



Richard Hughes, Editor

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# The Pen of a Ready Writer

*...I speak of the things which I have made touching the king:*

*My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).*

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## Will Your Epitaph Read Like These?

Epitaphs are brief statements commemorating or epitomizing one who has left this life. Consider the epitaphs left behind of many in the Scriptures. Of the Jews at Antioch in Pisidia, after seeing how the whole city gathered together on the Sabbath to hear Paul and Barnabas declare the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and the justification from all things, from which we could not be justified by the law of Moses (Acts 13:38-39) – they were moved with envy and spoke against these things.

Paul wrote their epitaph regarding the Gospel of Jesus Christ: *...ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life...* (Acts 13:46). It is the repentant heart that has been ordained to receive eternal life through faith in Christ (Acts 13:48; Romans 3:22; Acts 20:21).

God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). The Lord wept over Jerusalem. He first declares their wickedness: *Thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee.* Then, he reveals his desire: *How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings* (Matthew 23:37).

How wonderful to know God's heart, in spite of man's sin. But, there was a problem: though God was willing, man was not. Regarding the salvation provided by God, Jesus spoke the epitaph for so many of the Pharisees that day: *Ye would not!*

Isaiah tells us the epitaph of multitudes in Israel. Though they had heard the gospel (Isaiah 53:1-12), they remained *a disobedient and gainsaying people* (Romans 10:21). How sad! Even Pharaoh, who reigned at the time of the Exodus, has an epitaph.

Did God harden his heart? Yes (Exodus 7:13, 9:7, 9:12, 10:1, 10:20, 10:27, 11:10, 14:8). Did Pharaoh harden his own heart? Yes (Exodus 8:15, 8:32, 9:34). What is Pharaoh's epitaph? In his own words: *Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice* (Exodus 5:2)? Now is an accepted time; now is the day of salvation!

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Vickie Wilkerson Hughes

### Does Jesus Care? Oh, Yes! He Cares!

Things are happening all around us now, and you might ask the question: Does Jesus Care? Yes, He cares! I know from my own life that Jesus cares. He cares about our loss of loved ones, our family, our children, our grandchildren, our financial needs, our health, our spiritual needs. He even cares about the small things in life. YES, He Cares! When my mind raises that question, I am reminded of His word to humble myself by casting my care on Christ: *casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you* (First Peter 5:7)!

I have a tendency to worry and to be anxious. However, I am so thankful for my Lord and Savior, who reminds me that I need to turn over to Him the things that make me so anxious or overly concerned. *Be careful for nothing, He tells me; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know unto God* (Philippians 4:6).

In my trials I am reminded that I need to trust God. He does hear my prayers, and He listens. God knows what is best. I need to obey Him. I need to allow Him to work in my situation. I need to trust Him. Waiting patiently on his direction is one of the most difficult things to do, and, I am working on rejoicing in the Lord always (Philippians 4:4).

Nothing worth doing can be done without Jesus (John 15:5); and, with Him, nothing is impossible. When the demands on our daily life are over whelming, we can look to Him, knowing HE CARES!

### At Your Own Will

The words, *at your own will*, appear three times in Leviticus. The first time involves Peace Offerings: *And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the Lord, ye shall offer it at your own will* (Leviticus 19:5). None of it was to be eaten on the third day, or it would be abominable to the Lord. They would profane the hallowed thing of the Lord if they did so, and that soul would be cut off from his people. The sacrifice (Christ) arose on the third day!

The second use of these words involves a burnt offering for one's Vows and Freewill Offerings (Leviticus 22:18-21). There was to be no blemish, for Christ was without blemish.

The third reference concerned making a Thanksgiving Offering: *And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the Lord, offer it at your own will* (Leviticus 22:29-30). It was to be eaten on the same day it was offered. None of it was to be for the morrow.

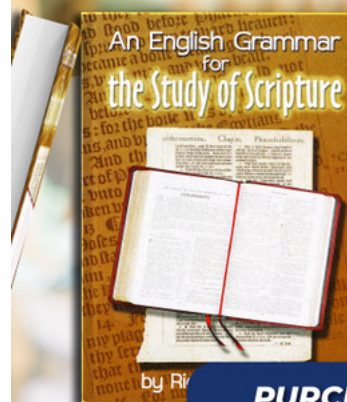
Today is the day of salvation. God's Spirit will not always strive with man. Do not let this Day of Grace pass you by.

### RECOMMENDED MEETINGS

**March 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>** – Alumni Days at Tabernacle Baptist College, hosted by Tabernacle Baptist Church, Greenville, SC. For more information, call 864-269-2760.

**March 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>** – Sandhills Jubilee, hosted by Highland Baptist Church, Vass, NC. For details, call Pastor Vaughn, 910-528-5170

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