# LITTLE LOVE LETTER

No. 2, 1968

By ELMER H. HUNT GARDEN GROVE, CALIF.

(OCT.I,'68)

TO MY BRETHREN:From me, a servant of Christ Jesus, permitted by God to preach his Good News. The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, and written in the Holy Scriptures. It is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. As to his divine holiness, he was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

And so I write to all of you whom God loves-those who belong to Jesus Christ. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. (Paraphrastically from Today's Eng. Version of Paul's Letter to the Romans.) (Ro. I: 1-7).

THIS DAY, as I begin this writing, is September second. Now that I have that first LITTLE LOVE LETTER mailed out to 215 of you I must start this next one. Time and tide, they say, wait for no man. Already so soon quite some time of 1968 has passed. Perforce, I notice that old age is creeping furtively upon me. Brother, you and I must be very hastily "instant". That was Pauls charge to Timothy.

For a good many years it has been my greatest pleasure, and I have been eager, to preach the gospel of Christ. It is the power of God unto salvation. We must also be charging others to preach; moreso, as we see the time of departure coming on.

We listened yesterday at Bellflower to a very promising young brother from San Pablo Church. He preached on "The Crucified Christ". Brother Gene McKinney, and other young ones like him, need our full encouragement to carry on. It helps, to read the Apostle Paul's charge to Timothy. (II Tim. 4).

## GOD'S GRACE GIVEN

GOD GAVE GRACE through our Lord Christ Jesus. He gave it, has given it-- past tense. It is given through Jesus Christ. Let us look at Gospel proofs.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (----), full of grace and truth." "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." ( John I:I4 and I7). (Later, I Cor.I:4

"Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace,--" "And there they preached the gospel." (Acts I4:3 and 7). "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24 and 32).

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;--". Or by Today's Eng. Trans., "because of the grace he has given you through Christ Jesus." (I Cor. I:4). The Apostle Paul said that they had received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith-- (margin) to the obedience of faith. (Ro. I:5). Faith comes by hearing the word of God. By the Lord Jesus Christ we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.(RO.IO:I7&Ro.5:2) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power" ("the right" or "privilege") "to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:-" (JohnI:I2). "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God". (I Cor. I: I8. See also Ro. I:I6-I7). "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"(Ja. 2:20 and vs. I7-I9). "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Mat. 7: 2I). "The Lord is-- not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."(II pet. 3: 9). Repeat: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace,--" (Acts 20:32).

# FALL FROM GOD'S GRACE

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Ro. 5:8 and John 3:16 and, also, v. 17).

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;-" (Mk. 16:15-16). "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. "---that henceforth we should not serve sin." "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Rom. 6:3-4,&6, &12, &17-18).

All the above should help us to be strong, "-to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;-" Please read allthe sentence as found in Eph. 3:14 to 19. God help us to stand.

Man can fall from God's grace. We must be "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God;" as we may read in Heb. 12:15-17. Rather may we do as verses 12 to 14, and lift. Apparently many of our weaker brothers, and our sisters, give up, all faith at a very low ebb. "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." "For the wages of sin is death;-" "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Jas.1:15, Ro.6:23, Ro.7:24-25). "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." "Hast thou faith?"(Ro.14:22 "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God,-". "Shall we continue in sin,that grace may abound?" (Ro. 6:1. Also see Ro. 5:17). God forbid.

## NEWS REPORTS

Brother Don Dabbs and family of Peoria, Ariz. "had a real nice time" with the Brother Johnson's in Lakeside, Calif. over the Sept. I weekend. We can venture to say, also, that Bro. Don gave them a very good sermon....Brother Dick Taylor and Sister Georgianna Johnson were united in marriage Sept. 6. Georgianna is daughter of Bro. and Sister Johnson of Lakeside, and Dick is son of Bro. and Sister Olan Taylor of Bellflower Congregation. "Bonne foi". ...Brother Jerry Perigen spoke Sunday morning, Sep.8 Bellflower assembly, on the subject of Repentance... I spoke that evening on Missing the Way...Bros. Olan Taylor and Claude Perigen and their wives attended recently to hear Brother Howard McCay in his meeting at Chico, Calif. We hope this will be a new and a faithful Congregation of Christ's Church...At the La Habra Lord's day assembly, Sept. 8, the speaker was Brother Isaac Ferguson. Brother Marion Serrano spoke at Pomona, as he and Bro. Isaac had traded. Marion was then at La Habra that evening. On Sunday morning, Sept. I5 was Brother England; at evening, Isaac...Brother Claude Perigen spoke on the subject "Behold" Sept. I5 at Bellflower...All of this very local. "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages,world without end. amen." (Why not you write to me? News, addresses, etc.)

The addressing of envelopes brings problems. Please mail me <u>full</u> <u>names</u>, and the zip code, of any Bros. and Sisters, if different. Also of any missed.

HOPES ARE, as by word given, "THE COURIER" is to begin coming from Modesto on or about October I.

My Brother, remember, as we close for now: "IT IS WRITTEN, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." "-IT IS WRITTEN, The just shall live by faith."

"God is love," "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." "-walk in love-" "Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied."

"My love be with you all in Christ Jesus."

Elmer H. Hunt.