



The Advocate of Truth

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The Lord's Supper this year is on Tuesday evening, April 7, 2020, after sundown (Roman time), the beginning of April 8, (Bible time).

Serenity is....
Knowing whatever life throws me,
all is well with my soul.



A SONG TO REMEMBER

By David Royer

Horatio Spafford, an avid Bible reader, attorney, and real estate investor, sent his family on a Trans-Atlantic cruise to Europe for a family vacation with the understanding that he would join them in England after completing pending business issues.

The ill-fated ship wrecked while at sea, and all four of Horatio's daughters drowned along with 222 other passengers and crew. His wife, Anna, was one of only 27 who was rescued, having been kept afloat by a piece of debris. While traveling on another steamship to unite with his grieving wife, he was alerted by the Captain that, at that present time, they were over the location of his family's death. While looking down into the 300 ft. of ocean depth, Horatio's life changed forever. That night he wrote the following:

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should

*come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

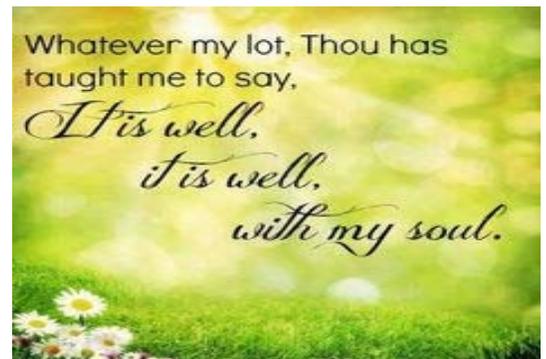
*My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
"Even so" it is well with my soul.*

With music composed by Philip Bliss, this hymn titled: "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL" has become one of the most popular hymns to address human tragedy with assurance. Much like Job in the Bible, Horatio placed his trust in God; not only during the good times but also during its catastrophes. Both were tested in their devotion and fortitude of the human will. Rather than curse God for his misfortune, Horatio understood that in spite of gut-wrenching losses, your soul can still be ok because of the assurance of God's amazing grace.

GOD'S GRACE

Webster's New World College Dictionary provides this theological definition of grace: "The unmerited love and favor of God toward human beings; divine influence acting in a person to make the person pure, morally strong; the condition of a person brought to God's favor through this influence; a special virtue, gift, or help given to a person by God."



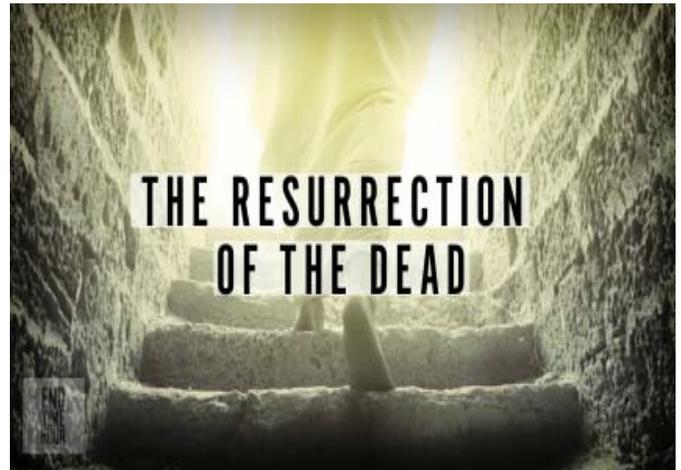
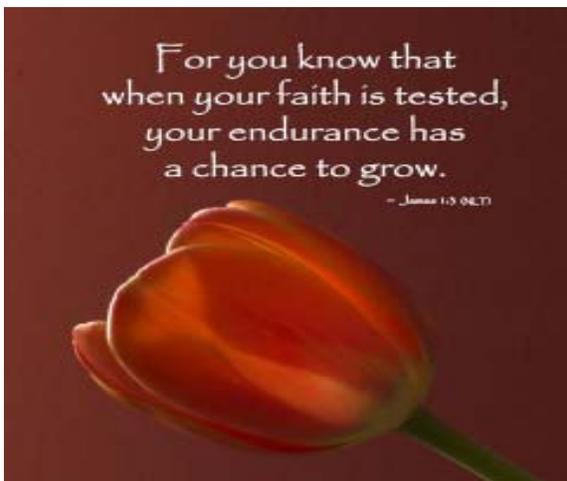
Our Bible provides further direction:

James 4:6 & 10. 6. "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." 10. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

II Thessalonians 2:16-17 "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace; Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

So, the grace of God is a freely given gift. Humility allows us to receive His grace, and it is through grace that God consoles us and gives us the gifts of comfort, love, and peace--a peace that does not come from an outside source, but it comes from faith in Jesus Christ.

When you sing this hymn or hear the memorable refrain: "It is well....with my soul", think of the inspiring story behind the words and the author's example of continued faith and trust in God. Despite the tragedies we see and experience every day in this world, both our life and our suffering are not pointless, thanks to God's love and grace. Brothers and Sisters, let us endure "unto the end." Matthew 24:13 "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."



By Carlo Rasmussen (*deceased*)

One of the fundamental and unique teachings of the Holy Scriptures is the resurrection of the dead from the grave. The teaching of a bodily resurrection can be found in the Old Testament, as well as in the New Testament writings. The belief in a resurrection is a hope of every child of God.

Of all the major religions in the world, the Holy Scriptures is the only one which contains the doctrine of a bodily resurrection. In the other religions, we find the teaching of re-incarnation and other teachings of life after death. There is also the belief that once a person has lived his life, there is no more to expect. When we consider these thoughts for a minute, it becomes hard to understand that we would live only a few years, and then die with nothing to look forward to. Life would certainly be most miserable if that is all there was to it. Thanks be to God there is something more to look forward to, and if we will look into the Bible, then we will find it.

The man Job said: "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, TILL MY CHANGE COME" (Job 14:14). He continued in chapter 19, verse 26 by saying: "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet IN MY FLESH SHALL I SEE GOD". Job believed he would be brought back out of the grave when his change comes, and in his flesh, he shall see the Lord God face to face. The prophets of the Old Testament also believed and taught the resurrection of the dead. Isaiah is quoted as saying: "...Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the

dead...For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain" (Isaiah 26:19, 21). (This takes place when Jesus returns to earth again). In speaking about Israel, the prophet Hosea writes that the Lord will "...ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death..." (Hosea 13:14, first part). This very prophecy would be fulfilled through the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the First-fruits from the grave to immortality (I Corinthians 15:23).

It is a strange truth to note that though Israel was chosen by God and given everything in full measure spiritually, many of them did not take God at His Word. At the time when Jesus was here, there were those who did not accept the teaching of a resurrection from the grave. The Sadducees were a group who said, "there is no resurrection." Some who study the Scriptures think this may have come because there was no mention of a resurrection in the laws of Moses, therefore the doctrine was not valid. The Sadducees tempted Jesus on this doctrine when they inquired of Him about marriage in the resurrection. Jesus answered their question and informed them that they had "...not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living" (Matthew 22:31-32). These words astonished the multitude who heard it. Along with the assurance from our Lord about the resurrection, we are also given a small insight as to how the righteous will appear in the resurrection. Jesus stated that His saints will be "...as the angels of God in heaven" (Matthew 22:30). The first apostles, who were with Jesus, saw Him after His resurrection and beheld Him in His glory. They knew that one day they also would be saints in this same manner, as John testifies in his first letter where he writes, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2).

The bodily resurrection, of which Jesus was first, is part of the testimony which the apostles were to carry out to the world. When the apostles came together for the purpose of replacing the vacancy left by Judas, one of the requirements for that replacement was "...to be a witness

with us of his resurrection" (Acts 1:22). From an actual witness, the preaching would be more effective upon those who never heard. We know that "...the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:26).

After the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit of God descended upon those who were gathered together, the actual witness of Jesus Christ to the world began. Part of that witness was of His resurrection to give hope to all who would believe. The effect of their witness through the indwelling Spirit was tremendous, for it "...turned the world upside down..." as we read in Acts 17:6. The revelation of the resurrection of the dead caused quite a stir among those who heard it. "...Some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter" (Acts 17:32). Among the nation of Israel, the doctrine of the resurrection brought about much controversy. This was noted especially between the Pharisees and Sadducees. Between the teaching of the resurrection and the witnessing against the ceremonial laws of Moses, much hatred was brought upon the early church, and this resulted in the loss of life to some of the faithful. The early acts of Saul, who later was named Paul, bear witness to the degree of hatred held by many in Israel to the early Church of God.

The teaching of the resurrection remains the same today. In these latter times of this age, there are some who profess to know the Lord Jesus Christ and yet deny the resurrection of the dead. By denying the resurrection, one is also denying the Lord Himself, in part. Many who claim to recognize Christ and His Word, do not accept the Bible fact of remaining in the grave bodily. There is a teaching that a portion within the person departs the body and goes to heaven where the Father and Son are. This portion (whatever it may be) remains there and returns again when Jesus makes His second coming. Many think this portion to be the mind of the dead, or their thoughts. The Holy Bible does not uphold this belief. The Psalmist writes that when a man dies, "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:4). This is a fact of Scripture and remains true for all mankind. The first man, Adam, is dead and in his grave today, and everyone, who has lived and died since Adam, are also in this condition. John 3:13 states that "...no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that

came down from heaven..." The Bible carries no record where Jesus' thoughts or mind were in heaven while His body remained in the tomb for the three days and three nights. (It was only the breath of life that left Jesus' body at the cross when He gave up the ghost). This is all that God takes when we die and no more. It is the breath of life that was breathed into Adam, that made Adam a living soul. If God is a God of the living, then there must be a resurrection of the dead back to life, hence the importance of a resurrection.

The Scriptures speak of two kinds of resurrections. There is the resurrection of the righteous and the resurrection of the wicked. Daniel writes that "...many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2). This is further verified by Jesus when He said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29). By these words, we know that all mankind, who have died through the ages, will be resurrected from the dead. Those who have followed the Lord, and are His, will be resurrected at Jesus' appearing first. This is the first resurrection. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection..." (Revelation 20:6). Those faithful, who are alive at Jesus' appearing will be changed "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye..." (I Corinthians 15:51-52). All of those people who are caught up will live and reign "...with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4).

The Apostle Paul considered the doctrine of the resurrection of so much importance that he even goes so far as to say, "But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain...ye are yet in your sins...we are of all men most miserable. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished" (I Corinthians 15:13-14,17,19,18). Yet this is the doctrine that is scarcely ever mentioned or even referred to in the pulpits of today's churches. Well did Adam Clarke say, "There is not a doctrine of the gospel on which more STRESS is laid, and there is not a doctrine in the present system of preaching which is treated with more neglect." Now the question we wish to try to answer is this: What

is meant in the Bible by the word "Resurrections?" Many people think that a resurrection is simply the dead coming back to life again. But a little bit of thinking will convince you that such an answer is far from satisfactory. There have been a few resurrections recorded in the Bible, in the Old and New Testaments, where people were brought back to life again. But we distinctly read: "Christ...the first that should rise from the dead..." (Acts 26:23; Colossians 1:18). But people such as the widow's son, Dorcas, the man laid into Elisha's grave, Jairus' daughter, etc. were instances of being physically dead, and then came back to physical life and still under the domination of death. They were not born of the Spirit of God. When Jesus was resurrected, He came forth by the power of the Holy Spirit to "...shew light unto the people..." (Acts 26:23). Those who are resurrected by the power of the Spirit of God (Romans 8:11) CANNOT DIE (Luke 20:35-36). They, like Jesus, are raised up from the dead, no more to return to corruption, and death hath no more dominion over them (Acts 13:32; Romans 6:9). This is the same as Christ was raised to bring light to the people of the kingdom.

To all who study the Bible in Spirit and in Truth, there is no question about the resurrection of the dead. The prophets and texts of the Old Testament reveal resurrection. The words of Jesus and the writings of the apostles, which are in the New Testament, also provide plenty of proof concerning the doctrine of the resurrection. The greatest of all proof, however, is that Living Proof sitting at the right hand of the heavenly Father, who is waiting to be sent again to earth to receive unto Himself all the saints who are sleeping in the dust of the earth. The righteous dead will be resurrected, and the righteous living will be changed into immortality where they will ever be with the Lord. Through the resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ became triumphant over death and the grave. Here lies our hope and the hope of all who have believed and followed according to the Holy Scriptures. Let us all, who live now, follow the Lord through the pages of His Living Word, so we may come forth and be changed at His appearing, that we may ever be with the Lord.

**He that hath an ear,
let him hear.**

A Sabbath School Lesson

IMITATE CHRIST

Memory verse: “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Philippians 2:3).

Scripture reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Our memory verse emphasizes the importance of humility as a critical element in being acceptable to God. Humility is also necessary to promote unity of the Spirit among the brethren. Such a proper spirit will greatly assist us in keeping strife and vainglory from entering our fellowship.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8).

The foregoing passage tells of the Master’s humility which we should imitate. As believers, we must let no element of pride prevent us from reaching out to all of our brethren in any way possible. During His last night on earth, Jesus prayed for the oneness that should exist among His followers. “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are” (John 17:11).

Here the Master’s petition acknowledges that His physical presence with His disciples is soon to end. He desires that God’s protection and providences would be upon them. Jesus prayed that they would be kept together in unity of heart, mind and spirit, and also in the unity of the faith.

We should always be supportive of our brethren in their Christian endeavors, and when at all possible meet together so we can encourage one another. If we can appreciate the fact that we have fellow body members who have the same goal as ourselves, we can be a blessing one to another during our earthly journey.

Let us resolve to be more faithful in our endeavors to imitate the Master’s conduct while He was on earth by submitting to the will of His heavenly Father.

FREELY GIVE

Reprinted

One of the virtues of a child of God is GIVING. The stewardship of tithing is not to be confused with voluntary action in either the Old or New Testaments. The word used in Aramaic is NADAV and applies to the offerings of the tabernacle, temple, and synagogue, which were all given willingly. Exodus 25:2 states: “Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it WILLINGLY with his heart ye shall take my offering.” The same word “nadav” is also used in Exodus 35:2.

This word has an interesting appearance in I Chronicles 29:5-6: “... who then is WILLING to consecrate (to fill his hand) his service this day unto the LORD?” This is David speaking to his people asking for volunteers to fill their hands with the essentials to build a house for God. Many and happy have been the experiences of saints freely giving their time and substance to help build or enlarge God’s house.

II Chronicles 35 tells of the unusual offering of Josiah and his princes at the time of the Passover. Verse 8 tells us: “And his princes gave WILLINGLY unto the people, to the priests, and to the Levites...” This is another voluntary action – not like the tithing commandment – as the word NADAV indicates.

Other occurrences of the Word are: “...up hold me with thy free (willing) spirit” (Psalm 51:12). Thank God for His willingness to do this for His own! Literally this passage can read like this: “Sustain me in an unconstrained spirit of devotion.” The LXX rendering for this is, “With thy guiding or ruling spirit.” The word, NADAV, having the basic meaning of voluntary action, leaves us with the blessed thought that God is willing and able to uphold us. The same word is translated, voluntary, in Ezekiel 46:12, “Now when the prince shall prepare a voluntary burnt-offering ...” In Hosea 14:4 we have, “...I will love them

freely...”

On the surface, as seen in Romans 12:1-2 and Psalm 110:3 there would be a connection. However, an understanding of the word NADAV makes a very clear connection. The Psalm passage predicts: "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power ..." And the Romans text states: "... present your bodies a living sacrifice ..." One authority tells us of Psalms that these words are sometimes taken as referring to God's preventing grace, and they have been cited as justifying a man sitting listlessly under God's Word, awaiting till power comes upon him from above. God forbid! Such an interpretation is held in forgetfulness of the fact that God works through the will, not apart from it, that He turns the lock, but does not force it. Literally, the verse tells us, "Thy people shall offer willingly." The implication is that in the day of the Lord His people shall offer Him unconstrained service, yielding their bodies as living sacrifices unto God. This kind of service is requested by the inspired word of the Apostle for this day of grace also. Those who have sacrificed on a voluntary basis are the happiest people on earth. The love of Christ has constrained them to freely give.

A New Testament passage with the word meaning NADAV is in II Corinthians 8:11-12: "Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." This could be rendered a little more understandable by saying: "... as there was a will to determine, so let there be a carrying out of that determination by a contribution from what you possess, for where there is a real willingness, such a contribution is acceptable, even though small, because it is given according to what a man possesses, not according to what he does not. The point must be made that the will is not accepted in place of the deed, but it is what is given voluntarily, then it is gladly accepted as a gift in proportion to the means of the giver.

One simply cannot give in accordance to this standard – voluntarily of his substance, over and above a tithe – unless his very body is reckoned a living sacrifice. The living sacrifice involves voluntary action. This is the

challenge that faces children of God in this materialistic age. Some are just trying to give sacrifices. Then they are robbing God. The tithe belongs to God immediately as you receive it. You actually have not given freely if the tithe has not been paid. Just paying the tithe does not involve the NADAV determined by God. This is going through the motions without the proper emotions.

In the performance of freely giving let there not be just a volitional act but a voluntary will that shows cheerfulness and living sacrifice. Jesus said: "Freely ye have received, freely give."

ABOUT TRADITION

Bond Tennant

Webster's Dictionary gives one definition of tradition: "The delivery of opinions, doctrines, practices, rites, and customs from ancestors to posterity; the transmission of any opinions or practice from forefathers to descendants by oral communication." This thought is in sharp contrast to the Bible, in which is made clear that religious doctrines, practices, and rites come only by the direct instruction of God, or through His specially chosen instruments.

In the days of the early church, the Apostle Paul found it necessary to counsel the brethren to resist the influence of tradition. He wrote, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

The Apostle Peter wrote, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers" (I Peter 1:18). In this verse, Peter emphasizes that neither the world's wealth nor the foolish conduct enjoined upon them by the traditions received from their fathers had purchased their redemption, but they were redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ" (verse 19).

In Galatians 1:14, Paul speaks of his former zeal for the traditions of his fathers: "And profited in the Jews'

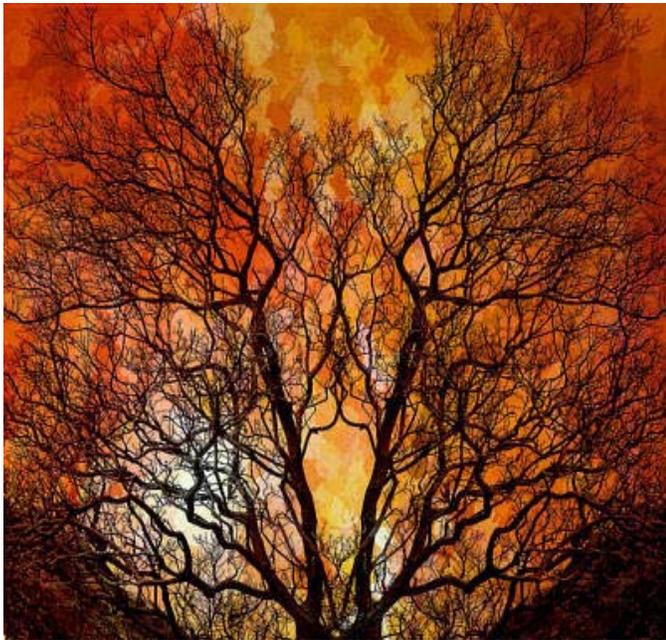
religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.” However, Paul was now zealous only for the Gospel of Christ. This zeal was even greater than it had previously been for tradition.

We have noted that the word “tradition” simply implies the passing along of ideas to others by word of mouth. Therefore, the word itself does not suggest anything necessarily evil. In fact, Paul uses it in reference to his own teachings of the Gospel. He says, “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” “Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us” (II Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6).

In these verses, Paul uses the Greek word translated “traditions” as applying to his own inspired teachings which he had passed on to the brethren by word of mouth and by letter. Since Paul spoke and wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, his teachings were a part of God’s message to His people, and not the opinions of men.

Tradition, unsupported by the teachings of the Bible, no matter how old, how venerable, or how seemingly reasonable, should be given no authority by the dedicated child of God.

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).



THE BURNING BUSH

--Betty Whetstone

Moses had become a shepherd,
Caring for Jethro's many sheep;
He led them to the backside of the desert,
Then up on Mount Horeb to sleep.
The next day as he sought for a pasture,
As the flock up Horeb he did push;
His eyes beheld a wonderous sight,
There before him a burning bush?
"I must go up closer and see this"
Moses thought as he breathed a quick prayer;
And the bush just kept on burning,
But there were no ashes there!
Then a voice from the bush spoke clearly:
"Moses, you are on Holy Ground;
Take off your shoes and come closer,
And a message will surely be found".
God said he must go down to Egypt,
And set free the Israelites there;
No matter about Pharaoh's objections,
For God wasn't leaving them there.
So now Moses had a mission,
Off to Egypt he reluctantly trod;
Tho he really didn't want to do this,
He dared not disobey God.
Now to finish the rest of this story,
Read my poem about the Red Sea;
How it all came about by a fire in a bush,
That Moses was compelled to go see!

Have You Left Your First Love?

By David DeLong

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:1-7).

The Church of God of Ephesus seems almost like a model church. They worked and laboured for the Lord. They had a lot of patience, but could not bear with evil people. They were not fooled by those claiming to be apostles. They even tried these men and found them to be false. They were a church that didn't faint, but continued on steadfastly for the Lord. So, why did the Lord Jesus find fault with this church? It was because they had left their first love.

What is "first love"? Many years ago when I gave my heart to Jesus it seemed like I was floating on "cloud nine" for about three days I was so happy. Later, when I got baptized, I knew that I was forgiven of my sins and my burdens seemed to be all rolled away. It was a great joy that I felt for living for the Lord. Maybe you experienced this great joy, too, when you first came to the Lord. You wanted to please Him in everything you did. Then, your Christian life settled in, and even though you still loved the Lord, perhaps this great joy became a little more sub-

dued. This happens even in marriage. When you are at first dating your beloved, you can't wait to see him or her. When you receive a letter, you read it over and over again, cherishing each word written to you. Then you get married, and life settles in. You still love your spouse, but maybe you take him or her a bit more for granted.

So, how do you know that you have left your first love for the Lord? One way to know this is if reading the Bible becomes a chore, rather than a delight. Remember your beloved's letters sent to you, how you read them over and over again with delight? The Bible is actually God's love letters to us. It is true that some parts of the Bible may be less interesting to us than other parts, such as the "begats". But if you find yourself reading the Bible as a must do, instead of a want to, you may be losing your first love for the Lord. It is a real shame if a disciple of Jesus only reads the Scriptures on Sabbath morning with the Sabbath School lesson or the sermon. Each day should be a time of reading pleasure in the Word of God, and especially on Sabbath afternoons.

The same could be said of going to church. If attending church becomes a big chore, or worse yet, a big bore, then perhaps you are losing your first love for the Lord. You may be thinking, "we do the exact same things every Sabbath, so how can I be excited to go to church?" You make your own excitement by your personal relationship with the Lord. You have come to church to worship the Lord and to fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ, not to be held back by what programs you think you should experience in church.

It is obvious that the Lord wants us to be steadfast workers for Him, not supporting false ministers, and hating the deeds of the wicked. But it is just as true that He wants us to be really close to Him, loving Him like we did when we first gave our lives to Him. Let us examine ourselves to see if we have left our first love for Him.

The Last Shall Be First

By David DeLong

Peter asked the Lord Jesus a direct question in Matthew 19:27, and Jesus' reply came in verses 28-30. "Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first."

For anyone who has forsaken all and followed Jesus, he or she then becomes last because they have put Jesus first. But, these are the only ones who will be in God's kingdom, for Jesus will make them first. Our Lord was the great Example of making Himself last, and putting everyone else first. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5-11).

Someone has said that this is the source of real JOY: putting Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last. If you

have been denied justice, and have been made last in mens' eyes, don't be disturbed. Jesus will make you first if you follow Him. If you are esteemed the least of the Church members, don't fret. Someday you will be first. There is a verse from Isaiah 66:5 which has heartened me. It says: "Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed."

If everyone followed the advice of Philippians 2:3-4 the world would be a much better place. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." By doing this, a believer is actually putting himself, or herself, last and everyone else first. Even our great heavenly Father does something like this. Psalm 113:5-8 reads: "Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; That he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people." The Father made Himself last and everyone else first when He allowed His only begotten Son to die on the cross in our place.

Unfortunately, before conversion, everyone on earth has the inborn tendency to place herself, or himself, first. Most people probably don't even think about it. It just comes naturally. The Holy Spirit helps believers to put themselves last, but even here, they have to consciously cooperate with the Lord or selfish tendencies can take over. Let us strive to be last so the Lord can make us first.

Living Faithfully

By David DeLong

Do you know for sure that you will live faithfully for the Lord under any, and every, circumstance that may come your way? Do you know if you will keep God's commandments at all times, even though everyone else around is not keeping them? You might be thinking, "How can I know what will happen in the future until I get to that point?" Every child of God, with the help of the Lord, needs to settle this issue today. You must not wait until circumstances in the future force you to make the decision to live faithfully for God. You must make that commitment to the Lord now. For without making the commitment to always live faithfully for the Lord, under every circumstance, with His help, you will very likely give in to the temptation to falter on that commitment when things go adversely for you.

My point in all this is that, for instance, if we lose the freedom to worship God as we believe we should, have you made the commitment to live faithfully for the Lord even if we are not guaranteed that right? These conditions could be for every child of God in the world.

Think of the God-given rights that have been taken away from children of God down through the ages. One passage, from the book of Hebrews, shows an example of this. "And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of

cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (Hebrews 11:32-40).

What if you are ever in the situations described above. What if you are tortured, mocked, scourged, in bonds or imprisonments, stoned, to be sawn asunder, tempted, to be slain with a sword, wandering about in sheepskins or goatskins, being destitute, tormented, wandering in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth, all for the Lord's sake. Are you prepared now to do so? Think of not having a warm house in which to live. Think of going hungry unless you renounce the Lord and are accepted by a godless government. These situations may be a reality for God's people in the near future. Have you determined that you will live faithfully for the Lord, with His help, under ANY situation that will confront you?

In the Bible, David is an example of choosing to live in a cave for the Lord's sake. In I Samuel 22:1-2 we find: "David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men." Yes, he was hiding from King Saul, but David could have ended his prob-

lem by killing Saul which he wouldn't do (see I Samuel 24). He was waiting upon the Lord to make him king when the Lord was ready. So, David suffered for the Lord's sake.

The Apostles James and Peter were determined to suffer for the Lord's sake. In Acts 12:1-4 we read: "Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter (Passover) to bring him forth to the people."

The Apostle Paul made the decision to be faithful to the Lord at all costs, and now he could write: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Timothy 4:6-8).

May the Lord help us to make the commitment to Him, with His help, to be willing to live faithfully no matter what!



What You Express, By The Simple Word, 'Yes'

By David DeLong

What you express, by the simple word, 'yes'
Is consent, that is often ignored;
But, this word that's abused, that's so commonly used,
Is a word that is judged by the Lord.

Let your yea be your yea, and your nay be your nay,
Was spoken by Jesus to men;
Could it be that our ear, is unwilling to hear,
Does it need to be spoken again?

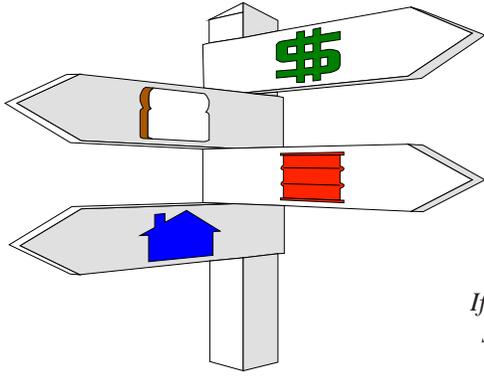
What you express, by the simple word, 'yes'
Is your character, that you will make;
But, much more than that, when you throw in your hat,
That God's character's also at stake.

If Thine Enemy Be Hungry

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee" (Proverbs 25:21-22). In today's "dog eat dog" society, very few individuals want to help someone they consider to be an enemy. Yet, this is the way the Lord says we should treat those who are opposed to us.

First, it will "heap coals of fire upon his head". This is a poetic way of saying it will really affect that person's conscience. He, or she, will feel ashamed of the way they have treated you. And, who knows? Perhaps the enemy will become your friend or better yet, a brother or sister in the Lord.

Second, the Lord "shall reward thee". Whether the enemy changes or not, we have the promise from God that He will reward us for treating our enemy with respect and dignity. What better way is there to react than with kindness toward those who are our enemies?



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.

HURRICANE DORIAN

You may have heard that several hurricanes have taken place throughout many places, and the hurricane season is not quite over. At least two hurricanes have made landfall in parts of Texas causing destruction and extended flooding throughout the state. The hurricane that made landfall in Puerto-Rico some time ago destroyed much of the island, and many have still not recovered. In this month's column, I wish to feature Hurricane Dorian which devastated much of the Bahamas and most of all the plot of the people there to survive.

The following is an article which appeared in **USA Today** entitled *Survival stories from brutalized Bahamas*. It has been condensed:

Stooped and heavily laden, Keri Pierre trudged slowly uphill under blazing Bahamian sunshine. She was running out of time. As the days of her free temporary stay at Paradise Island's Sunrise Beach club dwindled, Pierre mounted an increasingly frantic search through Nassau for new lodging, food and clothes.

Harrowing as her life has become, her search is a luxury lost to the unidentified dead whose bodies filled a refrigerated semitruck 103 miles to the north in Marsh Harbour, Pierre's hometown.

Hurricane Dorian left everything inside the pink house she shared with her family smashed or sodden, so a week after the storm, the 23-year-old, her mother, six young siblings and a nephew decamped to the unscathed capital city. Her father, Kelly, stayed behind to guard the ruined homestead.

As her father joined the wave of about 14,000 Dorian-

displaced refugees, Pierre was left to figure out how to get the little ones, including a deaf sister with autism, to school and how she might find a job. The Marsh Harbour insurance office where she once worked no longer exists. "I never thought in a million years, I'd be in this situation," Pierre said as she hauled a black plastic bag of Salvation Army clothes back to the family's room.

Their challenges mirror the island nation's struggle to right itself a month after the Category 5 hurricane brutalized it.

Prime minister Hubert Minnis called the storm "an unprecedented destructive force of wind and rain and sea surge." It tore the islands of the northern Bahamas with 185 mph sustained winds gusting to 200 mph and beyond. Then it stalled. Lingered in place, its cataclysmic force shredded buildings, flipped trucks, tossed trailers like dice and shoved up to 20 feet of seas inland.

"Water and rooftops – that's all we saw," said Anthony Morley, who escaped his Marsh Harbour home by swimming out a window, returning to rescue his wife and neighbors, the youngest a 3-month-old baby girl. "I said, 'Lord, if you help me, I'm going to help someone else.'"

'How will we survive?'

Minnis pleaded with the United Nations General Assembly to heed the warning of this "generational tragedy" and to "treat the global climate emergency as the greatest challenge facing humanity."

"Our very existence as a country of many low-lying islands and over 2,400 cays are under great threat," he said. "It is a threat which we did not cause. It is a threat which we cannot survive on our own. ... When a storm can obliterate an island-state or a number of states in one

hurricane season, how will we survive? How can we develop? How will we continue to exist?"

His government created a ministry called Disaster Preparedness, Management and Reconstruction.

A few islands over from Dorian's hellscape, the business of paradise continues apace. Giant cruise liners glide along warm turquoise coastlines, docking at the nation's mostly unscathed ports to release precious, cash-carrying cargo. The Bahamian government counts on the touristy normalcy to carry it through the storm's aftermath.

International troops, officials and nonprofit groups have come to offer a "powerful demonstration of what it means to be united as a nation," Minnis said.

Natives and outsiders struggled to describe the magnitude of the storm. The difficulty of reaching some of the hardest-hit areas made immediate damage assessments impossible, and dysfunctional power grids, spotty cell service, blocked roads and wrecked drinking water systems further complicated efforts.

Comment - The increase in the number of hurricanes and the mounting devastation that they cause is, without a doubt, a sign of the times. Although man suffers much loss from hurricanes, there is no way to stop or prevent them like a house or forest fire.

In Matthew 24, Jesus gave several events that would transpire before His appearing. He said, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (Matthew 24:7). Possibly Hurricanes are included. He then said in verse 8, "All these are the beginning of sorrows."

The article brought out many asking how they were to survive. Jesus also said, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (verse 21). We may debate just when the tribulation mentioned in verse 21 takes place. The fact is that a hurricane causes its victims tribulation.

Let us pray for the people in the Bahamas and all the victims of hurricanes everywhere.

There is coming a time when all tribulation (no matter what the cause) will end. We are assured of this because

Jesus said, "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (verse 22).

ADRIFT ICEBERG

A news source reported that an iceberg has broken off the Antarctica Ice Shelf in East Antarctica.

The iceberg, named D-28, is more than 600 square miles in size, bigger than the city of Los Angeles. It's almost 700 feet thick and weighs about 315 billion tons. It separated from the ice shelf last week (October 2), next to another wobbly chunk of ice called the "Loose Tooth," so called because it appeared to be precariously attached.

Comment - The iceberg mentioned in the above article is not the first one to break off in other places. Wonder what is causing so many icebergs to break off. Is it possible that global warming is the cause?

AFGHANISTAN

The last I heard about the troop strength in Afghanistan, it was a drawdown to pull all out but about 8,600 troops. Some feared that the reduction will open the door for al-Qaida and other hostile groups.

I heard on the news some time ago that talks were planned with the Taliban who are hostile to our troops. As a matter of fact, the Taliban had just attacked our troops the day before the talks were announced.

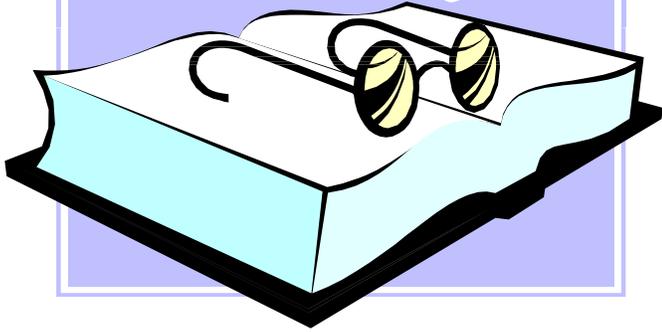
Comment - No doubt the hostile groups in Afghanistan will expand their destruction once the U.S. troops leave. The less troops that they have to fight, the easier it is for them to rule their territory and export violence to our country and other countries.

A RECESSION COMING?

As this column is processed, it seems that some people see a recession coming, after our economy has produced job growth and higher wages. In such a question, it is wise to practice the words of the Apostle Paul when he said, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need" (Philippians 4:12).

BIBLE

Study



Question: How do we know that obedience to God's divine law is essential for the children of God?

Answer: We can see the glory of God because the heavenly bodies obey God's gravitational laws. There would be much chaos and destruction among the planets if each one were permitted to break loose from the gravitation laws and go its own way. They cannot deviate.

Obedience to God's divine law is equally important to God's children. This was so with our first parents. However, they were free to disobey if they so desired. They were not robots, but they were intelligent creatures made in the image of God. It was not the design of the Creator to coerce his human creatures into obeying His laws. He designed them to obey of their own choice. In exercising their God-given freedom, they chose to go contrary to God's will. By doing this, they brought the penalty of death, of which they had been forewarned.

God said to Adam "...thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:17). The Apostle Paul wrote "...by one man's disobedience many were made sinners,..." and also "...as in Adam all die..." (Romans 5:19; I Corinthians 15:22). Therefore, death was introduced into human experience. Death passed on from one generation to another, and with it all the sickness and pain that ultimately leads to the grave. The "wreck" of the human race which resulted from disobedience to God's divine law is like the chaos and

Questions

and

Answers

destruction that would have taken place among the stars had they not been held in course by the laws which control them.

Question: What does Jesus' use of the words "Take no thought" really mean in the King James Version of the Bible?

Answer: In the King James Version of the Bible, Jesus advises His disciples to "take no thought" for their food, drink, or clothing (Matthew 6:31); to "take no thought for the morrow" (6:34) to "take no thought" what to say if questioned by the authorities (10:19); and even to "take no thought" for their very lives (6:25). This gives the impression to many people that Jesus was an impractical person whose ideas could not really be put into common practice.

However, the phrase "take no thought" in the KJV means, "Do not entertain fearful thoughts." In the verses mentioned above, all more modern English translations replace "take no thought" with "do not worry" or "do not be anxious."

Question: In Genesis 1:27 we read, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Will you please comment a little on this image?

Answer: The image in which God created man is not exactly a physical image, but a moral and intellectual image. Man has the ability to know right from wrong, and he is able to think, to reason. Of course, he cannot think on the same high plane as his Creator. His thinking is confined to a realm in which he was created to live; that is the

earthly. Speaking to man, God said, "...As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9). But man is able to reason with God on matters pertaining to his relationship with his Creator. Man was invited to do this when God said, "Come now, and let us reason together, ... 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).

Man's ability to think and reason out the ways and problems of life, rather than to be guided merely by instinct, shows itself in many ways. We see this from the very beginning of human experience. When our first parents disobeyed, right away they felt a sense of guilt, and they were afraid. To cover their shame, they donned leaves and clothed themselves. Adam and Eve were probably not too adept at garment-making. But no lower animals in Eden would even have thought of putting on clothing to cover their nakedness. God provided a protective covering for the lower animals, but man was left to provide his own.

Man began to make and use tools. This is something else the lower animals have never shown any inclination or ability to do. Many archeological discoveries have revealed that the earliest known man manufactured and used tools. In our time, the difference between man and the lower animals is more striking than ever. Think of the intricacy of tools and instruments of all sorts which are now in use! There are even greater marvels in the making. In modes of travel, communication, and manufacture we are daily witnessing miracles--but the pig merely keeps on grunting. When we consider man's ability to think, to plan, to invent, we recognize striking evidence of the fact that he was created in the image of God.

Finally, let us consider another wide gap between man and the very highest species of the lower animals. Music is harmony of sound, and on earth apparently only the human ear can distinguish the difference between harmony and discord. Man, created in the image of God, finds one of his greatest delights in the field of music. In the Bible, many references are made to the joy experienced by man in singing praises to God.

Question: Will you please give me some pointers on

how I may resist temptation? I know that I will not please God if I give in to temptation.

Answer: Temptation can take many forms. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7:22-23). The law of sin put forth much pressure, however, Paul resisted the urge to give in! You can do the same. Why should you be a slave to temptation? Do as the Apostle Paul did in I Corinthians 9:27 when he wrote, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Learning to resist temptation will set you free from much anxiety.

You can resist temptation by knowing your weaknesses. You possibly have heard the saying: A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Your desire to do what is right is most likely to break in the areas in which you are most vulnerable. "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:14).

You can resist temptation by anticipating it. Think of situations where you are likely to face it. Have in mind how you would resist if such temptation occurs. "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Proverbs 22:3).

You can resist temptation by having strong convictions. For example, when Joseph was tempted to engage in sexual immorality, he said, "...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9, last part).

You can resist temptation by choosing friends who have the same moral convictions that you have. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

Question: Was the Apostle Paul a married man?

Answer: At the time of the writing of the Epistles, Paul was a single man. He says so in I Corinthians 9:5; 7:7-8. In the last reading, Paul makes it plain that he did not take a wife in order to be free for the Lord's Service. Paul could have been married before he began his ministry with the Church of God.



India

Workers meetings in Garikapadu, India.





A day of Bible classes during the workers meetings.



Most of the ministers attended the successful workers meetings.

LESSON I**THE ARK RESTORED TO ISRAEL**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 7:1-17.

Golden Text: I Samuel 7:8.

“And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.”

NOTE: We have learned that the ark of the Lord was in the hands of the Philistines seven months. After the Lord brought great destruction upon them, the Philistines decided the ark should be returned to Israel. When the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark, thousands were smitten because of this act. Now, let us learn how the Philistines were subdued and the ark restored.

1. Where was the ark taken, and who was to keep the ark? I Samuel 7:1.
2. How long was the ark in Kirjath--jearim? I Samuel 7:2.
3. What did Samuel tell the people of Israel to do if they wanted to be delivered out the hand of the Philistines, and did they listen to what Samuel told them? I Samuel 7:3-4.
4. What did Samuel then do for the children of Israel? I Samuel 7:5-6.
5. When the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered at Mizpeh, what did they do? I Samuel 7:7.
6. While Samuel was offering the burnt-offering to the Lord, what did the Philistines do? I Samuel 7:9-11.
7. Did the Philistines pursue the Israelites anymore? I Samuel 7:13-14.
8. How long did Samuel judge Israel, and how many places did he judge? I Samuel 7:15-17.

LESSON II**ISRAEL DEMANDS A KING**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 8:1-22.

Golden Text: I Samuel 8:19.

“Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us”.

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned how the ark of God was restored to Israel. Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. Israel still was not satisfied, and now they desired a king to reign over them. Let us study about it in I Samuel 8.

1. When Samuel became old, who did he make Judges of Israel? I Samuel 8;1-2.
2. Did Samuel’s sons walk in the way they should? I Samuel 8:3.
3. What request did the elders of Israel make of Samuel? I Samuel 8:4-6.
4. When Samuel prayed to the Lord about this request, what did the Lord tell him to do? I Samuel 8:7-9.
5. Did Samuel tell the people the words of the Lord? I Samuel 8:10-18.
6. Did the people still refuse to obey the voice of Samuel? Did they insist upon having a king over them? I Samuel 8:19-20.
7. Samuel again took the words of the people to the Lord. What did the Lord tell Samuel to do? I Samuel 8:21-22.

LESSON III**SAUL CHOSEN TO BE KING (PART 1)**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 9:1-10.

Golden Text: I Samuel 9:2.

“And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that the people of Israel would not obey the voice of Samuel, and they asked him to give them a king to reign over them. Samuel took their plea to the Lord, and the Lord said to hearken unto them and make a king to rule them. Let us see now who was chosen for this position.

1. Who was Saul, and what type of person was he? I Samuel 9:1-2.
2. On what kind of mission was Saul sent? I Samuel 9:3.
3. Through what land did Saul and his servant go on this mission? I Samuel 9:4.
4. When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul wanted to return to his father. What did the servant suggest that they do? I Samuel 9:5-6.
5. What was Saul concerned about if they should visit the man of God? I Samuel 9:7.
6. What did they have to give to the prophet for telling them their way? I Samuel 9:8.
7. Did Saul agree with his servant to go to the city to see the man of God? I Samuel 9:10.
8. In Israel, what was another name for a prophet? I Samuel 9:9-10.

LESSON IV

SAUL CHOSEN TO BE KING (PART II)

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 9:11-27.

Golden Text: I Samuel 9:17.

“And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall

reign over my people.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned about Saul and the journey that he had with his servant. The servant suggested that they find the man of God in the city to show them the way that they should go. Let us continue to see what happens when they meet this man of God also called a Seer.

1. When Saul and his servant arrived, where the man of God was, whom did they meet? I Samuel 9:11.
2. What did the young maidens tell Saul to do? I Samuel 9:12-13.
3. Saul did as the maidens had told him to do. Who did he meet in I Samuel 9:14?
4. What had the Lord told Samuel the day before Saul arrived? I Samuel 9:15-17.
5. Saul inquired of Samuel to find out where the seer's house was. What was Samuel's answer to Saul? I Samuel 9:18-20.
6. Did Saul understand what Samuel was saying to him? I Samuel 9:21.
7. Where did Samuel take Saul, and what did they do? I Samuel 9:22-24.
8. Discuss what Samuel and Saul did when they came down to the city. I Samuel 9:25-27.





HOW JANICE HELPED

by Arlene West Krenz

Janice sat with her elbows propped on the window sill and looked outside. There was a soft blanket of snow on the ground. Lawn, trees and shrubs had been changed overnight into a wonderland of glittering and glistening white fluff.

As the little girl sat looking out at the beautiful white world, she saw some little brown birds hopping about pecking and scratching busily on the snow. They didn't seem to find anything to eat.

"Mother," asked Janice, "What do the birds eat when it is so cold and everything is covered with snow?"

"They eat most any kind of seeds or fruit they can find," Mother answered from her chair beside the fireplace. "God provides for them as He does for His other little creatures".

"Does God ever need any help in caring for the little birds, Mother?" Janice asked. "Those little birds can't seem to find anything to eat. They look so cold and hungry."

"Yes, I think He likes to have help," Mother said as she put aside her sewing and came to stand beside Janice. They watched the little birds hopping over the snow. "They do look as if they need something to eat," Mother said. "Suppose we go out in the kitchen to see what we can find." Mother and Janice looked around into the kitchen. They wondered what a hungry bird might eat besides bread crumbs.

"I know!" exclaimed Janice. "I'll go get my bird book. It tells what to feed the birds." She ran out of the room and returned with the book. Then she and Mother looked

through its colorful pages. Between the lovely pictures were many interesting things about the different kinds of birds. It told how to make friends with the birds by feeding them at a feeding tray.

"Here it is, Mother," said Janice as she turned a page. "It says that cracked corn, cracked wheat, bread and cracker crumbs, nut meats, sunflower seeds, oats, canary seeds, celery tops, apples, and suet are all things that the birds like to eat."

Mother looked through the cupboards. "Here is some bread to make into crumbs, and some nut meats and suet," she said. They put the crumbs, broken nut meats and suet into a pie tin and then took them out and scattered them over the snow. Hurrying back inside, they sat down to watch.

It wasn't long before one of the birds ventured down to investigate the good things that had been spread on the snow. He pecked at the bread crumbs to see what they were. Then he began eating. The other birds soon flew down to join their friend on the snow. It didn't take them long to discover he had found something good to eat. Soon they were all busily eating the food.

"Oh, they were hungry, Mother!" said Janice as they watched the crumbs disappear. "I'm glad that we had something to give them. May we feed them very day until the snow melts away?"

"Yes dear," answered Mother as she smoothed her little daughter's hair. "We will be helping God if we help His little birds. I am glad that we may help Him, aren't you?"

"Oh, yes!" said Janice. She watched the birds finish the last of the food and fly to the warmth and protection of a tall fir tree. "It makes me feel happy inside. I like to be God's helper. I'm going to help Him in every way that I can."



GIDEON

The story of Gideon in the Bible has led to many other stories that have been told and might be told of other men who like to call themselves Gideons. The story of Gideon is found in the sixth and seventh chapters of the book of Judges in the Old Testament. Read the story, then choose from (a), (b), or (c) the words that will correctly finish the statements.

1. Gideon threshed (a) barley, (b) wheat, (C) rye by the winepress. (Judges 6:11)
2. The (a) man (b) angel (c) prophet of the Lord appeared unto him. (Judges 6:11)
3. Gideon said he was the (a) greatest (b) oldest, (c) least in his father's house. (Judges 6:15)
4. He put a (a) fleece of wool, (b) goat skin, (c) calf skin upon the ground. (Judges 6:36-40)
5. One of the enemy dreamed a (a) sword (b) cake of barley bread (c) a fig cake tumbled into their camp. (Judges 7:13)
6. Gideon's men blew their trumpets, broke their pitchers and held their (a) swords (b) shields (c) lamps in their hands. (Judges 7:20)
7. And they stood every man in this place round about the (a) camp (b) town (c) battlefield. (Judges 7:21)
8. All the (a) Egyptians (b) Midianites (c) Philistines fled. (Judges 7:22-23)

**-HILEMON -ENESIS -AMUEL -
EVITICUS**

-BADIAH -XODUS -MOS

**-EUTERONOMY -STHER -AHUM -ONG
OF SOLOMON -ANIEL -ITUS**

Write the three words on this line _____

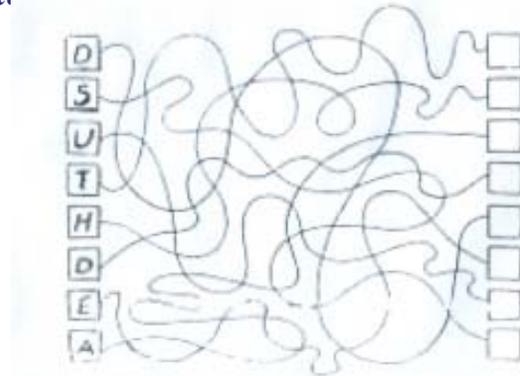
And now, what is this wonderful "seed"?

Find the answer in the same way.

**-ABAKKUL -ZRA -SAIAH
-SAIAH -CTS -EHEMIAH
-AMUEL -LOSSIANS -ALATIANS
-HESSALONIANS -EBREWS
-ONG OF SOLOMON**

Then write it here _____

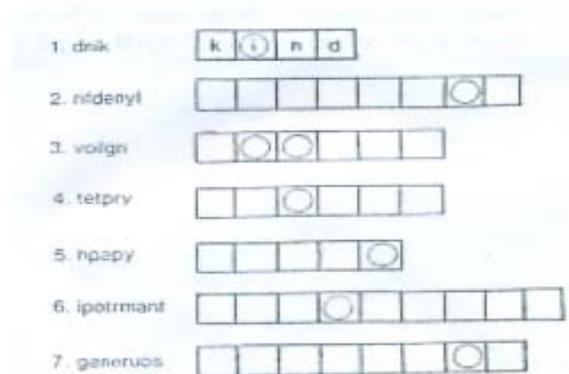
To find the name of this disciple, follow the squiggly lines. Write the letters in the empty box.



MISSING MESSAGE

Here is a special message that you will want to give to your Mother. To find out what this message is, unscramble the letters below. Each group of scrambled letters will form a word related to Mom. When written together and spaced correctly, the words will form a message for Mom. The first one has been done for you.

1. dnik 2. rddenyl 3. volign 4. tetpry
5. hpapy 6. ipotrmant 7. generuos



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The Last Shall Be First

By David DeLong

The last shall be first,
The first shall be last;
And those who are "great"
Will soon feel aghast.

But, those who are humble,
And those stedfast
Will not be afraid
When the first shall be last.

Between these two groups
The distance is vast;
The victor won't be
The strong or the fast.

But, those who have Jesus,
Whose sins are all past;
The last shall be first,
And the first shall be last.

