

The Advocate of Truth





TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Word Keys That Unlock Truth 3
Our word this month is "Godliness".

The "One Thing" Of The Apostle Paul 3-4
Paul tells us to reach for those things that are ahead.

Mature Leaders Bring Unity 4-5
Satan tries to divide, we must strive to unite in God's truth.

The Haughty Versus The Humble 5-6
Self pride can be very destructive.

NASA And The Bible 6-7
Can it be that the space program is busy proving the Bible?

The Man Of Sin 8-10
This man sets himself up as God.

A Tribute To My Sisters 11-12
There are many blessing we receive from our dear sisters.

Psalms 100 12

The Signs Of The Times 13-15
When just one church isn't enough for some teens.

The Lord's Supper Date 15

Questions And Answers 16-17
What is real repentance?

The Church Around The World 18-19
This month we look at Honduras.

The Children's Pages 20-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "Janie's Fear"
Games and Puzzles

The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Advocate of Truth Press, Inc. PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. Entered as Second Class Matter on January 22, 1990 (now periodicals) at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia under the Postal Act of March 3, 1879. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
PUBLISHING HOUSE
P.O. Box 328
Salem, WV 26426-0328**

**Telephone: 304-782-1411
Fax: 304-782-2248**

E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

Fred Hardman Printer

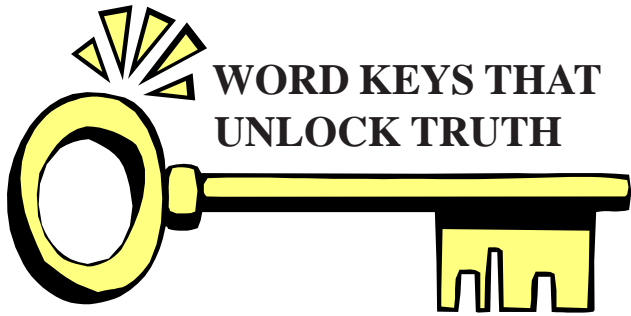
Volume LV

Number 9

March 27, 2006

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940



GODLINESS

A good definition of godliness is "piety caused by knowledge and love of God, and leading to complete, constant, and cheerful obedience to His commands." Godliness is living righteously.

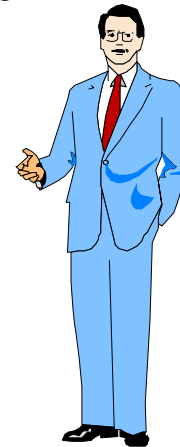
We live in an age in which medical experts tell us that in order to be healthy, we must exercise. I Timothy 4:8 tells us, "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Yes, exercise can benefit our physical bodies. But exercise of our physical bodies is not what God is interested in. He is interested in our way of living. Are we living righteously? Are we displaying the fruits of the Spirit in our lives?

I Timothy 4:7 reads, "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness." Many Bible scholars believe that "profane and old wives' fables"

refer to the teachings of Gnosticism which existed at that time. Among the teachings of the Gnostics were: (1) knowledge superior to virtue; (2) the nonliteral sense of Scripture is correct and can only be understood by a select few; (3) evil in the world precludes God's being the only Creator; (4) the incarnation is incredible because deity cannot unite itself with anything material such as a body; (5) there is no resurrection of the flesh. It is said that the ethical standards of many Gnostics were low. Of course their ethical standards would be low because they believed that knowledge is superior to virtue! In reality, they believed that anything goes, and the end justified the means.

Knowledge is necessary, but it is not superior to virtue. A person may have unlimited knowledge, but he is lost if he does not lead a virtuous life by displaying the fruits of the Spirit and obey the commandment of God. This is true godliness!

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings. Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Timothy 6:3-6).



THE "ONE THING" OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14). One of the main characteristics of the Apostle Paul was determination. He was firm, reso-

lute, decisive. Whatever decision he made, all his energies were directed to achieve the end in view.

He explained to King Agrippa that before his conversion, then being known as Saul of Tarsus, he persecuted the saints. He said, "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem:

and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities" (Acts 26:9-11). This was a witness against himself and his misdirected zeal.

On another occasion, when he planned to go to Jerusalem to be there on the day of Pentecost, he found that, in every city he visited, the Holy Spirit testified that bonds and imprisonment awaited him in that city. However, he was determined to go. He said, "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).

Like the rich young ruler, the Apostle Paul enjoyed certain possessions. Obstacles almost insurmountable were put aside and removed for Christ. "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" (Philippians 3:8-9).

Paul enumerated those things that could have been hindrances to him in being a servant of Jesus Christ, but these were all disregarded for Christ. His talents, fame, possessions, and social rank had all been put away years before writing this letter to the church at Philippi. Paul was triumphant in doing this "one thing." He wrote, "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead" (Philippians 3:11). The Apostle Paul is a wonderful example to those who are called of God to that high and heavenly calling in Christ Jesus, who display full and complete submission to do God's will as revealed in His Word.

Paul was completely satisfied with Jesus and His teaching. Mary was also satisfied with her Lord and Master. Paul enjoyed sweet and unbroken communion and fellowship with Jesus Christ, even though he was deprived of many material comforts.

In our daily walk before our Lord, let us maintain to the end an increasing contemplation of God and His will so that we may enter the kingdom. Let us complete our resignation to His will for us. Let us renounce ourselves and be consecrated to our Heavenly Father. Let us be completely satisfied in all things under the providence of God, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titius 2:13).

Contributed



MATURE LEADERS BRING UNITY

A LESSON STUDY

"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God" (I Corinthians 4:1).

Read I Corinthians 4:1-13.

The Church at Corinth had put Paul and other leaders, such as Apollos, on tall pedestals for human admiration. In our opening verse, Paul reminds the Corinthians

how apostles should be reckoned: as ministers of God's mysteries, His plan of salvation. He was telling them that he, Apollos, and others are not to be regarded as those to whom the church should direct glory and honor. Paul rejected this sentiment entirely, saying that he desired only to be accounted as serving God.

Paul realized that the Corinthians were given to self-

inflation and would perhaps misunderstand his words. If he and others alone are subject to God, then what is to prevent them from acting inappropriately, rationalizing their actions afterward? Therefore, Paul wrote, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). Continuing to comment on this, Paul says that the one who determines the faithfulness of these stewards, including himself, is the Lord alone. Neither the Corinthian brethren, a human count, or even Paul himself, was capable of doing this. "But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: Yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord" (vss. 3-4). In this, the only praise sought was the praise of God. "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God" (vs. 5).

In verse 6, Paul makes it clear that he used himself and Apollos as illustrations of the point that no one, neither the apostles, the brethren in Corinth, nor any of the Lord's followers, should be puffed up with pride: "And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes: that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another." What makes such an attitude even more displeasing to the Lord is that it is usually at the expense, or to the detriment, of someone else. "For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive?

Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory. as if thou hadst not received it?" (vs. 7). These questions point out the fact that fleshly differences among the Lord's people are inconsequential, since everything, without exception, is to be received as a gift from God, regardless of who we are or our position in the church.

Paul continues by pointing out the irony of the Corinthian brethren's attitude. He says that they are acting as though they were already sitting on a glorious thrones in power. Paul wonders where he was and where were the apostles when this took place? "Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you" (vs. 8). By contrast, he reviews all the hardships that he and the other apostles were still suffering for the gospel's sake. Paul stated: "For I think that God hath set for the us the apostles last, as if it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men" (vs.9). The image given here is that of the arena, and the use of prisoners for games, putting them against wild animals and gladiators. Included in these comments, Paul states: "...being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it" (vs. 12).

These words resemble those of Jesus as He preached His Sermon on the Mount. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:10-12).

THE HAUGHTY VERSUS THE HUMBLE



A haughty person shows great pride in himself and disdain, contempt, or scorn for others. He is also arrogant. Four characteristics of a haughty person are:

1. Any good deeds done by this kind of person are

done only to further his own personal glory, never for the service to God.

2. Such a person disdains the presence of the poor and lowly man.

3. It is impossible for the haughty person to accept that he may be in error. He would rather falsify and deny the truth rather than be found fallible.

4. He can never thank God for his good fortunes, believing instead that he deserves all the good he has.

A humble person is conscious of his own shortcomings and defects. He is not proud or self assertive. He is also modest. Six characteristics of a humble person are:

1. If he is abused, although he may have the means to retaliate, he does not do so.

2. If a tragedy befalls him, he accepts it.

3. If he is praised for any good he does, he is saddened by the thought that he could have done better, and if the compliment is not merited, he shows resentment.

4. If such a person is prosperous and lives peacefully, he is kind to those who need his help, and he greets others when he meets them.

5. Even if another hurts him, he will treat that individual with kindness.

6. He speaks quietly and gently to his family and to all with whom he comes in contact.

To avoid the deplorable trait of being haughty, we should constantly be aware of our ultimate end and compare our own lowly state with the greatness of the Creator.

We should remember at all times that we are servants of God before whom we must behave with modesty. We

should know that strength and comeliness are passing things. When old age comes, they will disappear. If we indulge ourselves as a result of pride, this too will turn against us and cause us trouble one day. We must bear in mind that the tragedies that befall so many people might also be experienced by us. Wealth may be lost in a moment, then our fellow men will treat us as we treated them. Let us study and consider the haughty characters of history mentioned in the Bible who experienced downfalls such as Nebuchadnezzar who was reduced to behaving like a lowly beast for seven years.

If we pride ourselves because of our wealth, we should compare ourselves to wealthier men, by whose standards we would be unimportant. We should consider those who worked day and night to accumulate riches, which were lost in one day.

Let us make an analogy of two men who were very wealthy. One man lived in a city where there was not one other person who possessed a fraction of what he owned. Of course, he was looked up to as the most important man there. The other wealthy man lived in a place where there were many such as he. Therefore, he behaved modestly in their presence. Similarly people who have no piety or attachment to God behave haughtily because they have no standard of reference by which to judge their relative importance.

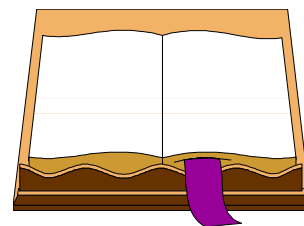
Let us be humble!

NASA & THE BIBLE



I thought this was pretty amazing and interesting!

For all the scientists out there, and for all the students who have a hard time convincing these people regarding the truth of the Bible, here's something that shows God's awesome creation, and that He is still in control.



Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what has been called "myth" in the Bible is true?

Mr. Harold Hill, President of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Maryland, and a consultant in the space program, relates the following development.

I think one of the most amazing things that God has done for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientists at Green Belt, Maryland.

They were checking out where the positions of the sun, moon, and planets would be 100 years and 1,000 years from now. We have to know this so we won't send up a satellite and have it bump into something later on in its orbits.

We have to lay out the orbits in terms of the life of the satellite and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down.

They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries, and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal, which meant that there was something wrong with either the information fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards.

They called in the service department to check it out, and they said, 'What's wrong?' Well, they found there is a day missing in space in elapsed time.

They scratched their heads and tore their hair out. There was no answer.

Finally a Christian man on the team said, 'You know, one time I was in a *Bible class*, and they talked about the sun standing still.' While they didn't believe him, they didn't have an answer either, so they said, 'Show us.'

He got a Bible and went to the book of Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for anyone with "common sense."

There they found the Lord saying to Joshua,

"Fear them not, I have delivered them into thy hand; there shall not a man of them stand before Thee."

Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy! And if darkness fell, they would overpower them. So Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still! That's right.. "The sun stood still and moon stayed

and hasted not to go down about a whole day!" (Joshua 10:12-13)

The astronauts and scientists said, There is the missing day! They checked the computers going back in the time it was written and found it was close but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes...not a whole day.

They read the Bible, and there it was about (approximately) a day. These little words in the Bible are important, but they were still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes, you'll still be in trouble 1000 years from now.

Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits. As the Christian employee thought about it, he remembered somewhere in the Bible where it said the sun went BACKWARDS.

The scientists told him he was out of his mind, but they got out the Book and read these word in II Kings that told of the following story": Hezekiah, on his death bed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah asked for a sign as proof. Isaiah said "Do you want the sun to go ahead 10 degrees?"

Hezekiah said, "It is nothing for the sun to go ahead 10 degrees, but let the shadow return backward 10 degrees." Isaiah spoke to the Lord, and the Lord brought the shadow ten degrees BACKWARD! Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes!

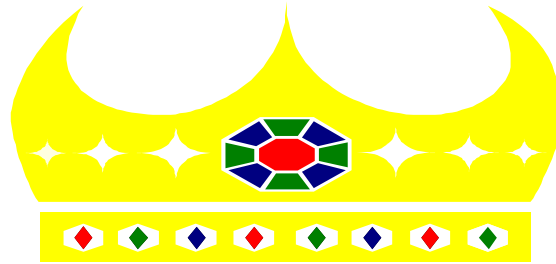
Twenty-three hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in Second Kings make the missing day in the universe! Isn't it amazing?

References: Joshua 10:8 and 12-13 and II Kings 20:9-11.

From the internet

The Man of Sin

By Del DeLong



There has been much debate about the man of sin. Who is he? Is he here already? Will he have to appear before the Lord returns? How long will he rule on this earth?

These are but a few of the questions we wish to address here. First of all, who is he? We turn our attention to the book of second Thessalonians chapter 2, verses 2 and 3 in the Scriptures. "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."

The Thessalonian brethren were questioning Paul about when the Lord would return. Paul told them that they should not worry greatly, because certain things would have to happen first. He said there would come a falling away first. Well, dear readers, that has already happened. There has been a great falling away from God and His commandments so that part of the prophecy has come to pass. The second part is that the man of sin will be revealed. Has this happened yet? Let us hold on to that question for the time being and address it a little later in this article.

We want to answer our first question, "who is this man of sin"? Let us read a little farther in II Thessalonians 2, verses 4 and 5. "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?" This man

opposes God, the worship of God or any thing that has to do with God. If it pertains to God, His commandments, His truth, His Son, or anything about our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus, this man of sin is against it. In fact the man of sin sets himself up as God. We are told that he sets himself up in the temple of God. This would refer to Jerusalem, where Solomon's temple once stood. When Jesus died on the cross, temple worship ceased, and there was no more temple for worship. Our bodies became the temple of God. We read this in II Corinthians 6:16. "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." The temple referred to then would have to be the one Solomon built and was later destroyed and rebuilt in Jerusalem.

This man of sin sets himself up as God, in the temple of God and proclaims himself that he is God.

Where did Paul learn of this individual? Let us turn our attention to the Old Testament, which was the only Scripture Paul had available to him, and read Ezekiel 28:2. "Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:" God referred to

this individual as the "prince of Tyrus." Many think that this individual spoken of here is Satan, but this is far from the truth. Let us read who God says this individual is - "Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee" (Ezekiel 28:9).

We can get a better description if we read further in the book of Ezekiel 28:4-8. "With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: By thy great wisdom and by thy traffic hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas."

This man is wise and he is very wealthy. Because of his wisdom, he has gotten great riches, and because of these riches, his heart is lifted up, and he gains great power and authority. In fact, he sets himself up as God.

The wisdom of the man of sin brings him riches, power, and he sets himself up as God.

This power soon comes to naught, and he is killed by "the terrible of the nations". In other words the, terrible weapons of the nations come upon him, and he is destroyed. We are told in Ezekiel 28:9-10: "Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee. Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD." He will die the death of the uncircumcised. This seems to imply that the man of sin is circumcised. Could it be that he is a Jew?

Is the man of sin a Jew?

This man of sin follows in the footsteps of Satan. Paul tells us this in II Thessalonians 2:9. "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders."

We have discovered who this man of sin is. A good way to describe him is the henchman of Satan who sets himself up as God. He is wealthy, he is powerful, and he is a great liar. We could easily call him the king of antitrust.

Paul told us that Jesus' return would not happen until this man of sin is revealed. We know that the man of sin has not arrived on the scene yet, because there is no one that has met the criteria set forth. This would lead some into trying to predict when the Lord will return. They might say that it can't happen yet, because the man of sin has not been revealed, so all I need to do is wait for that to occur then I will make myself ready.

Should I wait for the man of sin to be revealed, and then make myself ready for the Lord's return?

Let us read II Thessalonians 2:8. "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:" This description of the Lord's return can be found in Revelation 19:11-16. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

We know that this description of the Lord's return is the time of the Battle of Armageddon, which is the seventh plague poured out upon the earth. That means then

that the man of sin will be destroyed at that time. It is important for us to understand the procedure of Jesus's second coming. He actually comes in two phases. In the first phase of His second coming, Jesus comes as a reaper to reap the saints off the earth. At this time he is called King of Saints and He has one crown on His head. Let us read this in Revelation 14:14-16. "And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."

Jesus comes as a reaper when He catches up the saints from the earth.

After this the plagues are poured out upon the earth. These plagues are described as vials in Revelation chapters 15 through 16. The saints are safe on the sea of glass above the earth while these plagues are accomplished. "And I saw as it were a [sea of glass](#) mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the [sea of glass](#), having the harps of God" (Revelation 15:2).

If we wait until the man of sin is revealed to get ready for the Lord's return, we will be too late. The man of sin has to be present during the sixth plague for him to be destroyed by the brightness of Jesus's coming when Jesus comes as a destroyer in the seventh plague. At that time, He is already king of kings and Lord of Lords, and after the seventh plague He will set up his kingdom on this earth and, we will reign with Him for 1000 years if we remain faithful. Let us read Revelation 20:4-6. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a

thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

The final question that arises is "How long will the man of sin rule on the earth?" We know he will be present during the sixth plague. The plagues of Revelation are expressed in two ways. One way they are described is by trumpets, and the other way they are described is by vials. After the sixth trumpet sounds, we read about the time that the two witnesses of God come upon the scene. The two witnesses will live for 1,260 days or three and one half years. Let us read this in Revelation 11:3. "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."

How long will the man of sin rule?

I believe that the man of sin will be ruling during this time period, and he will last for the three and one half years. Satan knows that this is his last stand before Jesus sets up his kingdom, and I believe that he will set up this man of sin in Jerusalem (where the two witnesses witness for God) at this time to try to finish his deception. For additional study on 42 months, a time, times and half a times and 1260 days which all represent the same time period, read Daniel chapter 7 and Revelation 13.

In conclusion, this man of sin has a full description in Ezekiel 28: 1-11 as the prince of Tyrus and II Thessalonians 2:3-9 as the man of sin. This man is so evil, that he completely defies God and all His commandments. He blasphemes the Father, His Son, Jesus, and all they stand for. He will set himself up as God in the place where the temple used to stand. He will die when Jesus returns during the second phase of His second coming.

Do not wait for the man of sin to establish himself before you make yourself ready for Jesus's return. If you do, you will miss the reaping phase and find yourself in the middle of the seven last plagues. Make your calling and election sure now. Jesus can return at any time as a reaper.

A TRIBUTE TO MY SISTERS

BY LAURA TENNANT



Not too long ago one of my church sisters made a comment I thought was unusual for the circumstances, quite different from other comments I might have heard, but at the same time unique to her personality. It would have been easy for her to criticize another member of the congregation, but rather she said, "They add spice to the church. Without them it would be boring." She caught me off guard. I was not expecting this type of response. Through her I was able to see the situation in a different light - a light that reflected a positive and humorous approach. My heart was made lighter rather than heavy. That comment touched me deeply and reminded me of the many blessings I have received from the lives of our dear sisters.

This tribute is to show gratitude, respect, honor and praise to our sisters and to acknowledge the positive presence and meaning they have given to our lives. As we take a close look at the lives and struggles of women in the Bible who were transformed by Jesus, we learn how His grace enabled them to do good works. Today there are such women, those who teach the children's classes, visit the sick, spend endless hours working for the church. Their lives of service matter. But, let us look even deeper. Let us look at those women whose lives have touched others and often have gone unnoticed, those women who have touched our lives.

Let us stop and reflect on these dear and precious sisters who have influenced our lives. There have been times when I have wished I had told a dear sister how precious she

was by her wonderful example. We did not always agree, but her example and dedication to regular church service in spite of any circumstance was an inspiration to me. Her devotion made those differences seem smaller and the godly love towards her remained. How easy it is to find fault with one another, how easy it is to disagree. But, as children of God, how much easier it should be to see those special qualities in our dear sisters and give thanks to God for their presence. The list could be endless.

When we think of Deborah, we think of wisdom; Jocabed's selfless motherhood comes to mind. Ruth and Naomi remind us of devotion. Hannah was an example of sacrifice, Esther of courage - and the list goes on!

I know a dear sister who when she sends a letter or card always takes time to add something special, thereby making me feel special. Sometimes it is a handkerchief, sometimes a few lines form a poem, or maybe just a couple of decorative stickers. Each time I receive something from her, I feel she has given me a portion of herself. An older sister, whom I have known for years, reminds me of the perfect picture of graciousness. Her speech is always seasoned with mercifulness and compassion. I do not remember ever hearing a negative comment from her. If only I could think before I spoke. What an example this is. One of our sisters has endless energy. How I admire that zeal. Another lights up my heart by her precious smile.

And then there are those sisters who you dearly love, but seem to annoy you with their precious love. We have din-

Psalms 100

By Del DeLong

ner after church services. One dear sister and friend will constantly try to fill my plate and bring me more to eat. I have always had a problem with my weight, so I try to not to eat more than I should. It would be so easy to refuse her (and I do try, Ha!), but she is insistent. I am very stubborn, but I realize my way is not important, so I give in - not because I am hungry, but her love shines through. How blessed I am to have a dear sister who looks after my well being, who is willing to be persistent and show her caring spirit towards me.

My daughter recently gave me a birthday gift. Sometimes I can be ungrateful. It wasn't really a gift I wanted or thought I could use (though I am learning to now). It would have been easy to let myself shine through, but as she showed me the gift and explained its many features I saw her complete enthusiasm and love. She was so excited about the gift, and I could see how much she thought I would enjoy it. I could see the great happiness in her heart as she went into more detail about its features. That great love she has for me allowed Jesus to shine through instead. I am ever thankful for the love she has shown and the unselfishness in her giving. I have learned to give more because of her. Children are suppose to learn from their parents, but I indeed have learned from her. How blessed I am.

And so the list goes on! Dear sister, you do not go unnoticed.

When we acknowledge these special traits of our dear sisters we may say, "I wish I were like that". Do you not think that is one reason God has blessed your life with this dear one - so you can aspire to a closer walk with Him - a life of service and selflessness, a life of love and compassion. Our sisters are both a source of blessing and inspiration, but do not question your value in this world. Each and every one was created uniquely. Our lives can be of value to those to whom we come in contact. Let us not question if our lives are making a difference but strive to be all God intends us to be, therefore fulfilling the question that lies deep within us. What can I do? What difference do I make?

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

The entire chapter of Psalms 100 can be found in these 5 verses: *"A Psalm of praise. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."*

David is telling us that we must serve the Lord with gladness. Do you have a happy heart when you pay your tithe or do you pay it grudgingly? Are you filled with gladness when you come to church or is it a duty and burden? Do you sing praises to God truly praising Him or do you sing along because it is expected and everyone is doing it? Do You keep His commandments with joy or are they a burden to you?

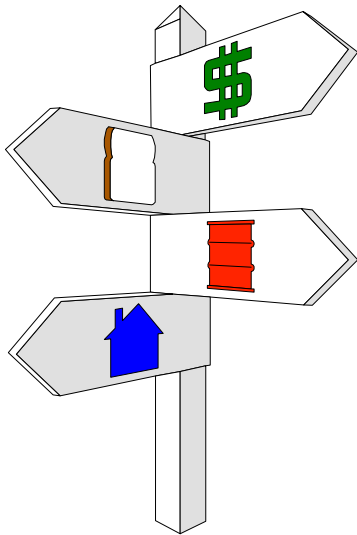
The Lord has blessed us in so many ways. He is our Father. We need to always be thankful for what He has done for us and what he will do for us.

When we do what He asks us to do, it is counted to us for righteousness. We are the sheep of His pasture - we are His children. Let us bless His name.

Obedience is a requirement for us. We obey Him because we love Him. We obey Him because He is our Father. He has given us His truth in His Word, the Bible. We are told that His truth endureth to all generations.

Jesus will soon return again to this earth. He, too, does the will of His Father. He died for us so that we could be made sinless - not because we are worthy, but because God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to die for us. Jesus died for God's children. Are you one of them? Will you be caught up to meet the Lord in the air when Jesus returns.

Thank you Lord for being so merciful to us. Thank you Lord, we praise your name. Thank you Lord for promising your children eternal life. Thank you that your truth is everlasting. Thank you for your Son. Thank you, Lord, that you hear our prayers and answer them.



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

WHEN JUST ONE CHURCH ISN'T ENOUGH

Teens are making their own decisions about what they want from their worship experience and where they go to get it

**by Neela Banerjee
New York Times**

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. - At 11 a.m. on a recent Sunday, Emily Hoogenboom, 14, was at church, her second that morning.

First, she dutifully sat through a staid worship at Forest Ridge Community Church, which she attends with her family. Now she was with her 17-year-old friend and 4,000 other worshippers at an evangelical megachurch listening to six singers backed by a band and a swaying choir of 250 people.

Like Emily, a number of Christians are regularly attending different churches in the course of a week or a month, picking and choosing among programs and services, to satisfy social and spiritual needs. They are comfortable participating not only in multiple churches, but also occasionally in multiple faiths.

The practice is particularly pronounced among young

people. Everyone in a family may attend one church for a service on Sunday, but the children then go their own way to youth groups, for example. In a survey of 13- to 17-year olds conducted from 2002 through 2003, the National Study of Youth and Religion found that 16 percent of respondents attend more than one religious congregation. Four percent attend youth groups outside their congregations.

Some critics, particularly conservative evangelicals and the ministers of various denominations, decry such practices as a consumerist approach to faith. But sociologists of religion say it is a growing practice and reflection of how American students are less attached to a historical, family denomination.

Parents also want their children to have an "authentic" relationship to faith, and "if you don't choose it, it's not authentic for you," said Christian Smith, a professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina and director of the survey on youth and religion.

Emily and her parents, who are evangelical Christians, say her decision to attend the megachurch, New Life, reveals the strength of her faith and the profoundly individual spiritual course each believer follows.

"I saw that my parent's relationship to Christ and my relationship to Jesus Christ were different, and my kids

aren't going to relate to Jesus Christ the same way we do," said Tracy Hoogenboom, 49, Emily's mother. And that's to be expected because Jesus Christ is your own personal Lord and Savior."

It remains unclear how many Christians attend several churches regularly. Most youths who go outside their family church are Protestants, from mainline denomination and evangelical churches alike. Some are from mixed-religion marriages, Smith said, but many go simply because a second church appeals to them.

"We see it all the time, everywhere," said Jose Zayaa, director of teenage evangelism for Focus on the family, a conservative Christian group based in Colorado Springs. "They gravitate to where they feel a connection. They're more pragmatic than their parent's generation. They look at what works for them. I think it's healthy."

At New Life, led by Ted Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, the youth-group sessions feel like rock concerts: T-shirts are on sale outside, and bands are onstage, grinding their way through screaming songs of praise for Christ while youths dance before them. Friends often lead other teenagers to new churches, said sociologists and adolescents themselves.

Though Emily's family had attended New Life when she was in grade school, she visited the church again in junior high at the invitation of a friend, largely because Emily said she was unhappy with the popular but catty girl she had become. She stayed because the youth pastor's sermons made sense there.

"That was just the biggest thing for me: that you don't have to be perfect, that God loves you not for what you do and for this body that we have only for a short time, but for your heart and soul and how you are inside," Emily said of what she had heard.

"Every time I went to church," she continued, "I felt God loved me, that I don't have to worry about sin because he forgives me. So I looked forward to going back. I don't really understand all of it. But I have the passion to learn more."

Many children in evangelical families also see the example their parents have set, leaving the denominations they grew up in to embrace evangelical Christianity as young adults.

"I left the church of my upbringing to find Christ on my own," said Chad Wight, whose 15-year-old daughter, Hannah, attends Pulpit Rock Church here with her family, but also goes to a youth group at Woodsmen Valley Chapel, both nondenominational evangelical churches.

Wight said his family looked for a church that would nourish his children.

"Their spiritual health is really important right now," Wight said, "and if they continue their walk with the Lord, that's crucial."

Parents largely accept their children's choices, as long as the churches espouse a similar theology, said Nancy L. Eiesland, associate professor of sociology of religion at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. "Many of them are happy their kids will go to anything in their teenage years," Eiesland said.

As a hub of evangelical Christianity, Colorado Springs offers many churches that preach similar doctrines, like the inerrancy of the Bible and the need for a personal relationship with Christ. But here and elsewhere, many devout Christians, especially clergy, take commitment to a particular church very seriously.

"If families spread their loyalties around, it's been my experience that they don't benefit as well as they could," said Peter Beringer, a youth pastor at Pulpit Rock Church, which has about 1,000 adults in attendance every Sunday. "They don't seem to have relationships in the church that are as deep. From what I have seen of students who have done this, they find it easier to disengage and be the kid on the fringes."

Hannah Wight, a soft-spoken girl who deliberates over her words, stands by her choice. She said she felt more connected to Woodmen Valley after attending a series there that helped kids discern their "spiritual gifts," like the desire to serve.

"The message spoke to me a lot," Hannah said. As for attending two churches, she said, "It's not hard for me at all because I feel like my needs are being fulfilled."

Still, her parents said, people note Hannah's less than regular appearances at the family's primary church, Pulpit Rock. And her 13-year-old brother, Brian, does not understand her decision.

"I will defend her when necessary, but overall I'm on

their side," Brian said, referring to how others at Pulpit Rock have reacted to Hannah's choice. "I don't know why she has to make things inconvenient for the rest of us or why she picked that church when she has been going to Pulpit Rock as long as the rest of us."

Emily Hogenboom said she went to Forest Ridge largely out of respect for her parents, whose friends founded it about five years ago. But when Emily steps into New Life, she embraces a second family. Other youths come and hug her. They hug all the time, boys and girls showing affection for one another without risking trouble.

One Wednesday evening, boys in thrift store jackets and porkpie hats, pale Goth devotees and petite girls with the same mascara, lip gloss and tight flared jeans about 250 teenagers, in all, streamed into New Life for their youth group. By the hall entrance, Chad Fritzsche, 17, and Ester Sfor, 15, two of Emily's friends who also attend New Life on their own, were playing guitar and singing songs they had written.

Youth pastor Brent Parsley entered on a sleigh dressed as a hip-hop Santa. "I'm going to break it down for you, Clarence," Parsley told an actor in the Christmas play. "Christmas ain't about presents, yo! The true meaning of Christmas is my main man: J.C."

At this unbuttoned church, teenagers channel the rolling passion typical of their age into devotion. And Parsley egged them on. He told them in an overcaffeinated tempo that God has much in store for them. He reminded them that David was young when he slew Goliath and that Mary was probably quite young when she bore Jesus.

"God loves to use young people I want all of us to live our lives as if God had something extraordinary planned for us," he said. "Don't dream small."

Comment

The above article shows the religious confusion that exists among today's Christian young people. Why do young people feel comfortable traveling from church to church? It seems to this writer that the answer is to satisfy the flesh. They have a longing for a good feeling and the friendship of those who are their age. It is good to have friends and associate with those of the same age, but each young person must decide what he or she be-

lieves.

A person cannot follow two faiths. Trying to do so causes much confusion! God's word tells us that there is only one faith. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one Faith, one baptism, One God and the Father of all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). If the one faith mentioned in the word of God is followed, each child of God will experience the same spiritual course!

A young person can best develop an authentic relationship to faith if the relationship of the parents is authentic.

It is true that Jesus Christ is our own personal Lord and Savior, but we must all do what He tells us to do.

It is possible that God has some good things in store for the youth, but these things will only bless those who are of a sincere heart. Those who follow the philosophy of what works for them" must consider Proverbs 16:25, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death."

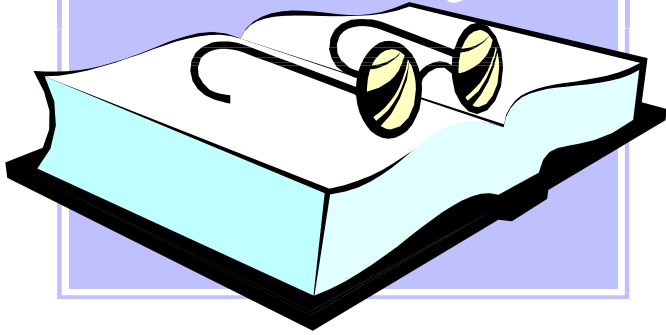
We must not confuse faith with feeling!

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper this year will be held on Wednesday evening, April 12, 2006 (Roman time) after sundown. This is the beginning of April 13th (Bible time). The foot washing is done at the beginning of the service before the emblems of the unleavened bread and grapejuice are taken. Soon it will be time to make yourself ready to partake of this wonderful service.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: What is real repentance?

Answer: Repentance is not turning over a new leaf as many believe. It is not resolving to do better. King Herod had good desires and did many things at the preaching of John the Baptist. "For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and a holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly" (Mark 6:20).

Repentance is not being almost persuaded to become a child of God. Many, like King Agrippa, have been almost persuaded to yield to Jesus Christ and the word of God, and yet did not repent. "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to become a Christian" (Acts 26:28).

Repentance is not trembling under the truth. Thousands are lost, who like Felix, trembled under these teaching light of the Word of God. He wanted a convenient season in which to repent, but it never came. "And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 25:24-25).

Repentance is not remorse of conscience or anguish of mind. Many people like Judas Ischariot, commit suicide rather than face or confess and make right their wrongs. "And he cast down the pieces of silver in the

temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself" (Matthew 27:5).

Repentance is not desiring to be religious in view of sickness, death or some great calamity. Many seem to repent on such occasions, but forget their vows when danger is past.

Crying over lost loved ones or dear friends and wishing to be with them again in the kingdom is not repentance.

Going to the altar, weeping and praying through until you feel better is not repentance. Many mistake this for conversion, but notice that this practice is not even Scriptural.

Relief of conscience because you think you have done your duty is not repentance.

Doing some good deed in order to show others how good you are, and atoning for disobedience of God's Word is not repentance.

Reformation is not repentance. This is about all the modern revivalists accomplish. They get souls to break off some of their sins, accept the Lord Jesus as their saviour, join a church, and try to live a life worthy of eternal life.

Real repentance is first being sorry for our sins and then asking God to forgive us. We do not continue in sin, but we keep the commandments of God and follow the testimony of Jesus Christ. The Words of the Father and Son are life. Jesus told us that if we wish to enter into

eternal life, we must keep the Commandments. We must keep all of them - not just eight, or seven, or two of them but all of them. Repentance is being sorry for having broken the Commandments and having "Godly sorrow" for every sin and forsaking every sin. Sin is the transgression of the Law. "And every man that hath his hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him": (I John 3:3-6). Not only must we get rid of the sins of breaking God's Holy Laws, but we must divest ourselves of gambling, drinking, swearing and using the tongue for ugly language and disrespect for people. We must get rid of the tobacco habits, and any habit that is not convenient, such as overeating and being immoderate. We must practice to be modest, abstain from all foolishness, and worldly activities. All must be given to make repentance complete.

Real repentance implies restitution. If anyone in the past has been injured, defrauded, or taken advantage of in any way, he is eagerly sought after, forgiveness asked, restitution made, old accounts settled, grudges and jealousy washed away and put prejudices are laid aside forever, not to be found again. Such repentance prepares the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus. Your own spirit will witness to the fact that you have done all you could and all in your power to be obedient to the Divine directives and Laws. Do not stop short of the witness of God's Spirit that all is forgiven and put under the blood of Jesus.

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

Question: Is it true that Satan has the ability to read our minds?

Answer: Scripture indicates that only God has the ability

to read our minds. "Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)" (I Kings 8:39). God is portrayed in Scripture as being omniscient. "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and know me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thoughts afar off. Thou compasseth my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether" (Psalm 139:1-4). This proves that He certainly knows our thoughts. By contrast, Satan is a creature with limitations. It is true that Satan is a highly intelligent being. "Son of man, take up lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (Ezekiel 28:12). Satan has had many years of experience in dealing with human beings and therefore may give the appearance of knowing your thoughts. Satan is also the head of a vast network of fallen angels who answer to him. "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon (Satan); and the dragon (Satan) fought and his angel's" (Revelation 4:7). This may also give the appearance of Satan being omniscient. Again let us remember that he is just a creature with limitations! There is no indication in Scripture that he has the capability of reading our minds.

Question: Where can I find the phrase, "Money is the root of all evil," in the Bible?

Answer: This phrase is a misquotation of the Apostle Paul's words in I Timothy 6:9-10: "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

The discussion in these verses is about covetousness, an addictive love of money, not about possessing money itself. The passage does not even condemn the rich but rather they who will be rich at any cost.

In the Bible, sins are seldom defined in terms of concrete nouns, particular things to be avoided. Rather they are described as verbs, actions and attitudes to be avoided - especially the misuse of things and people.



Honduras



In the temple in
Santa Fe,
Honduras,
October, 2005.



In the temple in
Santa Fe,
Honduras, C.A.
October, 2005



From left to right: Lilliana
Martinez, Patty Ulloa,
Israel Martinez, and
Dennis Ulloa.
Santa Fe, Honduras
October, 2005



An inside look of the
temple in Santa Fe.
It is a good size temple to
shelter two hundred
people.

AFTER A SABBATH
SERVICE IN SANTA
FE
HONDURAS, C.A.
OCT. 2005





WITH THE MINISTERS BOARD AFTER A MEETING
COMAYAGUELA, HONDURAS, C.A.
OCTOBER 2005

YOUNG PEOPLE
TEMPLE IN SANTA FE, COMAYAGUELA, HONDURAS, C.A.



LESSON I

THE NUMBERING OF ISRAEL CAUSED
PESTILENCE ON THE PEOPLE

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 24:11-25.

Golden text: II Samuel 24:15.

"So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned about David numbering the people of Israel. God regarded this act as a sin and will punish the people. Let us now study how God punishes Israel and what David does to help.

1. The Lord sent Gad to David. What message did he bring? II Samuel 24:11-13.
2. What was David's reply to Gad? II Samuel 24:14.
3. What did the Lord send upon the people of Israel? II Samuel 24:15-16.
4. Did David plead with the Lord to spare the people? II Samuel 24:17.
5. What did the Lord then command David to do, and did he now obey the Lord? II Samuel 24:18-19.
6. Who does David meet, and what does David want with him? II Samuel 24:20-21.
7. What did Araunah say to David, and what was David's reply? II Samuel 24:22-24.
8. Was Israel spared from the plague? II Samuel 24:25.

LESSON II

SOLOMON'S CHOICE OF WISDOM

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 1:1-17.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 1:10.

"Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?"

NOTE: We are not going to study the two books of I and II Kings at present, but are beginning with II Chronicles. I Chronicles is in part the same as II Samuel which we have just studied. II Chronicles which we are beginning is almost the same as I and II Kings. After the death of David, Solomon is anointed king of Israel. We are going to study the life of Solomon, and about the wonderful temple which he built.

1. Who was Solomon? Was the Lord with him? II Chronicles 1:1.
2. Where did Solomon and all the congregation of Israel go in II Chronicles 1:2-3?
3. Where was the ark of God at this time? II Chronicles 1:4.
4. How many offerings did Solomon make upon the altar before the Lord? II Chronicles 1:5-6.
5. When God appeared unto Solomon, what did He ask of Him? II Chronicles 1:7-10.
6. Did God grant his request? II Chronicles 1:11-12.
7. When Solomon returned to Jerusalem, what did he do? II Chronicles 1:13-17.

LESSON III

SOLOMON PLANS TO BUILD THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 2:1-18.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 2:9.

"Even to prepare me timber in abundance: for the house which I am about to build shall be wonder-

ful great."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned that Solomon asked God for wisdom and knowledge, and God granted it to him. David wanted to build a temple but was forbidden because he was a man of war. Now let us study about the plans Solomon makes with Hiram.

1. Was Solomon anxious to build a house for the name of the Lord? II Chronicles 2:1.
2. How many workmen did Solomon have, and what were their duties? II Chronicles 2:2.
3. What did Solomon ask of Hiram, the king of Tyre? II Chronicles 2:3.
4. Why did Solomon want to build a house to the name of the Lord? II Chronicles 2:4-6.
5. What did he ask Hiram to send him? II Chronicles 2:7-9.
6. What was Solomon to give Hiram's servants for their labor? II Chronicles 2:10.
7. Did Hiram answer Solomon? What did he say? II Chronicles 2:11-14.
8. Solomon numbered all the strangers in the land of Israel. How many were there? What were they to do in helping to build the temple? II Chronicles 2:17-18.

LESSON IV

SOLOMON BEGINS TO BUILD THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 3:1-17.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 3:2.

"And he began to build in the second day of the second month, in the fourth year of his reign."

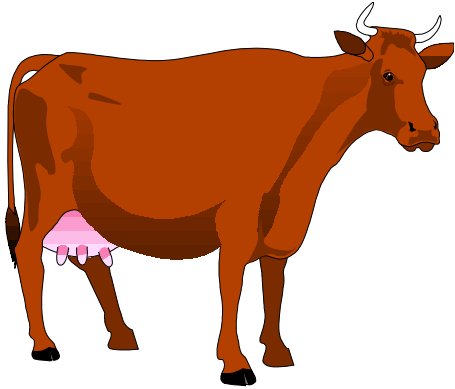
NOTE: Solomon, the son of David, is now reigning over

Israel. He has asked God to give him wisdom and understanding, and God promises to supply him. Hiram, the king of Tyre, promised to help Solomon build the temple by supplying workmen and materials needed. Now let us see how Solomon begins to build the temple.

1. Where was the temple to be located? II Chronicles 3:1.
 2. In what year of his reign was the temple begun? II Chronicles 3:2.
 3. What were the measurements of the house of God to be? II Chronicles 3:3-4.
- NOTE:** A cubit is 17.5 inches and a score is 20. Solomon's temple was then 87.5 feet long, 29.2 feet wide and 175 feet high.
4. With what precious stones was the house garnished? II Chronicles 3:5-6.
 5. What covering did he place on the posts and walls? II Chronicles 3:7-8.
 6. What was the weight of the nails? What else was overlaid with gold? II Chronicles 3:9-10.
 7. Describe the wings of the cherubim, (angels). II Chronicles 3:11-14.
 8. How large were the pillars, and what was on top of each one? II Chronicles 3:15-16.
 9. What did he call the pillars on the left and right? II Chronicles 3:17.

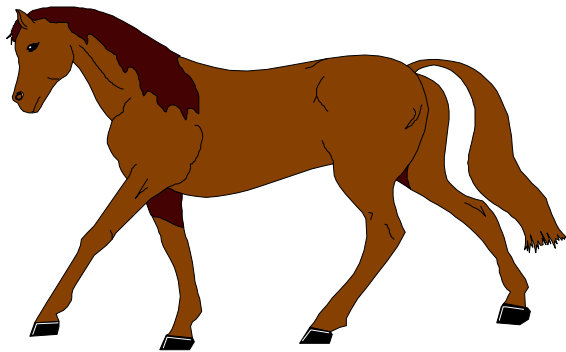
Answers to Jumble Words:

Counsel, ungodly, scornful, meditate, river, fruit, season, leaf, whither, congregation, righteous.



JANIE'S FEAR

By Elisabeth DeLong Schupbach (deceased)



Janie was afraid of animals. No one in the family had any idea why, either. But every time she came across an animal she had never seen before, she would run, crying. The first time she had gone to help Daddy in the barn, she had been frightened by one of the cows. The first time Mother had sent her to the chicken coop with some food she had dropped the food and ran screaming to the house when one of the bolder chickens had darted up to her to get the first chance at the food.

Mother and Daddy were puzzled. Finally Daddy said, "I'll just have to take her to the barn and show her that there is nothing to be afraid of." So Daddy took her by the hand and brought her to the barn. Soon he had Janie becoming acquainted with the family cow and petting it. Next came the chickens. They were a little harder to get used to because of the way they rushed up if they thought you had food for them. But after several visits to the chicken coop, Janie asked Mother if she could feed them.

But she was still afraid of the wild animals and since she lived in the country, this got to be something of a problem. One day she refused to go into a room because she saw a deer out of the window. And at night she would sometimes come down saying she was afraid. Mother tried to tell her there was nothing to be afraid of, but this did not stop her. One evening the summer Mother and Dad had to go out for a little while. Paul and Elsie were left in charge. It was just a little after sundown - the time when it was not really dusk outside yet, and the little children were all in bed. Then Janie came down crying and saying she was afraid. Elsie tried to talk with her, but it did not seem to help. So asking Paul to watch the house alone for a little while, Elsie took Janie by the hand and started off for the pasture. She talked as they walked and told Janie about how Jesus had made all the animals and that even if any animal would want to hurt her, her guardian angel would not let that happen.

Soon they had gone through the pasture, and Elsie led Janie on into the woods. How peaceful and still everything was. The birds were twittering their sleepy good nights at intervals, and a soft breeze occasionally stirred the leaves and made a rustling sound. Elsie did not go too far into the woods because it was getting dark, and she wanted to be sure she was able to see the way home, but she went just far enough to show Janie that the woods were her friends, and there was nothing in them that would harm her, especially since her guardian angel was near.

She knew, of course, that she had to be careful not to pick up strange animals or to step on snakes because they would think you meant them harm, and they might bite. Animals do not understand that people want to play with them. They are afraid of people and try to hide from such big creatures. So Elsie told Janie she must only look if she saw an animal and not get too close because then it would be her fault if she got bitten or scratched. But otherwise there was nothing to be afraid of in the beautiful woods.

Soon they were home again, and with a smile and a good night Janie was off to bed - and soon to sleep. Now she knew there was nothing to be afraid of with Jesus watching over her.

Good-bye for now and remember - Jesus watches over you too.

"LOVE" VERSES

Here are some familiar verses that speak of love. Can you supply the missing word?

1. "Better is a dinner of _____ where love is..."
2. "Many _____ cannot quench love..."
3. "And to know the love of Christ which passeth _____".
4. "But speaking the _____ in love".
5. "For God hath not given us the spirit of _____; but of power and of love."
6. "We are more than _____ through him that loved us."
7. "_____ no man anything, but to love one another."
8. "Putting on the _____ of faith and love."
9. "As many as I love, I _____ and chasten."
10. "...Love covereth all _____."

How God can stretch a loving hand
 I do not know how it is so,
 That streams of living water flow
 From me.

I do not know how it could be
 That Christ the Lord is seen
 In me.

I do not fully understand
 How the love of God can be seen
 Through me.

But I don't have to see or know,
 Enough that He has said it's so
 For me.

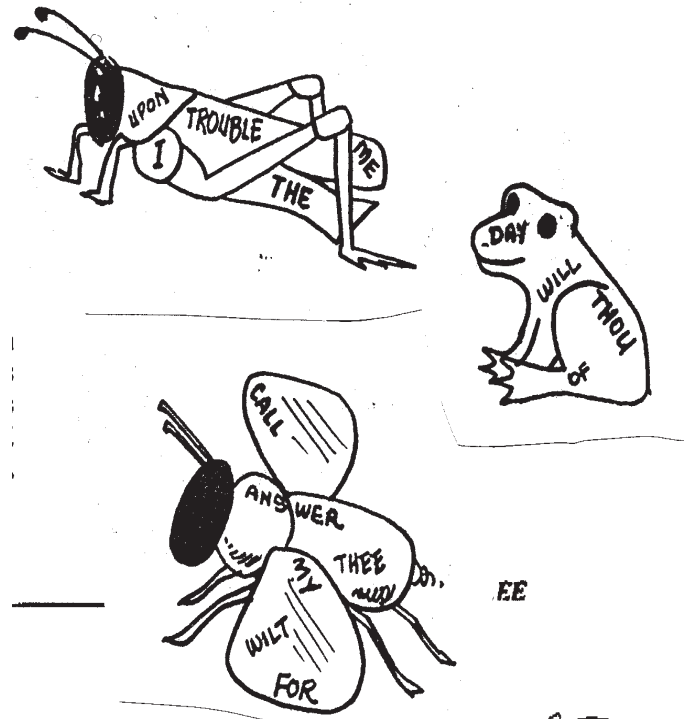
Answers to "Love" verses

1. herbs, Proverbs 15:17
2. waters, Song of Solomon 8:7
3. knowledge, Ephesians 3:19
4. truth, Ephesians 4:15
5. fear, II Timothy 1:7
6. conquerors, Romans 8:37
7. Owe, Romans 13:8
8. breastplate, I Thessalonians 5:8
9. rebuke, Revelation 3:19
10. sins, Proverbs 10:12

1. BIBLE READING TIME - In Exodus 7:10-25 we read about Moses going before the king to persuade him to let the people go and worship. Answer the questions TRUE or FALSE.

- a. Moses cast down his rod before the king and it became a serpent. _____
- b. The wise men tried the same thing and failed. _____
- c. Aaron's rod swallowed up the magicians' rods. _____
- d. When Pharaoh saw this, he allowed the people to go. _____
- e. Moses smote the waters, and they turned to blood. _____
- f. The magicians of Egypt could do the same thing. _____
- g. All the Egyptians had to dig for water for they could not drink the river water. _____
- h. Pharaoh allowed the people to go when he saw this. _____

2. MEMORY TIME - Instead of turning to the Lord for help, Pharaoh kept on in his own way. He got into more and more trouble. In the picture below you will see some of the plagues represented which God sent to the disobedient people of Egypt. In them are the words for the review of Psalm 86:7. Write the verse.





Come To Him Today

By Del DeLong

*Our Lord reflects upon the day,
In Olive's path, He kneels to pray,
As others sleep on down the way.
The tears, they fall as if to say,
Come help the Master through this day,
But all alone, He must stay -
Until the bitter end, He'll pay,
For each and every sin today.*

*'Tis now our sins have gone away,
If we will take the time to pray,
And accept Him in our heart today,
And ask forgiveness, He will say,
Your sin's forgiven, and washed away.
Stay true to God until that day,
When Jesus catches His saints away,
To be with Him on earth for aye.*