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Echoes of Grace



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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Donald Rule



CRAZY Callen

D. R. Callen moved from Colorado to the Dungeness Valley in Washington State. In Colorado, he had worked on farms where water was diverted from mountain rivers into irrigation ditches. He had actually seen the irrigation water flowing uphill because it was pushed forward by the current of the mountain streams.

D. R. Callen figured the same type of irrigation ditch would work in the Dungeness Valley. The Dungeness Valley sits in the “rain shadow” of the Olympic Mountains. Rainfall was plentiful elsewhere on the Olympic Peninsula, but very scarce in the Dungeness Valley where only 14 inches fell on

average per year. The low rainfall made the valley nearly a desert in the summer.

The Dungeness River flows down from the nearby mountains and through the Dungeness Valley. D. R. Callen had the idea to dig irrigation ditches from the river to the farms in the valley.

In order for the ditches to work, water would have to flow uphill as it left the streambed.

When he shared his plan with farmers from the valley, some mocked him and nicknamed him Crazy Callen.

They didn't believe water could be made to flow uphill.

However, about twenty of the farmers agreed to help him dig the ditches. All winter long they toiled with shovels and picks digging a ditch about two miles long, four feet wide, and two or three feet deep. After the ditch was dug, they packed a thin layer of clay into the sides of the ditch in order to keep the water from soaking into the ground.

At last, their back-breaking work was finished and they were ready to connect the ditch to the river. A big celebration was planned for the day. Tables laden with food were set out, games were

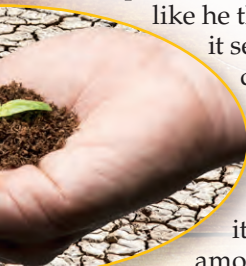


planned, including a May Pole, and folks were invited from nearby communities to come and see the water flow into the irrigation ditch.

D. R. Callen and some other farmers waded out into the water to lift the sluice gate that blocked the water from flowing into the flume, a chute-like structure. The edge of the flume sat on the gravel bed of the stream where the current was strongest. They pulled the planks of the sluice gate up and set them aside. The water was free to flow into the flume leading to the ditch. But to the dismay of Callen and his helpers, the river didn't flow up into the flume like he thought it would. For a few minutes it seemed like Crazy Callen's irrigation ditch was a failure.

Then one of the farmers got an idea. He loaded a wagon with clay, drove it to the base of the flume and shoveled it in. He then called for volunteers

among the boys and girls who had come to enjoy the festivities to stomp the clay down with their bare feet. They had fun splashing in the river and smashing the clay into the gravel. No sooner was the clay stomped down than a great deal of water began flowing uphill through the flume and into the ditch. The water ran rapidly though the ditch towards the farmers' fields. The crowd cheered. The farmers, happy with their success, slapped each other on the back, and the





community had a big celebration, all because of Crazy Callen's idea.

Every farmer knows that water is wealth. Because of the new supply of water, the farmers would be able raise more crops and livestock. In celebration of this special event, folks in the Dungeness Valley have held an "Irrigation Festival" every May 1 for the past 120 years.

The Dungeness Valley was dry and arid before the irrigation ditch delivered the much-needed water.

In a similar manner, most men and women are dry and arid because they are leaving God out of their lives. Living apart from God, people tend to shrivel up like a farmer's field that is experiencing a relentless drought. The Christian truths of the trinity and the incarnation, where God became a man and walked this earth, seem pretty far-fetched to them. But the truth is that faith in Christ works perfectly well and has transformed countless lives. It works because it is God's wonderful, life-giving truth.


When the Lord Jesus, who is both God and man in the same person, died on the cross, the sluice gate of heaven was opened so that God's richest spiritual blessings could flow out to repentant sinners. Sinners who deserve death and hell may now receive the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life through faith in Christ. God's amazing love to sinners was made known to men.

Believing in Jesus Christ, they are enabled to drink of “living water” that comes from God. The Lord Jesus said of this living water, **“Who-soever drink[s] of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”** (John 4:14). Only by drinking of the living water can any of us ever quench the deep spiritual thirst that we have. Our hearts were made to live by faith in God.

Farmers in the Dungeness Valley had a lot to celebrate when water flowed through the irrigation ditch. Those who believe in Christ have a lot to celebrate too. The celebrating they do begins on earth when they first believe and receive the forgiveness of sins, and then it continues nonstop all the way into eternity. What joy it is for souls to live in the presence of Him who loved them and gave His life for them to make them His own forever! Truly, as it says in the Book of Acts, **“Though [God] be not far from every one of us”** (Acts 17:27).

In sad contrast, those who reject Christ will spend eternity longing for even a touch of water to moisten their lips. The Lord Jesus told the story of a rich man who dressed elegantly and ate sumptuously every day while he lived on earth but, being without God in his life, he was sent to hell when he died. In hell he cried out, **“Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my**





tongue; for I am tormented in this flame” (Luke 16:24). Those who have never quenched their spiritual thirst through the Lord Jesus in this life will find not the slightest relief for their raging thirst in the life to come.

Despite the naysayers, Crazy Callen's irrigation ditch worked and transformed the Dungeness Valley. Don't let the naysayers about the Lord Jesus Christ dissuade you from placing your faith in Him and drinking from the living water He offers.

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give Me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water” (John 4:10). You may come by faith to Christ today and receive the same gift of **“living water”** that He once offered to the lady by the well in Samaria. Revelation 22:17 reads, **“Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”**

It may seem crazy to believe on a Saviour who was crucified, but only faith in Christ has the power to transform people and prepare them for heaven! Won't you believe in Christ and drink deeply of the water of life so that you may have eternal life? If you do, you will have a never-ending cause for celebration.

God doesn't just promise refreshment; He also promises judgment. Find out why and for whom in *Tornado Alley*. ◀



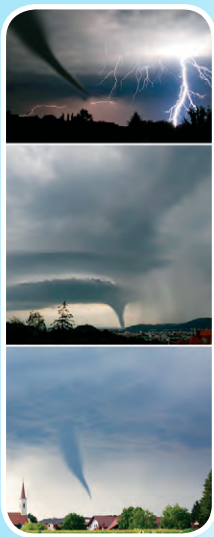
Tornado Alley

In 1952, two U.S. Air Force meteorologists used the term “Tornado Alley” as a title of a research project in which they investigated the severe weather patterns in the middle of the U.S.A.

The term stuck around and has come to refer to any place where tornados frequently occur. Are you living in an area that might be known as a tornado alley? If you are, you’d better have a plan for what to do if you run into one of these destructive storms.

Do you know that the whole world is a kind of tornado alley? This is so because men choose to live apart from God in a state of sin, and sooner or later, God will punish sin.

Like a whirlwind, or a tornado, God’s judgment will fall on those who never get right with their



Creator. When it falls, it will bring desolation, destruction, distress and anguish. Proverbs 1:24-27 reads, **“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all My counsel, and would none of My reproof: I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as a desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come upon you.”**

Those who never repent and turn by faith to the Lord Jesus will come into judgment. God’s judgments

will fall on them both in this life and in the life to come. In this life, the judgment may come suddenly, without warning, like a tornado. And in the life to come, the darkness and desolation of hell is real. It is what looms ahead for each one who dies without a saving faith in Christ. **“The children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth”** (Matthew 8:12). The distress and anguish of souls lost in hell will be forever! It will never cease!

God doesn’t want men and women to remain insensible to the dangers they are in until it is too late to do anything about it. He wants them to stop dead in their tracks, realize their lost con-

dition, and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

There is no forgiveness or salvation apart from Christ. On



the cross He paid the terrible price for sin. From His pierced side, His blood poured forth, and His blood has the power to wash away sins. If your sins were ten thousand times worse than they actually are, His blood could still wash you clean the moment you genuinely believed. Ephesians 1:7 reads, **“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”**

If you are living apart from Christ, make no mistake about it. You are not safe. The world is a tornado alley. Where will you hide from His wrath if you reject the Saviour? How will you avoid the darkness and desolation of hell without faith in Jesus Christ?

There is nowhere to turn but to Him who died for sinners on the cross and then arose from the grave. He is the sinner’s only refuge.

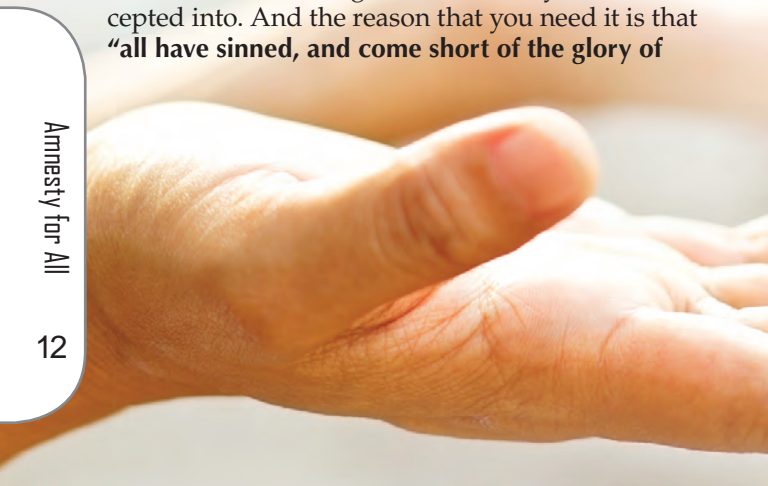
Oh be wise, and come to Christ! **“Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life”** (John 3:15). Will you be one who believes in Him and finds salvation in His name?

God’s goodness and His justice aren’t incompatible. They actually fit together beautifully, as you’ll see in *Amnesty for All*. ◀

Amnesty for All

Word is out that an amnesty has been proclaimed for all. This amnesty has been granted by lawful authority and is in complete accord with the highest ideals of truth, justice and mercy. It grants pardon to all classes of offenses and completely obliterates all guilt and record of wrongdoing. It will entitle all who take advantage of it to citizenship in the greatest country. This amnesty is definitely for you, for the good reason that you absolutely need it.

The One who proclaims it is the Supreme Ruler of the Universe—God. Heaven is the country that all who take advantage of the amnesty will be accepted into. And the reason that you need it is that **“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of**



God” (Romans 3:23). Without this amnesty, not one will ever enter into heaven.

It is in accord with the highest ideals of truth, justice and mercy:

Of truth, because **“grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”** (John 1:17). He said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life”** (John 14:6). In His life, He fully revealed all that was in the heart of God, so that we never need to be in the dark about the truth again.

Of justice, because Jesus Christ is the just One. If you want to see what a thoroughly good man looks like, you may examine His life. As a man, He lived a life of perfect righteousness, even in the midst of a world that had gone astray and fallen into bitter opposition to God. He is also the just One, because through His death on the cross, He made the one sacrifice that can forever put away sins. By it, all who believe are completely justified and accounted righteous in God’s sight. **“To declare, I say, at this time**



His righteousness: that He might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus” (Romans 3:26).

Of mercy, because the justification of a sinner is an act of tender mercy. It takes a lost sinner and makes him suitable to enter heaven. **“The Lord is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works”** (Psalm 145:9).

When sinners believe in Christ, they are forgiven, pardoned and their former offenses are completely obliterated. The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in them, helping them to begin to live a new life that is suited for the place they are headed.

“Amnesty proclaimed to all” is the most beautiful message ever declared. But will you take advantage of it? Will you bow your heart in repentance and believe in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ?

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses” (Acts 13:38-39). ◀



How Shall Fallen Man

Ah, how shall fallen man
Be just before his God?
If He contend in righteousness,
We fall beneath His rod.

If He our ways should mark
With strict, inquiring eyes,
Could we, for one of countless faults,
A just excuse devise?

All-seeing, powerful God,
Who can with Thee contend?
Or who that tries the unequal strife
Shall prosper in the end?

Ah, how shall guilty man
Contend with such a God?
None—none can meet Him and escape,
But through the Saviour's blood.

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*“The blood of Jesus Christ His [God’s] Son cleanseth us from all
sin” (1 John 1:7).*

