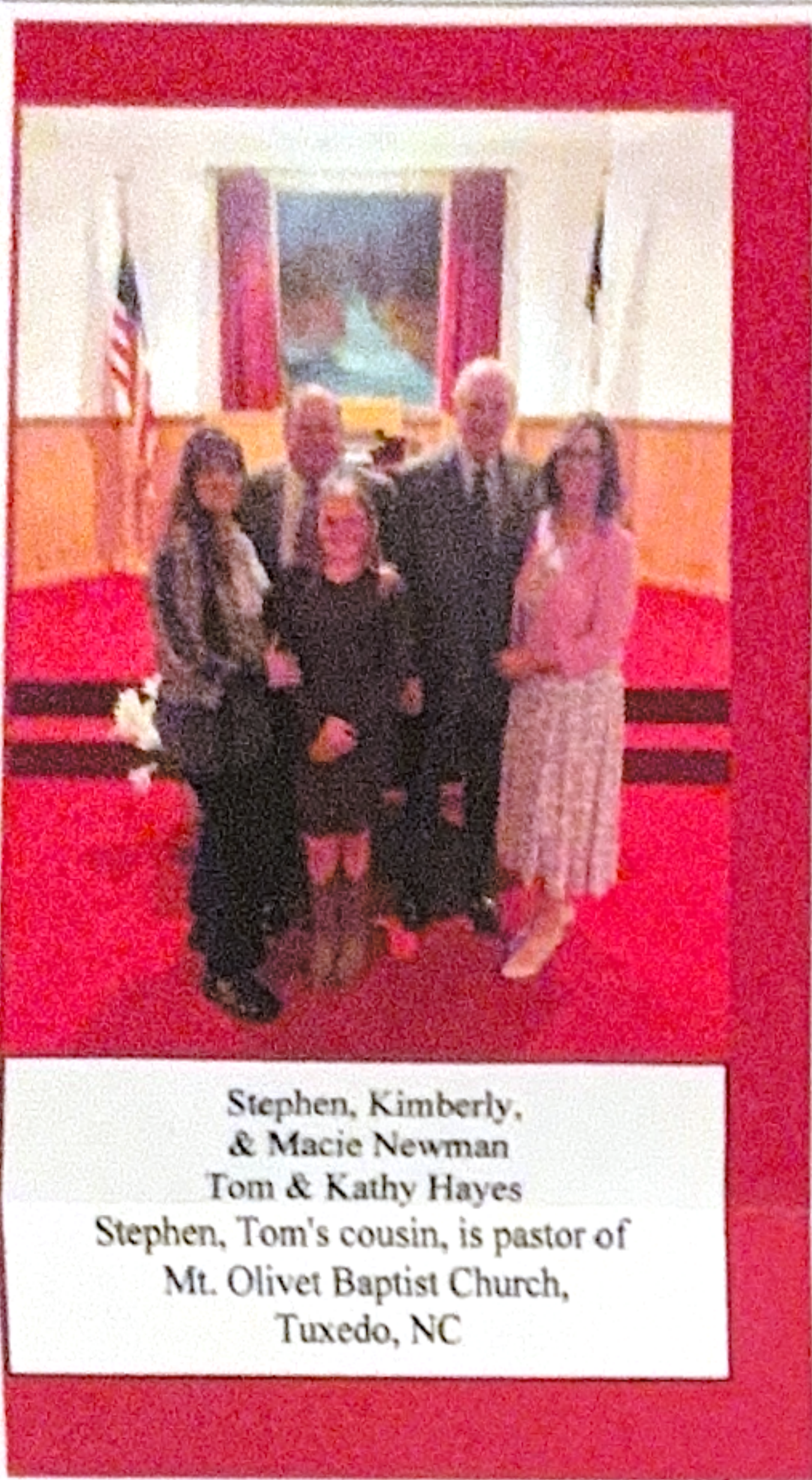




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PATHS

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**All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.**

- Edward Perronet

PRAISING THE LORD

FOR OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS - It is written that true believers are "blessed . . . with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3). We have been placed "in Christ" and raised up with Him into "heavenly places." And, in this realm, we are blessed with "all spiritual blessings." Oh, may we praise the Lord for the abundance that is ours in Christ!

FOR OUR SUPERNATURAL BLESSINGS - In the last weeks, we have also been blessed with a spirit of revival in several of our meetings. That is, we have not just gone through the motions with singing and preaching, but the Holy Ghost has supernaturally intervened in our midst. Because of His work, we rejoice in the Lord and His goodness (see Psa. 85:6).

FOR OUR SPECIAL BLESSINGS - Because of previous health issues in February and March, we have gotten behind on our planned publications, *Paths In The Person And Attributes Of God* and *Paths In 1, 2 Timothy & Titus*. However, with a measure of physical renewal, we have grateful hearts and renewed hopes in completing these projects in this year.

Tom's Itinerary (July - September 2026)

July 5	New River Baptist Church	Fulton, MS	Rev. Cody Tucker
July 6-7	New Liberty Baptist Church	Vardaman, MS	Rev. Jeff Harmon
July 8	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Tupelo, MS	Rev. Kerry Nelson
July 12 AM	River City Baptist Church	Decatur, AL	Rev. Royce Teague
July 19-22	New Testament Baptist Church	Bonneau, SC	Rev. Jim Steedley
July 23-24	Maranatha Baptist Church	Moncks Corner, SC	Rev. Bruce Scott
July 26-29	Grace Baptist Church	Jacksonville, FL	Rev. Bill Forde
Aug. 2 AM	Parkway Baptist Church	Bristol, TN	Rev. Gary Montgomery
Aug. 16	Macedonia Baptist Church	Mesquite, TX	Rev. John Livaudais
Aug. 17-19	Blessed Hope Baptist Church	Alvarado, TX	Rev. Steve Lindsey
Aug. 20-23 AM	First Baptist Church	Sargent, TX	Rev. John Putch
Aug. 23 PM-26	Bayou Drive Baptist Church	Alvin, TX	Rev. G. W. Lutrick
Sept. 13-16	Woodlawn Baptist Church	Greenville, SC	Rev. Ken Branyon
Sept. 20-23	Grace Baptist Church	Marked Tree, AR	Rev. Ron Lovins
Sept. 24-27 AM	Pineview Baptist Church	Clarksville, AR	Rev. Michael Childers

Jesus, The Merciful Priest

"... a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:17).

In our relationship with God, it is not "what" you know, but "who" you know that is vitally significant. In fact, knowing the Lord Jesus Christ is of eternal consequence! He is the special Person in salvation and in the believer's pursuit of God.

The Hebrew Epistle is a priestly letter. Everything in the thirteen chapters seems to revolve around this central truth, "We have such an High Priest" (Heb. 8:1). Seventeen times Jesus is referred to as our "High Priest." How wonderful that God, in His great mercy, would grant us this personal connection to heaven!

1. HIS PRIESTLY REPRESENTATION

The Levitical priests were Israel's earthly representative before God. Because Christ has gone to God's right hand, we can now come to the Lord Jesus. *And, we can be certain of conscientious representation!* There is no identity problem in heaven. Since there is a "Man" in the glory, who, is like us "in all things," we can fully trust Him. *And, we can be certain of complete representation!* As the Lord Jesus fully represented the Father on earth, He now completely represents His people before God in heaven.

2. HIS PRIESTLY RECONCILIATION

Throughout Jewish history, animal sacrifices were continually offered on behalf of the people. Similarly, *Christ has taken care of our identity issue with God!* The offerings varied according to the time and the place. However, when Jesus died, He "... put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (see Heb. 9:26). Therefore, *Christ has also taken care of our iniquity issue with God!* As our text points out, through His mercy, Christ has "made reconciliation for," or "expiated" the "sins of the people."

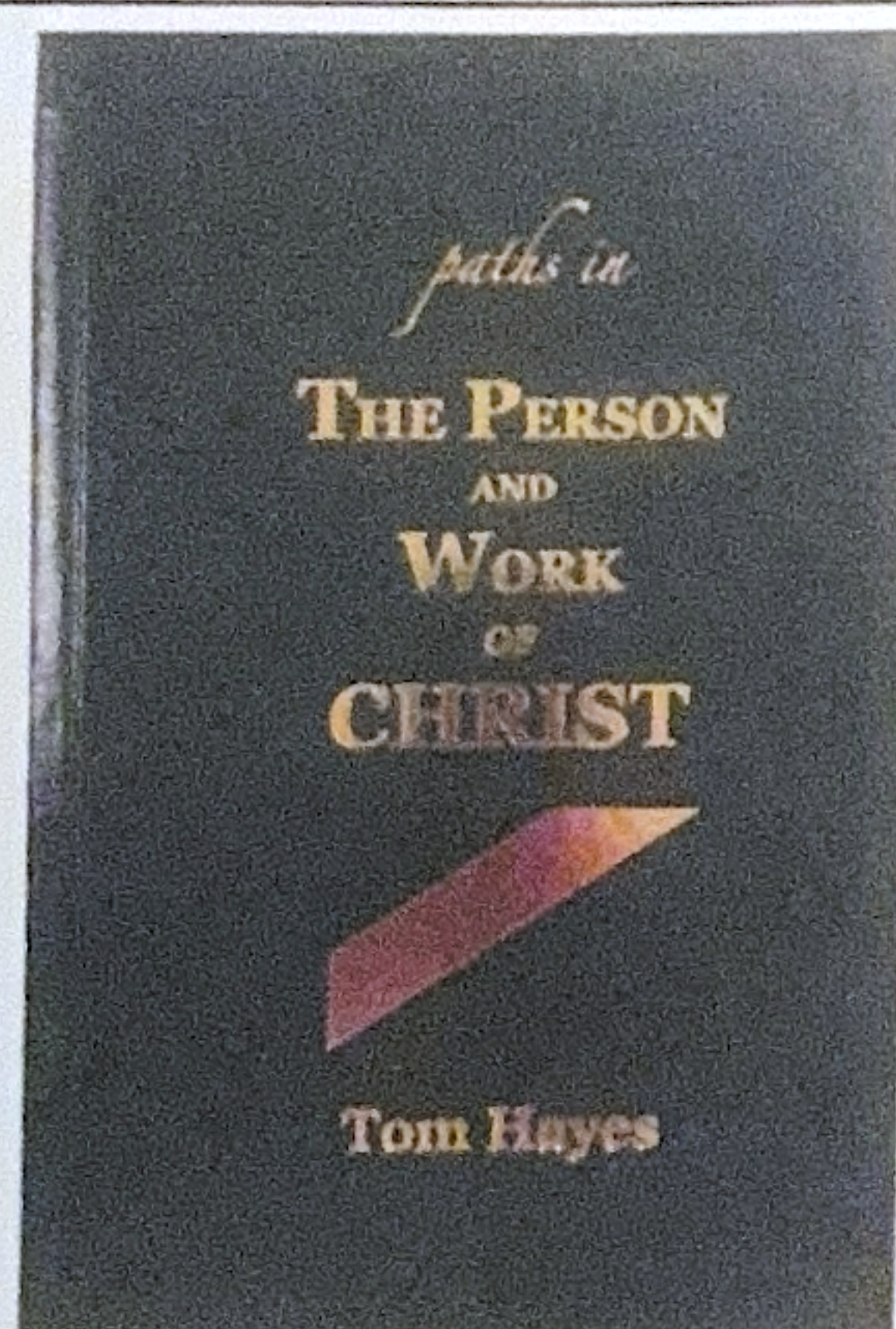
3. HIS PRIESTLY REPUTATION

Our High Priest has already faced all that we could possibly be confronted with in this world. Thus, *He is well qualified to meaningfully respond to us in our circumstances!* "For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted" (Heb. 2:18), He is "... touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Heb. 4:15). As well, *He is well qualified to mercifully respond to us in our consecration!* He bids us "... come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

In the Old Testament tabernacle, there was a gate, an altar, and a sacrifice brought and offered upon the altar. Of course, there was a priest who offered the sacrifice.

Christ is not only the Gate, or Door, by which we now approach God, but He is the Altar and the Sacrifice that was offered upon it, too. As well, He is the merciful High Priest who offered the Sacrifice of Himself and grants the sinner acceptance with God. The Lord Jesus is so complete and sufficient in Himself! He is all we need!

• This article is to be published later in another devotional book.



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