



## **SAFE HARBOR**

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*William E. Lang Jr., Director*

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### **A REFLECTION**

Safe Harbor is now beginning its 20<sup>th</sup> year of bringing items of the spirit to people. It was started as a monthly news letter to group of people who began services in a public park and houses, moving on to an understanding that the True Church is not a building or a denomination but rather is in the heart of people who have placed their faith in God. They follow in the way that Jesus taught his disciples. They shared in fellowship with one another as well as those outside of the group.

Twenty years have passed. Most of the original group have gone on to their final reward of faithfulness. Change has come often without warning. Safe Harbor has found a place among others as well as at [www.billangservices.com](http://www.billangservices.com) and at Cove Fellowship page on Face Book. From a monthly publication to a quarterly issue.

The author strives to provide Biblical truth as well as a call to practical Christian Living in a world that would rather dilute the message of the Gospel to the point where it would go away. And so the battle continues but the victory is assured through the power of faith in God and his presence in our lives.

So, no matter what happens, may we proclaim with the Hymn writer, **It is well with my soul!**”

**WORDS OF COMFORT**  
***I Don't Understand...***

You and I have not met but in a way I feel that I do know you as well as share in this experience that you are going through. I have put something in words that might help you to understand the question of “Why does God allow people to suffer, go through pain and eventually come to the end of their physical life.

This question has been raised and debated by philosophers, theologians, scholars and especially those who have experienced or are experiencing pain, grief and the loss of a beloved person for the history of humankind.

My first response is that God is not causing this pain. Nor is it a specific evil that is the cause. We are human beings that were originally created in the image of God to be the Kings and Queens of Creation. As created, there was to be no pain, sorrow or death. Those things are not part of the God of Creation who is the perfection of love. It was in our disobedience that these “evils” entered into the world as part of a judgment that has extended through the ages. The Church calls this original sin. As descendants of Adam, we bear this curse in a world that is full of imperfections. While this seems unfair, it is a result of actions that destroyed the perfection of Creation. Thus “thorns and thistles will rise from the ground and the task of life requires toil and sweat while the pain of childbirth was given to women. We cannot change this for this is now part of the image of humanity.

So our world is contaminated by all manner of evil and wrongdoing. We see evidence of this contamination daily. We find all manner of diseases and afflictions that populate our world and it seems that there is never a cure or an answer. The presence of hatred, wars, famine, natural phenomena that destroy sickness and death are part of the thorns and thistles. It seems as if we toil for nothing as the sweat of our brow only returns into the dust.

When we are confronted by the reality of pain, suffering and death, it is our nature to seek out someone to blame. And so we look at God. We say to ourselves that if God is so loving then why does he allow this. If He is so powerful, why didn't He stop the fall into sin before it happened?

God is so loving that when He created this world, He made humankind with the ability to make moral decisions. When we exercise that ability and turn from Him then we see the adverse effects of our actions. Whether it is a wife or husband, mother or father, sister or brother, child or a friend that lies helpless and as we look at the helplessness and reflect our own inability to save and heal the frustration mounts.

My friend, what we know as the process of dying, or the end of the physical presence of a person, begins even in the womb. As we are born, grow older and go through the various stages of life our bodies are leading us to the next stage of living that is a return to an existence of the spirit.

It is here that there is hope. For we know that Jesus was a person as we are. He knew love, joy, compassion, friendship as well as pain, sorrow, suffering and death. It is in His death that those who follow after Him in faith can hope of being restored to our Creator. The process is not easy. But in Christ might all be made alive.

As your loved one lies in the bed of affliction, there is a world waiting where the God is waiting to wipe away the tears and do away with the pain and suffering that have been gone through. So now you must have faith and trust in the mercies of God for your comfort in times of trouble.

### **A WORD OF SCRIPTURE**

#### Psalm 150

<sup>1</sup> Praise ye the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary:  
praise him in the firmament of his power.

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty acts:  
praise him according to his excellent greatness.

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:  
praise him with the psaltery and harp.

<sup>4</sup> Praise him with the timbrel and dance:  
praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

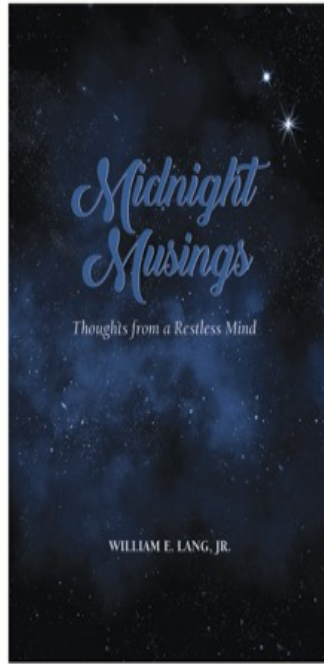
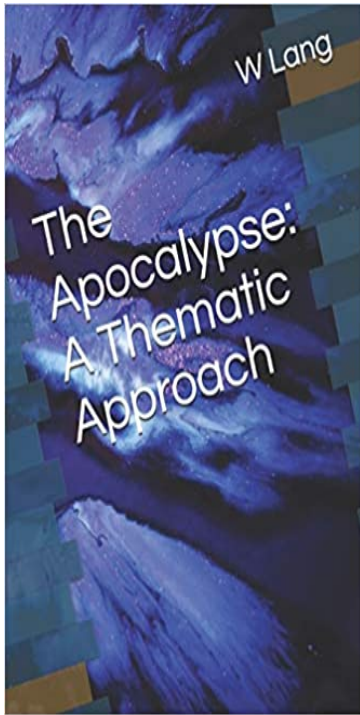
<sup>5</sup> Praise him upon the loud cymbals:  
praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD.

Praise ye the LORD.

The life of the believer should be filled with praise and joy.

You can follow Cove Fellowship at [www.billlangservices.com](http://www.billlangservices.com) , email to [covefellowship@verizon.net](mailto:covefellowship@verizon.net) or on Face Book at **CoveFellowshipMinistries**.



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