

# THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Volume 67, Number 8

Editor ~ Wade Stanley

Publisher ~ Doug Twaddell

August, 2025

## To Fulfill All Righteousness

Charles Fry

Moses the Man of God was called into the presence of the LORD on Mt. Sinai to receive instructions for Israel to build a tabernacle for God's dwelling among the people of Israel (**Exodus 24:12-31:18**). God had initially proposed that the new nation of Israel should become a kingdom of priests (**Exodus 19:6**), obeying the LORD and keeping his covenant. However, the presence of the LORD on Mt. Sinai terrified the people and they requested that Moses be their representative before God, speaking to the LORD in their behalf, and then conveying God's message to them. If Israel were not a kingdom of priests dealing directly with God, then they needed a priesthood to interact with God on their behalf. The LORD chose Aaron, Moses's brother and his spokesman in all that had been done in Egypt, to be the first high priest for Israel, serving in His tabernacle. Aaron's sons served as priests with their father, and passed the priesthood afterward continually from generation to generation (**Exodus 28-29**).

The LORD prescribed a ceremony for Aaron and his sons to be consecrated as priests, and it's initially described in **Exodus 29**. The ceremony called for the preparation of specific sacrificial animals and specific bread offerings, and began with the ceremonial washing of Aaron and his sons with water. After being washed, Aaron was to be clothed in the special garments of the high priest and then anointed with sacred oil. Then his sons were to be dressed in their priestly garments, and afterward the sacrifices and offerings were presented in a specific order with specific application of blood from the sacrifices. These ceremonies were carried out about 9 months later, after the Tabernacle had been constructed and the sacred garments produced (**Leviticus 8-9**). Only after the required sacrifices had been presented over a period of 7 days could Aaron and his sons begin to present offerings at the Tabernacle on their own behalf and for Israel. From the day that Aaron's consecration was completed, for the next 1500 years his sons and their sons served in the tabernacle, and the temple that Solomon built, and the second temple built in the days of Haggai and Zechariah, about 100 high priests in all until the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple was destroyed by the Romans, suppressing the Jewish revolt in 70 AD.

A generation before the last of those high priests from the lineage of Aaron met their doom, God sent a man named John, who happened to be a priest himself from the sons of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi, to prepare the way for a new priest and a new priesthood. Since the first priesthood and its attendant covenant (see **Numbers 25:10-13**, **Malachi 2:1-9**) had been given to the sons of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi, and enacted through the LORD's prophet Moses, of the tribe of Levi, it was appropriate that the last prophet of the Old Testament, John the Baptist, son of Zechariah the priest (**Luke 1:5-25**, **57-80**;

---

*The New Testament affirms repeatedly that Jesus had no sin. Nevertheless, it was right for Jesus to be washed with water by a priest descended from Aaron, consecrating him for the priesthood and preparing him for his anointing, fulfilling the righteous requirements of God.*

---

**Matthew 11:7-11**), should be the onewho would consecrate the great high priest of the New Covenant by washing him with water.

Jesus came all the way from Nazareth in Galilee (**Mark 1:9**) specifically to be baptized by John (**Matthew 3:13**) in the Jordan river at Bethany on the far side of the Jordan (**John 1:28**), which is in the vicinity of Jericho, the same area where Elijah the prophet was taken up in a whirlwind leaving Elisha as his spiritual heir (**2 Kings 2**). Eight hundred years before John was born, Elijah had been instructed by God to anoint Elisha as his successor (**1 Kings 19:16**). John the Baptist fulfilled the promise of another Elijah to come (**Malachi 4:5**; **Matthew 11:14**, **17:10-13**). In a similitude of Elijah and Elisha,

*continued on the next page...*

God intended for Jesus to be his anointed prophet and high priest in the New Covenant (see **Hebrews 2:17, 4:14ff**, etc.) as successor to John the prophet, and successor to the whole Aaronic priesthood that John was born into.

When Jesus presented himself to John for baptism, John hesitated, feeling unworthy to baptize Jesus (**Matthew 3:13-14**). Jesus assured John that it was right to do this, "to fulfill all righteousness" (**Matthew 13:15**). Jesus was providing an example of submission, of course, but he clearly didn't need a baptism of "repentance for forgiveness of sins," which is what John preached and practiced. The New Testament affirms repeatedly that Jesus had no sin. Nevertheless, it was right for Jesus to be washed with water by a priest descended from Aaron, consecrating him for the priesthood and preparing him for his anointing, fulfilling the righteous requirements of God.

When Moses washed Aaron 1500 years before Jesus came to John, he then clothed him in the garments prepared for his service and anointed him with the sacred oil. When Jesus was washed (baptized) by John, *"the heavens were opened to him"* (**Matthew 3:16**, and see **Mark 1:10, Luke 3:21**). In that moment, the Holy Spirit visibly descended upon Jesus and came to rest on him, as a dove would descend. We know that John saw the Spirit descend because he described the event (**John 1:32-34**) as a confirmation that Jesus was the one who was to come, whose way he had been preparing.

The time when Jesus was washed by John in the Jordan River was when he was anointed, not merely with consecrated oil but with the Spirit of God and power, as Peter proclaimed in **Acts 10:37-38**. That's when Jesus became the Christ, the Messiah, God's anointed high priest and chosen king and greatest prophet. Jesus needed to be baptized, washed with water, so that he could be anointed and receive the new priesthood, initiate the New Covenant, and provide the necessary sacrifice (s) for redemption and consecration for all humanity. While Jesus had no sins to cleanse through repentance and baptism, God's righteous mandate given through Moses called for him to be washed with water, anointed with the Holy Spirit, and acclaimed as holy to the Lord, to fulfill all righteousness.

## Who Can Stand Before Envy?

*Blake Stanley*

*Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy? (Proverbs 27:4, ESV)*

Envy is an insidious sin. Subtle and treacherous, it can quietly reside within people souring their relationships, fostering bitterness and resentment, and obstructing their ability to see the truth. **Proverbs 14:30** says, *"A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot."*

And envy is everywhere. The late investor Charlie Munger is noted for making the observation that the world is not run by greed, as many people claim, but by envy. He may have gotten the idea from the writer of Ecclesiastes: *"Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work came from man's envy of his neighbor"* (**4:4**). Satan has done a good job of enticing people to compare themselves with themselves. The desire not to be outdone by others is what drives many people in this world.

This was part of the Pharisees' struggle with Christ and many of the Jews' struggles with the Gospel as it spread across the Mediterranean. **Matthew 27:16** and **Mark 15:10** point to the Pharisees' envy as the reason for their hatred of Christ. **Acts 13:45** and **17:5** say that the Jews in Antioch in Pisidia and the Jews in Thessalonica began their persecution against Paul because of their envy. In each of these cases, it was not the message nor the messenger's manner of speaking that infuriated the people. It was the attention Christ and the gospel were receiving from the people. In **Acts 13:44-45**, the scripture says, *"On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy."* They were so blinded by this envy that they were unable to see the truth.

In the New Testament, **Romans 13:3**, **1 Corinthians 3:3**, **Galatians 5:26**, and **James 3:16** all associate envy with conflict and strife. The passage in James states that *"where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there."* Envy is the source of much conflict between people. The Bible provides a lot of examples: Cain and Abel, Rachel and Leah, Saul and David, and Joseph and his brothers, to name a few. Envy is

noticeable in all these cases and even noted in the case of Rachel (**Genesis 30:1**) and Joseph's brothers (**Acts 7:9**). One person, or group of persons, desired the acceptance, the outcome, the admiration, or the love that another was receiving, but they were not. They became envious, and conflict was the result.

Through all these examples, the reason for **Proverbs 14:30** contrasting envy to a tranquil heart is apparent. Envy is disruptive. It creates chaos and fosters evil. It hides or distorts the truth. It makes a person feel unsettled and unsatisfied. It embeds deep within a person, compounding feelings of inadequacy and insecurity. When the object of desire is something someone else possesses, it often leads to fractured feelings towards that person, resulting in broken relationships. Envy truly makes the bones rot.

Part of the insidious nature of envy is that it can be hard to see within ourselves. Recognition of envy requires recognition of some sense of inferiority or insecurity, possibly about something trivial or a desire that is ungodly. It is a recognition that one sees oneself as somehow less than another person, or in some way inadequate as compared to another. It may require a recognition of resentment towards another, possibly someone we are close to, who possesses the object of desire that we do not have.

It is unpleasant to admit any of these feelings, but they are easy feelings to be entrapped by. Everyone experiences real and reasonable disappointment in life. Gracefully watching others' lives go well while suffering is not easy. Also, most people have probably been unfairly treated at some time and had to watch as other receive what they feel is due to them, possibly rightfully so. Again, not easy to handle gracefully.

But many of these feelings come from either valuing the wrong things, having the incorrect viewpoint, or not recognizing and feeling satisfied by the worth the Lord places in us. The Psalmist, Asaph, had a moment of recognition like this, recorded as **Psalms 73**. The first line of **verse 3** reads, "*for I was envious of the boastful.*" He then proceeds to write of his observation of the ease with which the sinful appear to live and how much it upsets him. What he comes to realize in the Psalm is that he has the Lord. The boastful's possession would go

away. Their good times would end. Their stature in life didn't matter. But God is my strength and my portion forever. It was a change to the correct perspective. Imagine his relief. He no longer had to look at those people with bitterness. He no longer had to feel inadequate and insecure, for He had the Lord.

Be cautious to keep envy out of your heart. It obscures the truth, fosters bitterness and resentment, creates chaos in relationships, and causes an unsettled and unsatisfied feeling. Whatever the envy is over, it's not worth those results. It is not worth feeling unsettled and feeling animosity towards others. Instead, see your worth to the Lord, embrace His blessings, and hold to His hope.

~ 1211 High Ridge Ct, Raymore MO 64083  
~ blakestanley28@gmail.com

## *Glory to God!*

Several precious souls were added to the body of Christ at this year's **Midwest Bible Campout**. **Chelsea Kates, Cooper Kite, Fenway Anderson, Anna Stephens, Waverley Letts, and Titan Hawley** were all baptized into Christ during the week-long Bible study.

The church that meets on **Smart Road, Greenwood, MO**, praised God when **Everett Stanley** was baptized for the remission of sins on July 4.

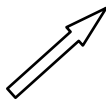
The brethren who meet on **Murray Road in Lee's Summit, MO**, rejoiced when **Micah Barringer** was buried with Christ on July 11.

## *Blessed Are the Dead*

**Melvin "Paul" Zinnel**, 72, passed away June 3. He was born December 18, 1952, in Fort Dodge, IA, to his parents Melvin and Mary Zinnel. He married Michele Thompson on August 25, 1991, and they moved to Altoona, IA, in 1992. Paul was an Army Veteran and was stationed in Germany for 2 years during the Vietnam War. He worked for John Deere for 30 years as a Tool & Die Maker and in Machine Repair.

Paul enjoyed working on his 1968 Corvette and was an

*continued on the next page...*



***Please check your expiration date!***

*Continued from page 3: "Blessed are the Dead"*

excellent handyman throughout his life. He loved history, trains, and fishing. Paul was a lifelong learner. He was also a member of the Des Moines Rifle and Revolver Club. Paul was a faithful member of **Pleasant Hill Church of Christ** for over 30 years.

He loved to help people. From car repairs to home repairs and even opening his home, he never shied away from helping others. He deeply treasured his family and friends. Time spent with them was one of the things he cherished most. He will be deeply missed by all who love him.

**Thomas John Collier**, lovingly known as "Tommy" by his wife and family, passed away suddenly due to a cardiac event on June 19, 2025, in Des Moines, Iowa, at the age of 65. Tom was born on March 10, 1960, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the eldest of five siblings. A graduate of Father Judge High School in 1978, Tom later pursued studies in business before dedicating much of his professional life to his role as a data analyst at Wells Fargo in Des Moines, Iowa. He had planned to retire in March of 2026.

A man of deep faith and warm hospitality, Tom was active in evangelistic ministry and pastoral work throughout his life. He was a faithful member of the Church of Christ, and was numbered among the brethren who meet in **Martensdale, IA**.

In 1994, Tom married the love of his life, **Dianne**, in Great Falls, MT. Throughout their 31-year marriage, they built a legacy of love, faith, and family. Together, they raised five children. Tom cherished nothing more than time spent with Dianne, their children, and their grandchildren. He was known for bringing laughter to family gatherings, sharing stories of his younger years, and showing up with pretzels and other baked goods from his kitchen. His presence was a source of comfort and joy to those around him. His favorite pastimes included baking (especially pretzels), tending to his patio herb garden, and enjoying quiet, meaningful moments with those he loved most.

## *Special Meetings*

For information about the meetings below, please navigate to *The Gospel Message* website using the QR code to the right.



### **2025 Special Meetings**

August 24.....White Oak, rural Ethel, MO  
August 30-31.....Labor Day Meeting, Pleasant Hill, IA  
October 3-5.....Fall Campout, Unionville, MO  
October 18-19.....Weekend Meeting, Ozark, MO

## **The Gospel Message**

To renew a subscription, add a new subscription, inquire about a subscription, or cancel a subscription, please contact **your publisher**:

**The Gospel Message, % Doug Twaddell, 1700 S. Ann Ct.  
Independence, MO 64057 twadsquad@earthlink.net**

To renew on The Gospel Message website, use your phone or tablet camera to click the QR code to the left. The print version is available for \$10 per year. An email version is available for \$5 per year.



If you would like to announce baptisms, new members, deaths, or special meetings in **The Gospel Message**, please contact **your editor**:

**Wade Stanley, 18078 State Highway 149, Unionville, MO  
63565 wadestanley@gmail.com**

If you have any questions or concerns about the content of this paper, please either contact **the author** of the article or **your editor**.

**THE GOSPEL MESSAGE** (USPS:576-040) (ISSN:1054-7991) is published monthly for \$10 per year by **THE GOSPEL MESSAGE**, 1700 S. Ann Ct., Independence, MO 64057. Periodicals Postage Paid at Independence, MO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **THE GOSPEL MESSAGE**, 1700 S. Ann Ct., Independence, MO 64057