a year he met and married her stepmother Birmah Dee Albright. She took on the three girls, and eventually they added a son, George, and another daughter, Cookie.

She would have graduated in Georgia in the eleventh grade, which was the norm at the time in that state, but she moved to Tampa and lost some of her credits and had to work hard to graduate on time from Hillsborough High School. She took a correspondence course from University of Tampa. With the help of several wonderful teachers, she graduated at 17 in 1949. Then she returned to Fairfax, SC, where a young man named Buddy Nicholson was working for her father on his construction team. It was pretty much love at first sight for Buddy who pursued her even though he was seven months younger than she. George Ellis tried firing Buddy to get him to give up but it didn't work. They waited until Buddy turned 18, and two weeks later, they got married at a little chapel in downtown Tampa.

This is where her passion for the church and her life in Christ really began. She was a Baptist when she met Buddy.

She began going to church with him, and studying the Bible with Christians in Lakeland where Buddy's parents went to church at the Lake Wire congregation. She was baptized in Christ in 1952, and continued to lead an exemplary

Christian life from that point on. Her Bible has in it that it was given to her in the fall of 1951 in Biloxi, MS, “to study and learn.” The pages are worn; there are notes all through it by passages, referencing other passages. And of course there are the pages listing all her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

To take care of his new bride and pending family, Buddy joined the Air Force, and Janie held down the fort in Lakeland when they couldn't be together. They moved together to Biloxi, Mississippi, where their first two daughters, Janet and Caren were born. Nancy was born in Lakeland, and then all by herself with two toddlers and a baby, Janie took a train out to Cheyenne, Wyoming to meet her husband at his new duty station.

She loved proving that she could do things that we all said she couldn't do. One time in the early 80s, she roller skated with me, and she fell and sprained her wrist, but she proved she could skate. Then, in the late 80s she got a job at Sears in the ladies' department to prove she could have what some people considered a “real job.”

Janie loved to sing. She said she even sang on the radio once when she was a girl. Singing nights were one of her favorite times at church. And did Janie ever love to go to church! She loved gospel meetings and Bible classes. She especially loved Robert Jackson coming to have a meeting. Janie could quote passages and tell you where to find something in the Bible most of the time without looking it up. She loved answering questions in class, never being too timid to submit the right answer to the teacher's questions. Janie liked that she was truly knowledgeable where the Bible was concerned. She was an encourager who used praise and support to build up every preacher, teacher, and Christian she encountered. She was so proud of helping HoJung Chong learn English and learn about and become converted to Christ. Janie Nicholson was proud of all her children and their accomplishments, no matter what they were. She encouraged all to do their best at whatever they did. It was just part of who she was. She loved being a wife, mother, and homemaker, and relished her duties to provide a happy home for her husband and family. She loved being a follower of Christ, and now she has gone home to meet Him.

*Janie Nicholson—A Worthy Woman.*

