

The Advocate of Truth

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Delusion to Believe a Lie

by Tim Buechner

It doesn't take much research to understand that we are living in the times spoken of in I Timothy 4:1-2: *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"*. The faith delivered by Jesus to the Church during His time on earth has been severely compromised.

The faith has been compromised to the point where we see that the truth has become evil spoken of as predicted in 2 Peter 2:1-2: *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; **by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of**"*.

Society, culture and the prevailing intellectual thoughts look down on biblical truths. For those who speak their mind in support of the Scriptural facts they are ridiculed, chastised and accused of being "haters", prejudiced, discriminatory or backwards and uneducated. What's wrong is being re-defined as being right and what's right re-defined as being wrong.

We should not be surprised when we see this happening or experience it ourselves as the Word of God has warned us, prepared us for this. This falling away from the truth contributes to the ongoing degradation of the behavior

and attitude of society in general. Civility and common courtesy are being replaced with selfishness, pride, arrogance, an anything goes mindset and a refusal to accept the beliefs of others.

I truly believe that we are just in the beginning of what the Scriptures have predicted and that things will continue to worsen. Second Thessalonians 2:10-12 informs us that those who are intent on living an unrighteous life will become deluded, that God will send them strong delusion. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the definition of delusion is something that is falsely or delusively believed or propagated; a persistent false psychotic belief regarding the self or persons or objects outside the self that is maintained despite indisputable evidence to the contrary; or the act of tricking or deceiving someone.

As the strong delusion grows the sins of humanity will continue to increase in severity while at the same time be boldly defended as acceptable and right. Based on the definition given by Merriam-Webster, no amount of truth will convert some people as a part of being deluded is to continue to believe in whatever they are doing is acceptable despite indisputable evidence to the contrary. Isaiah 66:1-4 confirms this as well saying that man will choose their own ways over God's ways, delight in their abominations and that God will choose their delusions. With these delusions there will be serious errors of logic that cannot be rectified. There will be no reasoning with them. The truth will continue to be spoken more and more evil of and the sinfulness of man will increase more and more.

Future generations of believers will be exposed to depravity and rampant sinfulness that our generation and the generations before us would find hard to believe. Philippians 3:16-19 says that the god of people will be their belly (whatever wicked, evil sinfulness satisfies their flesh) and that they will glory in their shame. They will be proud of their sins and unabashedly promote and flaunt them while speaking evil of those who speak against their behavior.

Let us prepare ourselves, our children and our children's children for what is to come and continue to earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints - Jude 1:3.



CUTTING THE CORNERS

--Reprinted

There is a striking phase in the Apostle Paul's exhortation to Timothy when he tells him to be a "...workman that needeth not to be ashamed..." (II Timothy 2:15). In the workaday world we find workmen that need to be ashamed for the manner in which their work is done, and the same thing is true in the spiritual realm. Their work is a reason for it. It will not pass inspection either by man or the Divine Employer. The title of this article was suggested by an incident from life. An employer said to the one who was serving him, "Your work is very satisfactory; you do not cut the corners as some do." Perhaps he had been served by that class of workmen sometime in the past and appreciated one he could trust to do faithful work.

Let us illustrate our subject by the profession of a painter. There was one who claimed to be something of a painter who took no pains to paint the underside of the window sash, showing that he was not faithful, did not try to perform his work as though he had any interest in it. He "cut the corners." Another one during panel work was particular to have the contrasting colors carefully put on without conflicting. He was thorough and painstaking.

We have heard the story of the girl who, after she was converted, swept under the rugs, where before she had just swept around them. She was performing her work as under the eye of the Lord and did not want to "cut the corners" and displease Him. A carpenter was in the employ of a wealthy man and was required to build a house according to specifications. But he "cut the

corners." He used inferior material where it could be covered up and finished the job. When the employer came to see the house, he told the man that he was going to present him with it for his own home. How sorry the man must have felt then, knowing as he did how dishonestly he had executed his commission to his own loss. Too late for his own good he came to realize that it did not pay to "cut the corners."

How natural it seems to be for people to cut the corners to more easily reach their destination, and there has to be the notice, "keep off the grass," and "keep out," "no trespassing" and the like. Some think to attain success easily by cutting the corners educationally, slighting their assignments and being satisfied with just getting by when by honest effort they might have attained a high place in the field of education and been an honor to the institution from which they graduated. They chose to "cut the corners" and later they found themselves in their preparation for their life work.

Some "cut the corners" in business ethics to later find themselves losers and not gainers when the public has lost confidence in them and their business methods. Likewise, those who "cut the corners" by appropriating (which they call "borrowing") funds entrusted to them, when justice falls find themselves deprived for a period of the association of their fellows as they pay the penalty of their misdeeds.

The unfaithfulness of officials who "cut the corners" that they may retain office sometimes have an awakening when an aroused public sentiment is turned against them.

Oh, there is much "cutting the corners" which have brought the world into the situation in which it is today, and there needs to be a decided turning away from this practice to the faithful execution of the work at hand, whatever it may be, whether of seemingly great or small magnitude.

I wonder if there does not come the temptation to "cut the corners" in things of the spiritual life and Christian service, and if it is not often yielded to? Is it not that which has toned down the message of the Word of God to meet the popular demand for "smooth things," rather than the definite pronouncements of the Word concerning sin and salvation? It has come to be considered old-

fashioned in many circles to be too pronounced in public utterances, to preach from some of the texts in the Word of God and interpret them according to their true significance.

Many in the churches have “cut the corners” of their theological beliefs until there is very little fundamental left, and they are at sea in their thinking and consequently at variance of the will of God in their living. It is easier not to be too pronounced in matters of doctrine than to stand with the conservatives who make the Bible the rule of faith and practice. The crowd goes that way and there is plenty of company.

Young people who have had Christian bringing up yield to pressure of associates, and “cutting the corners” become out of fellowship with the Lord and have lost power for Christian service. It is easy to gradually “cut the corners” of the devotional life until there is less interest in the study of the Word and in prayer, and Christian service loses its appeal.

This may come so gradually that an awakening may be startling as it reveals how far the soul has drifted from the pathway of God’s will.

Those who “cut the corners” in Christian service do it in different ways. Some are too occupied with material things, business, pleasure, love of ease, which might be called spiritual laziness, unfaithfulness in assignments and laxness in keeping promises. A lack of dependableness in service on the part of a Christian is a sad thing and a grief to those who have oversight of departmental work in the Church of God. Some may “cut the corners” from a false sense of responsibility when asked to serve, offering the excuse that others are better fitted when it is the will of God to them to perform the service and they should feel honored, though they may feel unworthy, that God has assigned to them some special work to perform for Him.

What a joy it is to work with those who do not “cut the corners.” They are worthy of our commendation, and we are assured that they have the Lord’s approval.

Our Lord Jesus did not “cut the corners,” and I say it reverently. He gave Himself unequivocally to the performance of God’s will. He went all the way to Calvary for us that we might have eternal life by His death. He

brought in a complete salvation. We read, “...he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8). Then He arose from the grave for our justification and ascended to be our eternal Advocate with the Father. Jesus spoke the truth regardless of the attitude of opponents or the failure of His followers to appreciate the high standards of life He set up. It was because He would not “cut the corners” that His enemies put Him to death, but this statement does not attempt to discount the great fact that it was the Divine plan that He should be the sinner’s Substitute, which was formulated in the eternities before the creation of man or His fall from the holy state in which He was created. Jesus is not only the one and only Saviour from sin, but the only perfect example for His followers in the matter of faithful performance. Nothing could make Him swerve from the high and holy purpose for which He left His heavenly glory and came down to earth and its sinful associations that He might lift man from them into the relationship of children of the heavenly Father. The devil sought to have Him take a short cut to setting up His Kingdom, with the cross put out of the picture, but Jesus was adamant. At the arrest in the Garden when He commanded Peter to put up his sword, He said, “The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” Jesus took the straight road to the accomplishment of His mission-human redemption. He set His face to go to Jerusalem knowing what awaited Him. He foretold that His followers would be hated and persecuted for their loyalty to Him and His redemptive mission.



The Christian needs to be careful and not “cut the corners” where personal influence is concerned, that what is regarded as personal liberty become not a stumbling-block to others. Paul laid down a rule of conduct that

should be inviolable when he said, "...if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth..." (I Corinthians 8:13). It will not do to say, "I can engage in this, it does not hurt me any," regardless of its effect on others. And ten to one it is detrimental to the one who makes such an excuse, when the question of personal influence is presented. It will cause spiritual deterioration to cut the corners in the matter of personal influence.

Not to cut the corners makes living a serious business. There must be constant reliance on the Son of God and the Holy Spirit must be allowed His way in the life. The only way to peace and blessing is to be constantly under the approving smile of God; removed from all hypocrisy and letting down of standards for convenience sake. We cannot offer to God any acceptable excuses for "cutting corners" in the face of His revelation as to how He would have His children conduct themselves in an evil world, in an exemplary manner.

Oh yes, it is easier to cut the corners. The signboards at life's spiritual crossroads are self-indulgence and self-denial, and one pathway may have a paved walk and the other the dusty earth, and there has to be a decision. Deciding to become a Christian is not the only decision that has to be made. Little deceptions, little inconsistencies are the result of deciding not to be too pronounced on some matters and make your religion flexible. Have you ever tried to see how much you could stretch a rubber band before it would snap? There is too much rubber band stretching Christianity. People desire to be saved, to have the Lord forgive their sins, but want to accommodate themselves to worldly conditions and standards, but this is not the God-planned life, not the type the Word of God sets forth. We might mention biblical characters who did not cut the corners but chose to suffer for His sake, and there likewise have been those in all time whose devotion to the will of God has made them outstanding Christians, bold, fearless, steadfast, one purpose people who have walked in the footsteps of the Master wholly following God's will.

If we have been guilty of "cutting the corners" in any way, let us resolve by the grace of God to live a life of faithfulness and utter devotion to Him, and great will be the reward of fidelity when Jesus comes for His faithful servants to usher them into the joy of their Lord.



Transubstantiation

By David Royer

Transubstantiation is a big word used by the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) to name their doctrine about the bread and wine used for Communion at Mass, supernaturally becoming the actual body and blood of Jesus Christ (when blessed by a priest). The RCC takes our Lord's words literally when Jesus says, "this is My body."

The RCC's Council of Trent (1545-1563) adopted this doctrine and declared any parishioner not believing it would be subject to excommunication. Today, The RCC training manual says: *"The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: "Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called Transubstantiation."* *Source: CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, SECOND EDITION; PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY, Article 3, Section 1367

The RCC does not explain how Transubstantiation takes place but affirms that it happens mysteriously, "in a

way surpassing understanding.”

The word Transubstantiation is made up of two parts: ‘trans’ and ‘substantiation’. **The first part is a prefix “trans” means ‘across’, ‘beyond’, or ‘through’. It suggests that some kind of change has taken place. **The second part of the word, ‘substantiation,’ is the act of validating; finding or testing the truth of something. Physiologically: The substance of a thing is what it really and truly is beyond all appearances. **Source: www.vocabulary.com and www.Dictionary.com.

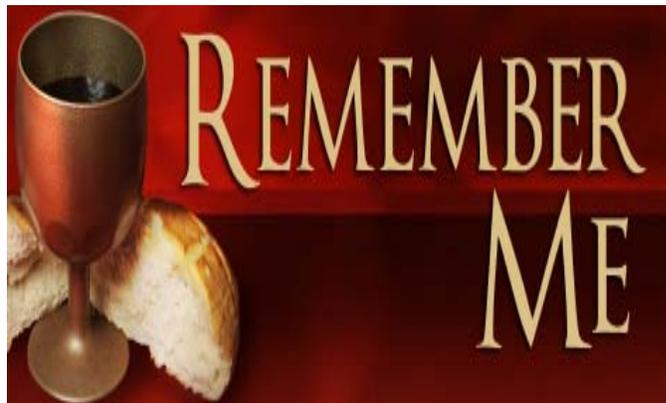
Now that we understand the meaning of Transubstantiation, let’s examine what the Holy Bible says. Starting with John Chapter 6, we see that 5,000 people were fed by Jesus miraculously with five loaves of bread and two fishes. When pressed by the multitude the following day, for more physical food to eat, Jesus pointed out in verses 26 and 27 that they should instead be seeking spiritual meat for everlasting life.

With a metaphor established, the stage has been set for what Jesus says next in the following verses that, like the mana from heaven, they must eat His flesh and drink His blood to live:

John 6:51-58 *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.”*

So, in context, it is clear that Jesus is identifying Himself as that spiritual bread. We continually draw virtue and

belief from Him by faith. Eating His flesh and drinking His blood is only another expression for believing. *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life.”* (verses 47-48).



Jesus instituted our annual “Lord’s Supper” in the Upper Room. He gave us the correct meaning and use of the emblems representing His body and blood, as described in Luke 22:14-20 *“And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”*

(Similar verses in I Corinthians 11:23-26 and Matthew 26:26-28).

How could a literal interpretation of His body and blood in the emblems be concluded when the Lord’s Supper was instituted the day before His crucifixion? Jesus was holding the bread and the cup, which represented His body (flesh and blood) when he spoke of his death and memorial.

Jesus used other metaphors (figures of speech), just

as He did at His Last Supper.

John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches:..."

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd:..."

John 10:9 "I am the door:..."

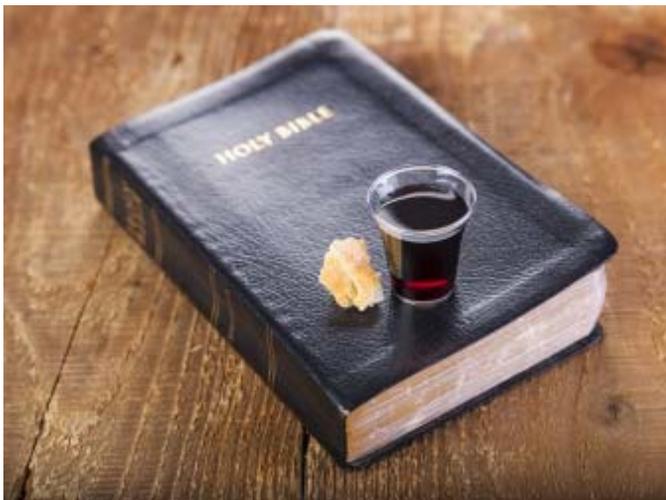
John 8:12 "...I am the light of the world:..."

Matthew 5:13 "Ye are the salt of the earth:..."

The doctrine of Transubstantiation is not supported by searching the Scriptures or RCC congregations. I call it a theory without substance. Furthermore, ***a new Pew Research Center survey finds that most self-described Catholics don't believe this core teaching. In fact, nearly seven-in-ten Catholics (69%) say they personally believe that "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine used in Communion are symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ." Just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that "during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus."

***Source: <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/05/transubstantiation-eucharist-u-s-catholics/>.

In closing, our Lord Jesus asks us to memorialize Him, with His own created symbols of bread and fruit of the vine and remember that we are reconciled to God by the death of his Son, Jesus, sacrificed on Calvary for an atonement of our sins.



TO BE AN INSPIRATION

*I was once told by a lovely, young lady:
"I cannot do one single thing;
My words come out dull when I speak them,
And I can't cook or sew, dance or sing."*

*"I'm not suited to work in an office,
And I can't be a doctor, or nurse;
And no matter what I set out to accomplish,
It always turns out for the worst."*

*"I dare not tell anyone about Jesus,
Although to me He is dear;
But my words come out so weak and timid,
And I know that no one wants to hear."*

*I want to tell this lovely, young lady:
"You can do so much more than you know;
There is nothing that you can't accomplish
If your faith just allows you to grow."*

*Just your smile to someone is priceless,
They can light up someone's dark world;
Just the sight of you often brings joy
Just to see such a lovely, young girl.*

*To cook, or sew is only labor,
And is really not that hard to do;
And the words are ones you speak easily
When they come from someone like you.*

*The pause that you make just to listen
To someone who is needing a friend;
The joy it brings with your singing,
And the Beauty never comes to an end.*

*The inspiration you can be to others
Doesn't call for a medical degree;
When you provide a shoulder to lean on,
Works wonders, without charging a fee.*

*So I tell you, my lovely, young lady,
You're worth far more than you can see;
Jesus thought you were worthy to die for,
When He purchased your life on that tree!"*

--Betty Whetstone, deceased



PET LAMB

Jerry Womble

We read about sheep and lamb many times in the Bible. In looking at the word lamb in the Greek it is Anon meaning a lamb out in the flock, but when we see the word lamb in Rev. 5: 6,8,12,13 it is spelt Anion. In chapter 5 it is referring to the Lamb that unlocks the seals of a scroll and that Lamb is Jesus. The reason the spelling is changed to Anion is because the definition is changed from a lamb in the field to a little, pet lamb. Jesus was God's pet lamb, the one He would give up to save us from our sins that we could have eternal life.

In Ex. 12: 3 God commands Israel to take out a lamb from the flock on the 10th of the first month to prepare for the Passover on the 14th of the month. It is interesting that the lamb was not kept in a pen separate from the family but was kept in the house where the children could play with it and have it as a pet representing Jesus, the special little lamb of God.

Back to the New Testament we see the word Anion only used in one other place and that is when Jesus is talking with Peter in John 21:15 telling Peter to "Feed my lambs", that being the children of God. As children of God we are counted as His little pet lambs meaning we are so dear to Him that we are not a stray lamb but His favorite ones. Knowing then that we are the "sheep of his pasture", Ps. 100:3, let us come to God for our every need as a pet lamb would to us for its care, feed and protection.

QUANTITY AND APPEARANCE ARE NOT ALWAYS SYNONYMS OF QUALITY

By Gonzalo Hernandez

Lately, people have become interested in producing and consuming food of better quality, avoiding the purchase and consumption of industrialized products or made in great quantities, because there is a thought that they are of bad quality and damage people's health. For some people organic products became an alternative, therefore being careful of the quality and cleanness of the product. Organic foods are agricultural products produced under a set of procedures denominated ecological and avoid the use of synthetic and chemical products such as artificial pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

The wine industry is not staying behind, and it started working on producing organic wine. Experts mentioned that the vine is required to grow in a field rich in potash, permeable and not too humid. When the farming of the vine is done in fertile and fresh land, the quantity of fruit increases, but the quality gets lost. Therefore, the wine you obtain is bland compared to the one that is produced from the vine planted on dry and coarse fields.

It is said that using synthetic fertilizers on the grapevine is like "taking breakfast to bed". Therefore, if you take breakfast away from the plant, and use natural and biodegradable supplies which do not cause harm to the environment, the grapevine has to work harder. The result of putting the grapevine to work is how you obtain wines with healthier minerals, smaller grapes with a thicker peel and a thick flavor, and with that you obtain a balanced production. The grapevine produces only what it is able to produce, and it won't have the strength or major production than the one it's able to have. Its production will be of great quality of grapes.

A bunch of big and beautiful grapes takes anyone's attention, but the appearance is not a synonym of sweetness and quality. On the contrary, they could be bitter and without flavor "whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness" (Matthew 23:27). On the other hand, the organic vine that works and puts effort to obtain its nutrients ends up to be of better quality, and this is without the help of artificial products.

"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:2-3).

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Jesus was like an organic vine who had to work to achieve His purpose and fulfill the mission that His Father had entrusted Him. He had all the authority and power to do things in a different way. However, He did not wait for someone to take Him breakfast to bed. "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 of a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). Jesus always showed in every way that His substance was perfect and of great quality. "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

A Christian that does not want to go through trials and practice what he learns is only a Christian in appearance, but without quality. However, the Christians who work and look for their spiritual livelihood by working and suffering in the work of Christ grow in quality and grace before God and before men. Quantity is good, but it must have quality.

The ministers and pastors of the Church should go through trials "without the gate" just like the Master Jesus

Christ did. They are not to look for easy things and be pastors of a pulpit only. They are to work in the vineyard of the Lord by preaching, evangelizing, visiting the ill, treating well the flock. It is necessary to follow the example of the Lord. The book of Hebrews says, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12).

Let us not try or look for a way to have someone "take you breakfast to bed", but like "branches" be worthy of being part of the true Vine. Let us go and look for it, work for it, and be worthy of it.

Do not settle with a good "appearance" like the Pharisees did. Before all, search to have QUALITY within yourself like the good wine.

RENDER TO GOD HIS OWN



Reprinted The Advocate of Truth October 27, 1958

F. L. Summers, deceased

In this time of high cost of living, when it takes so much to live, we sometimes are tempted to withhold the tithe from God and spend it up on our own lusts.

When we are tempted, remember God is able to lengthen the life of the things which we wear as he did the clothes of Israel while they wandered in the wilderness. Remember when Elijah came to the widow of Zarephath

(I Kings 17) who was going to make a cake for herself and her son and die. Elijah said, Make me a cake first. She did and during all this drought her barrel of meal did not diminish neither did the cruse of oil fail. Besides, remember the loaves and fishes Jesus fed the multitude. You may say that has nothing to do with what I give the Lord. Dear one, God is the same today and always. He could increase or He could diminish.

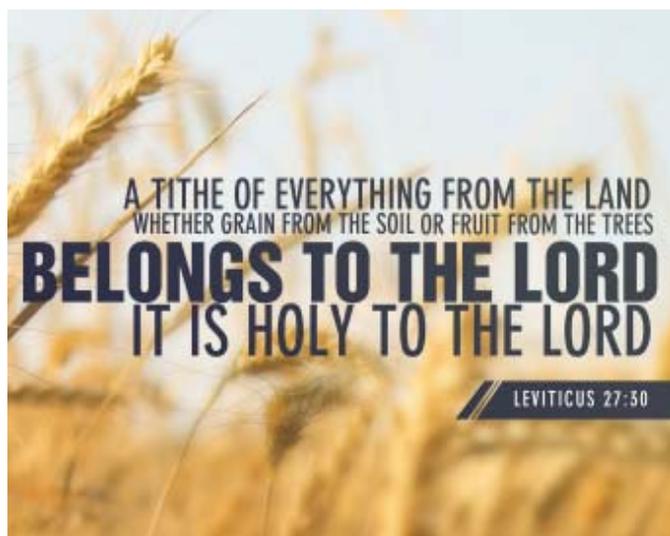
Is He able to do as much today? Remember God has promised to pour us out a blessing that we will not be able to receive it. Let us believe God for He has promised to be with us always even to the end of the world. Do you believe? The things that happened to them back there are for our admonition on whom the end of the earth has come.

Let us not rob God but render to Him what He has asked and you will never want. For we are told by the Psalmist that he has never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

May our faith be increased so we can take hold of the promises of God and render to God what is His regardless of what the times may be.

All things belong unto God; we are just stewards. So let us be just stewards, that He may say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

May we think upon these things for there are great and precious promises to those who so do.



DO YE TO THEM LIKEWISE

Reprinted The Advocate of Truth October 27, 1958

O. D. Grimm, deceased

Laws and rules are easy to make but difficult to enforce. They may be multiplied but a will or power to fulfill them must be present to make them effective. Our nation is not suffering from a dearth of laws but from a spirit of lawlessness. The quality of our laws is not at fault, but rather the quality of the people. Even a golden rule cannot produce a golden or righteous people.

If righteousness could be produced by legislation of laws and rules, then Israel would have been righteous. Ever since Adam failed under the power of choice and the simple probation placed upon him by God, mankind has been a race of rebellious people. Instinctively, man hates law and resents restraint. A spirit of lawlessness exists today, and even ministers and Christian church members are not wholly immune to this carnal mindedness that exists today.

The Apostle James very aptly pictured human nature in these words: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:1-3).

It takes more than a golden rule to make men what God wants them to be. If this, or any other rule or law, could have brought men to God, Christ would not have needed to give His life for them. He decided because men were lawless or rebellious at heart. He fulfilled the Royal Law for us, because it never could have been fulfilled in us. Ye cannot save yourselves by your own power, but we must have a Saviour and accept Jesus Christ as such. The so-called "Golden Rule," is not a way of salvation but rather, the normal conduct of a person who has received the common salvation through repentance and baptism by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. By continuing and following this rule of conduct eternal redemption will be ordained through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are of necessity a social order of beings. The Scriptures recognize that "none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself," When Jesus was praying for His disciples He said: "I pray not that thou shouldst take

them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil" (John 17:15).

As members of a social society we make our demands of others described by Jesus in the words, "As ye would that men should do to you." If we could people the world with characters of our own choice what kind of world would it be? If everyone treated us as we like to be treated? If all unkindness, impatience, selfishness, and all unworthy qualities were removed from the natures of men? All this was suggested in words of Christ.

We would want men to be loving toward us, even in our weakness and failures, and to love us, not for what we have or what we do for them, but for what we are. We would want them to be kind to us and ever patient, to sympathize with us in our sorrows and rejoice with us in our joys; to generously give of themselves and their possessions in our moments of needs; to be charitable and forgiving; to be cheerful and pleasant toward us. We would want them to be tenderly understanding even when our words are sharp and our actions unreasonable; to be clean, pure, moral, and spiritual.

Yet, we must never forget that this is a two-way road. That which we wish to follow from us to men. we must

ever recognize and assume our obligations of others. This was Christ's divine demand, "Do ye also to them likewise!" Our expectations of others are never to surpass the fulfillment of our obligations to them. The love we desire, we must give. The cheerfulness we expect, we must show. The affection we require, we must proffer. The purity and godliness we appreciate in our fellow men must be the fibers of our own character. Ye dare be nothing less because we expect no less of others.

Yet, even should we fulfill all these obligations to others, there would still remain God's demands of ourselves and others. God's thoughts and ways are as high above ours as the heavens are higher than the earth. His standards are all divine.

Apart from a divine impartation of life and godliness we could never fulfil the golden rule, but through Christ all this is possible.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13).

"Harmless As Doves"

By David DeLong

In Matthew 10:16 Jesus gave to His disciples these words of admonition: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." I believe He meant these words to be for all of His disciples. The Lord Jesus, Himself, is the perfect example of this teaching. I wish today to emphasize the second part of this teaching, "harmless as doves".

Hebrews 7:26 tells us about the character of Jesus. It reads: "For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens". The Greek words for harmless in the above texts means to be innocent, harmless, and simple.

To be innocent implies being not involved in behavior which brings injury to any other person. To be simple implies having no thoughts or motives to bring injury to another person. This must be our behavior and attitude to others at all times.

A dove was the form that God chose when He sent the Holy Spirit upon Jesus. Matthew 3:16 reads: "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him".

A turtledove could be used for a sin offering upon certain occasions. Leviticus 12:6 tells us: "And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter,

she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest".

A beautiful description of a dove is given in Psalm 68:13: "Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold."

In the Song of Solomon, the lover compares the beloved to a dove. "O my dove, that art in the clefts of the rock, in the secret places of the stairs, let me see thy countenance, let me hear thy voice; for sweet is thy voice, and thy countenance is comely."

With all of these descriptions and functions, a dove is a very good illustration of a being that is harmless. Another way of being harmless to someone is to love them with God's love. Romans 13:8-10 reads: "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

The last six of the Ten Commandments show this love to our neighbor. The fifth commandment expresses our honor which we are to give to our parents.

The sixth commandment prohibits us from murdering our neighbor. This includes all forms of murder, including hating our brother (I John 3:15); being angry with one's brother without a cause and slandering one's brother (Matthew 5:21-22).

The seventh commandment forbids us to commit adultery, with Jesus adding that one can commit adultery in a person's thoughts (Matthew 5:27-28).

The eighth commandment prohibits us from stealing from our neighbor.

The ninth commandment forbids us from bearing false witness, or lying, about our neighbor.

The tenth commandment prohibits us from even coveting in our heart the things that belong to our neighbor.

We are forbidden of the Lord to speak any evil against our brother. This would include gossiping about and judging him. James 4:11-12 reads: "Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?"

We must not seek vengeance against another person. All vengeance belongs exclusively to the Lord. Psalm 94:1 tells us: "O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, show thyself."

We conclude this article with Philippians 2:15: "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world".

The Day is Soon Coming

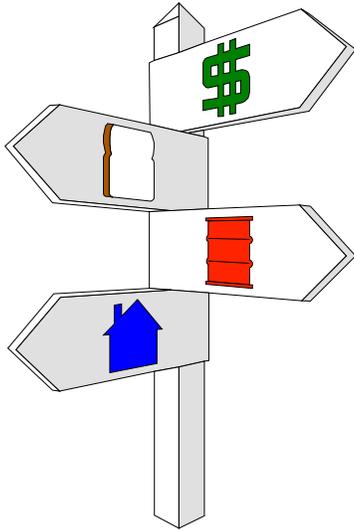
By David DeLong

The day is soon coming, when men will be running
To hide from the face of the Lord;
And they'll look for a cave, to hide them and save
Them from seven last plagues then outpoured.

The day is soon coming, when men will be running
For fear of the judgment to come;
The plagues will be sent, but men still won't repent,
While the Lord's wrath is filling the sum.

The day is soon coming, when men will be running
For hailstones will fall from the sky;
A talent will own the weight of each stone,
And with terror the wicked will cry.

The day is soon coming, when men will be running,
They'll realize it is too late;
They waited too long, to the Lord to belong,
And now they are feeling their fate.



ABOUT THE BIRDS

Some birds are in trouble. Following is an article which appeared in **USA TODAY**. It is entitled ‘*Bird emergency*’: *Two-thirds at risk*:

Two-thirds of America’s birds will be threatened with extinction if global warming tops 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100, according to a report released Thursday by the National Audubon Society.

“A lot of people paid attention to last month’s report that North America has lost nearly a third of its birds,” said David Yarnold, CEO and president of Audubon. “This new data pivots forward and imagines an even more frightening future. It’s a bird emergency.”

Three hundred eighty-nine out of 604 species are at risk of extinction from climate change, the report said. A few of the imperiled species include state birds such as Minnesota’s common loon, New Jersey’s goldfinch and California’s quail.

To prepare the report – “Survival by Degrees: Bird Species on the Brink” Audubon scientists studied 604 North American bird species using 140 million bird records, including observational data from bird lovers and field biologists across the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

In addition to warming temperatures, the scientists also looked at climate-related rise, water level changes in the Great Lakes, urbanization, cropland expansion, droughts, extreme spring heat, fire weather and heavy rain.

“Birds are important indicator species because if an

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.

ecosystem is broken for birds, it is or soon will be for people, too,” said Brooke Bateman, Audubon’s senior climate scientist.

The report offered some hope, noting that if the greenhouse gas emissions that bring about climate change are reduced, then the odds of survival for many bird species can be lifted.

David O’Neill, Audubon’s chief conservation officer, called the findings “the fifth alarm in a five-alarm fire.”

Comment - Take special note of what Brooke Bateman said. He said, “Birds are important indicator species because if an ecosystem is broken for birds, it is or soon will be for people, too.” This statement is really a dire warning, and just another thing to make people, who know not God, concerned about the future existence of man on the planet earth.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Let us think what are some of the ongoing challenges that are now impacting America. The following is a brief list. There are many more that I have not listed!

1. Mass shootings and the gun control debate.
2. Out of control homelessness
3. Healthcare
4. Climate change and global warming
5. Cybersecurity within government, business, infrastructure and private homes.
6. Energy debate regarding use of fossil fuels, wind, solar and nuclear power.

7. Concerns with regard to rogue nations such as Iran and North Korea.
8. Constant conflict in the Middle East.
9. Possible rebuilding of ISIS.

Comment - The above list of challenges impacting America presents the need for wisdom in finding reasonable solutions. Man without God lacks the wisdom and knowledge to solve these challenges. The only viable answer to these and many other problems facing America and the world is found in God's Word and requires man to follow it.

CHINA PERSECUTES CHRISTIANS

I read an article from a Christian publication that said on March 23, 2019 more than 20 Chinese police and government officials raided a 1,000 member Christian church in Beijing. They changed the locks and shut it down. The reason was that it had refused to register with the government as an official church, which involves restrictions on how the Christian faith can be practiced. And on March 20, the Bureau of Ethnic and Religious Affairs in Guangzhou, China's fifth – largest city, announced it would award 10,000 yuan (US \$1,500) to citizens who report neighbors who are Christians to the government.

Comment - China is only one country that persecutes Christians. One great fear of the Chinese government is that there might become more Christians than members of the Communist party. Persecuted Christians are blessed. Jesus said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (Matthew 5:11).

A news report stated that persecution of Christians is increasing and is now the worst since China's Cultural Revolution of the 1960s – 1970s.

IS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CRAZY?

You may remember that last year Karen Pence, the wife of Vice President Mike Pence, accepted a position as a teacher at northern Virginia's Immanuel Christian School. The school requires parents, teachers, and other staff to sign a document that affirms their adherence to biblical principles of marriage and sexual morality.

The host of the *Daily Show*, Trevor Noah, criticized Pence, and called religious freedom crazy. He said, "I think it's crazy that if you want to discriminate against anyone in America all you have to do is say, "Oh, it's because of my religion." Karen Pence stood by her choice to teach at the school.

Comment - No one can escape discrimination! Discrimination is necessary to separate the good from the bad. The basic good principles are found in God's Word. If a person is convinced that something goes against God's Word and declines to do or take part in it, that person has discriminated between the two choices and has chosen the correct route.

A CHURCH IN A PRISON

There are some good things in the news. I read that a megachurch in Dallas opened a satellite church, and that the church operates just like any other church. Inmates serve as greeters and ushers. They also operate audio and visual equipment, and they staff the services. The appointed pastor is an ex-offender who attended seminary after his parole.

CHRISTIANS AND JEWISH HOLIDAYS

I read an article in a widely distributed newspaper that a growing number of evangelical Christians are celebrating Jewish holidays. The article stated that the movement is seen as a way to atone for past misdeeds as well as a chance to build interfaith and political solidarity.

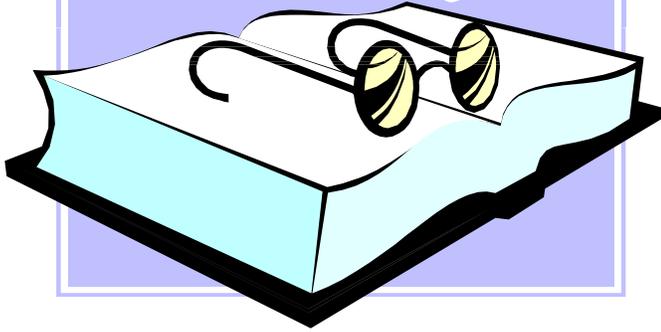
Comment - Evangelical Christians observing Jewish holidays in no way atones for the misdeeds done to the Jewish people by evangelical Christians in the past. As a matter of fact, there is no point in that observance. God wants His people to worship Him sincerely. The worship of Jewish holidays by Christians cannot come from the heart.

WILDFIRES

When wildfires are mentioned, California is on the mind of many people. However, California is not the only cite of wildfires. Last year and going into this year, Australia experienced horrible wildfires. It is stated that Australia's most populous state was paralyzed by "catastrophic" fire conditions. There was 120 wildfires burning at one time and at least 12 people died.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Will you please comment on Psalm 2:1?

ANSWER: Psalm 2:1 states, “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?”

A heathen is one who does not believe in the God of the Bible. If that is you, the suggestion is that you “Search the Scriptures” and ask God to reveal Himself to you personally. If you do so in sincerity and promise obedience “in due season you will reap, if you faint not.”

The heathen that rage are identified as people who “imagine a vain thing” and support kings and rulers in their purpose and efforts to get rid of God’s Moral Law and the Ten Commandments, to break the Bands and cast away The Cords of restraint. The results of this rage: “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: The Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.” Even if you have not “the fear of the Lord” in your heart and are without faith, can you think of any better explanation and reason for the present world conditions of crime, violence, rebellion, immorality, etc. than that the Creator is angry with His creatures for their evil and is vexing them in sore displeasure, and “delivering them unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh,” and we hope for their salvation?

“God is angry with the wicked every day ... The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God” (Psalms 7:11; 9:17). Are you one of those offended

by so much talk of the curse and judgments of God? If so, consider the verses in Psalm 1 just before the question “Why do the heathen rage?” is asked: “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so...”

In the first two of the Psalms, God is saying again to man what He said to Moses: “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;...If ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God ... I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live” (Deuteronomy 11:26-28; 30:19).

Consider this, all of you who “delight in the Law of the Lord,” and may we suggest that you meditate upon the following “day and night?” That respect and obedience to God’s Ten Commandments would bring a blessing to our land in quick order. It would do away with stealing, cheating, swindling, and graft, and respect and obedience to these Ten Commandments would blot out race troubles, strikes, and various and sundry other assortments of strife, ill will, and devilment, for at the bottom of all these is “Coveting,” that which God in His providence has given to another, and therefore unbelief and rejection of promises

of blessings, advancement, and prosperity in His own good time to those "who fear God and keep his commandments", which is the whole duty of man.

Maybe you don't know what God's tenth commandment is? Quote: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's". We submit for your meditation that it is the church's business to teach men that "Covetousness is idolatry" and that no covetous person hath inheritance in the Kingdom of God, or in other words, according to the plain and often repeated teaching of the Bible they are lost and headed for destruction! We further submit for your meditation that a genuine believer is one who has entered into the Covenant with God and the Spirit of God has written into his heart God's Commandments.

QUESTION: How is God's great wisdom revealed?

ANSWER: God's great wisdom is revealed in the order and beauty in all His creative work. God manifests His wisdom in telling us about the future. Because of His wisdom He knows all things even before the foundation of the world. See Job 36:5; Psalm 104:25; 136:5 Jeremiah 10:12; I Timothy 1:17.

QUESTION: How can we know that God is almighty and powerful?

ANSWER: His almighty power is seen throughout the universe and in our world. All is upheld by God's immense power (Genesis 7:1; Exodus 6:3; Revelation 1:8). With God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite" (Psalm 147:5).

QUESTION: What attitude does the Bible take towards the endeavors of the living to communicate with the dead?

ANSWER: The attitude that we should have nothing to do with communicating with the dead. "And when they

shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 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 8:19-20).

QUESTION: What are two ways the word Denial is used in the Bible? Please cite some Scriptures.

ANSWER: Denial is the act of refusing or disowning. The word is used in the Bible in both ways.

Warnings against Denial

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God" (II Timothy 1:8).

"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (II Peter 2:1).

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:4).

Punishment of Denial

"But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:33).

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38).

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" (II Timothy 2:12).



2019 Church of God (7th Day) Youth Retreat - Pipe Creek, Texas
Upcoming Retreat is July 26-31, 2020 - registration form on next page

We are very excited to have you attend. If you pay for a t-shirt, it will be given to you at the camp. All personal items, including medications, will be checked on arrival to keep everything safe for all. If you have any questions on a specific item please call Cindy Buechner 210-289-0305.

Things to bring

1. Bible
2. Insect repellent
3. Sunscreen
4. Girls must bring a one piece bathing suit
5. Towel
6. Your own pillow and bedding
7. You can bring additional snacks
8. Personal grooming items including soap and shampoo
9. Please bring sneakers for activities
10. Camera (not camera phone)

Things not to bring

1. Weapons
2. Electronic equipment of any kind
3. Only prescription medication with your name on it will be allowed
4. Revealing or suggestive clothing. Girls: please wear shirts that cover a bra strap. Boys: please wear shorts/pants that cover your underwear.
5. Drugs

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are excited to inform you of the **2020 summer youth retreat** in our beautiful Texas Hill Country north of San Antonio!!! Check out the photos and directions on the church website www.churchofGod7thday.org The Lord's retreat will be July 26th thru July 31st. Registration fee is \$35. If you would like a camp shirt please send an additional \$15 with your registration. Checks may be written to: Church of God (7th Day) and mailed with this registration form to: Cindy Buechner, 9608 Geronimo Oaks, San Antonio, TX 78254. **We will not be accepting registration forms after July 1st.**

Group	Arrival Date/Time	Departure Date/Time
Boys – 11-18 yrs.	Sunday - July 26, 3:00 PM	Wednesday - July 29, 6:00 PM
Girls – 11-18 yrs.	Wednesday - July 29, 10:00 AM	Friday - July 31, 4:00 PM

Camper's Name _____ M or F Birthdate _____ Age: _____ as of July 26st Parent's/Guardian's Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Phone # _____
 Email address _____ What is your shirt size? _____ Is your shirt a child size or an adult size? _____ Name and Telephone of nearest relative if parent/guardian cannot be reached: Name _____ Phone # _____

Circle Any That Apply: Heart condition, diabetes, asthma (please bring inhaler), or other condition?: _____
 Serious reaction to? poison ivy, oak, sumac, or other _____ What is the reaction to the above question? _____ Insect sting reaction? Yes or No what is the reaction? _____ Drug Allergies? Yes or No
 Drug _____ Reaction _____ Any other (food, etc.) allergies and reactions? _____
 Is camper under any medication or dietary regimen at this time? Yes or No. If yes, list medications or dietary restrictions: _____ Any medication taken to camp must be in its original container and labeled, with directions, for the individual for whom it is intended. Any restrictions to Swimming, water sports, or, physically strenuous activities? Yes or No List restrictions _____

SENSITIVE TOPICS for Ages 13 and OLDER. Bible studies and/or discussions related to, but not limited to, the following types of topics for ages 13 and older may be conducted: Sexual relations, abortion, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, homosexuality, "sexting", appropriate use of social media, etc. List any of these types of activities your child is to be excluded from:

Unless otherwise indicated on this Registration Form, my child, named above, has permission to take part in all activities, Bible studies and discussions. I agree that the camp or its personnel will not be held responsible for accidents. I understand that attempts will be made to contact me if my child requires emergency medical/surgical treatment, but, if it is impractical to do so, and/or, until I can arrive at the scene, I hereby give my permission to the medical personnel selected by camp staff to secure proper treatment, to hospitalize, to order injections, anesthesia, x-ray or surgery for my child as named above. Any financial obligation incurred will be covered by me personally, or by the insurance policy listed below.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____ DATE: _____
 INSURANCE CO. & POLICY # _____

LESSON I

SAUL'S COMPLETE DISOBEDIENCE
(PART 2)

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 15:12-35.

Golden Text: I Samuel 15:28.

"And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that King Saul disobeyed God again. He was to destroy the Amalekites and all that they had. But he kept King Agag alive and the best of their animals. We will now learn what happens to King Saul.

1. What did Samuel tell Saul when they met the next morning? I Samuel 15:12-15.
2. In I Samuel 15:18 and 19, Samuel asked Saul why he had not completely obeyed the voice of the Lord. What was Saul's reply to Samuel? I Samuel 15:20-21.
3. Which would have been better for Saul, obedience or sacrifice? I Samuel 15:22.
4. What will the Lord do to Saul for his disobedience? I Samuel 15:23.
5. What did Saul ask of Samuel in I Samuel 15:24-25?
6. What was Samuel's reply to Saul? I Samuel 15:26-28.
7. Did Samuel then destroy King Agag? I Samuel 15:33.
8. Did Samuel see Saul again before his death? Did the Lord repent that He had ever made Saul king over Israel? I Samuel 15:35.

LESSON II

DAVID SECRETLY ANOINTED TO BE KING

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 16:1-13.

Golden Text: I Samuel 16:12.

"And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he."

NOTE: In our past lessons, we have learned that Saul at first had great success, but his success rapidly went to his head. Humility gave place to pride, and through disobedience to God, God rejected him. Now, we shall learn who is to take King Saul's place.

1. What did the Lord instruct Samuel to do in I Samuel 16:1?
2. What was Samuel to do when he went to Jesse the Bethlehemite? I Samuel 16:2-3.
3. Did Samuel obey the voice of the Lord? I Samuel 16:4-5.
4. When Samuel looked upon the first son, Eliab, did he think this was the one who would be king? I Samuel 16:6.
5. How did the Lord tell Samuel he was to look on a person? I Samuel 16:7.
6. How many more of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel? Were any of these chosen? I Samuel 16:8-10.
7. Were there any more sons and, was he brought before Samuel? I Samuel 16:11.
8. Describe David. Did the Lord want this son for Israel's king? I Samuel 16:12-13.

LESSON III

KING SAUL MEETS DAVID

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 16:14-23.

Golden Text: I Samuel 16:21.

"And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that David was anointed King without Saul's knowledge. We will now learn what happens when Saul and David meet and what they do for each other.

1. After David is anointed King, what happens to Saul? I Samuel 16:14-15.
2. What did Saul's servants suggest he do? I Samuel 16:16.
3. Did Saul agree to what his servants suggested? I Samuel 16:17.
4. How did the servant describe David in I Samuel 16:18?
5. Did Saul send for David? I Samuel 16:19.
6. Did David go to see Saul, and what did Saul think of him? I Samuel 16:21-22.
7. Did David play his harp for Saul, and what happened to Saul? I Samuel 16:23.

LESSON IV

GOLIATH -- GIANT OF THE PHILISTINES

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 17:1-11.

Golden Text: I Samuel 17:4.

"And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span."

NOTE: In I Samuel 16, we learned that David was anointed king of Israel. It could not have been done openly for Saul would have killed David. Its purpose was to give David a chance to train himself for the office. Now, we shall begin our study of David and the giant, Goliath.

1. With whom was Saul engaged in battle? I Samuel 17:1-2.
2. Where did the two armies stand? I Samuel 17:3.
3. Who was champion of the Philistines? I Samuel 17:4.

NOTE: Goliath was 9 feet tall.

4. Describe Goliath's armor. I Samuel 17:5-6.
5. What was the spear like, and what did it weigh? I Samuel 17:7.

NOTE: A weaver's beam is a large heavy piece of wood that is on the back part of a loom.

6. How did Goliath challenge the Israelite armies? I Samuel 17:8-10.
7. Were the Israelites afraid of Goliath? I Samuel 17:11.

FINDING GOD

I helped a little child to see
That God had made a willow tree,
And He became more real to me.
I tried to lead a child through play
To grow more Christ-like every day,
And I myself became that way.
I joined a junior child in prayer,
And as we bowed in worship there,
I felt anew God's loving care.
Lord keep us ever quick to see
By guiding children, we find Thee.

--Mabel Niedemeyer



YOUR MOTHER, MY MOTHER

by E. G. Marsh

The world is full of mothers -- all kinds of mothers -- but there is only one you can call "my mother." I do not know what you think of your mother, but I love my mother dearly, and I am proud of her. Even from girlhood, Mother has been my best friend, and we have always been comrades. Have you ever seen anyone else's mother and wished that she could be your mother -- thought that she was nicer than your mother? Do you really know how beautiful your mother is? I will tell you a story to make plain what I am trying to tell you. Two girls were walking along the street when Mrs. Hunter, a handsome, rightly dressed woman, came out of her splendid home to enter a car. "That's Grace Hunter's mother! Isn't she the prettiest woman you ever saw?" said Mamie to her friend, Phoebe. "I guess Grace is awfully proud of her!" Phoebe had always thought of mothers as little round-shouldered, with tired faces and gray hairs.

After the girls passed on, Mamie made a few more remarks, and ended by saying, "wouldn't you be proud if you had a mother that looked like that?" The question stayed with Phoebe long after the girls had parted. "How would it seem," she thought, "To have a beautiful mother like that." The mere sight of Grace Hunter's mother had made her heart beat faster. Oh, if she, too, had a mother of whom she could be very proud!

The house was very still when Phoebe entered. In another minute she remembered that her mother was over

at a neighbor's taking care of sick Willie. But the house was all in order, just as her mother had left it, although it was a humble home.

Soon there was a knock at the door, and almost immediately in walked Miss Crone, a neighbor. Phoebe loved this little woman, whose sweet smile now greeted her. Then came the question, "Is your mother at home?"

"No, Mother's at Gray's. They're sick over there. Mother stayed with them last night and Sunday night."

Miss Crone drew a long breath. "Phoebe," she said, "You must be very proud of your mother!"

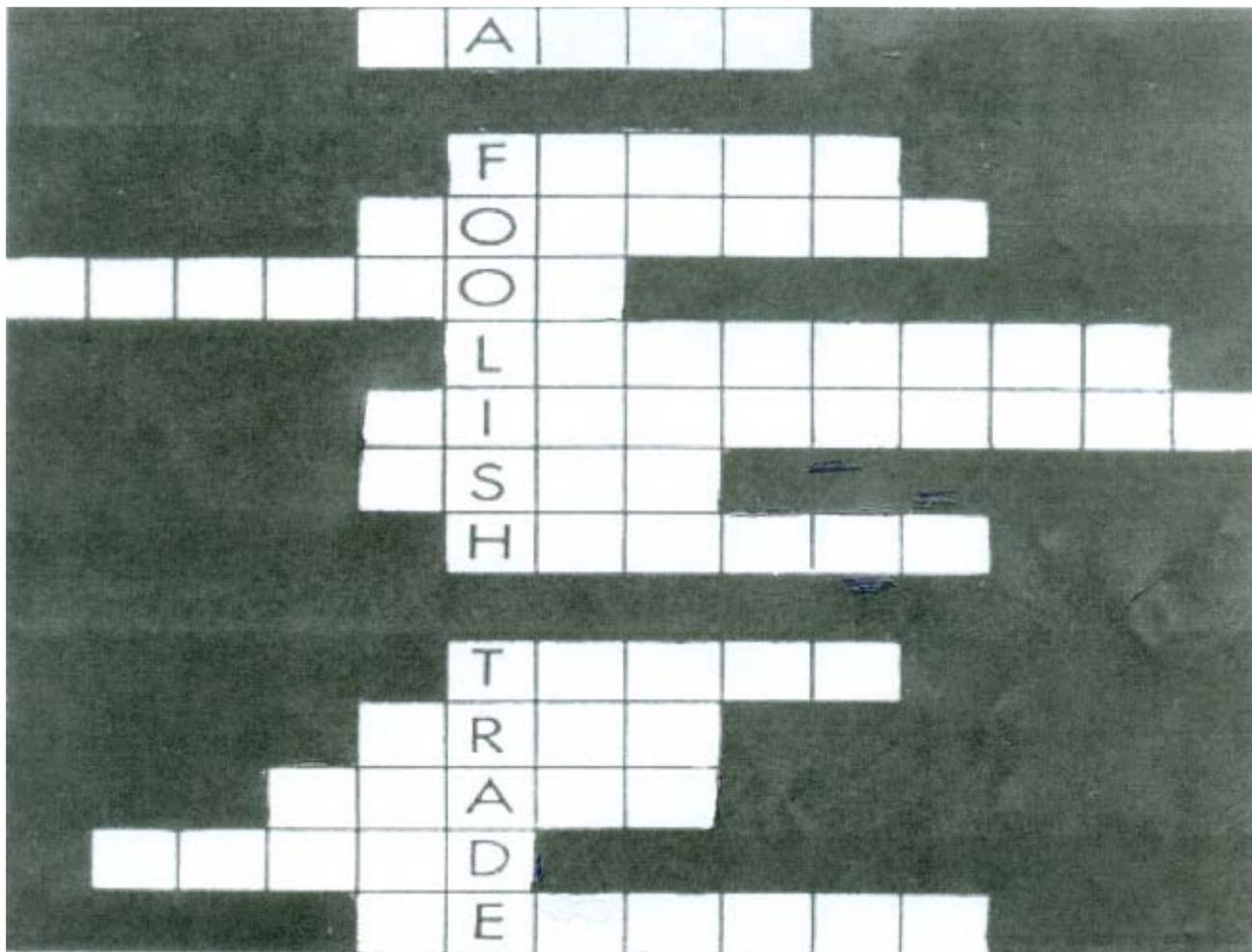
Phoebe did not know how to answer. She stood, looking at Miss Crone blankly.

"I wonder if you realize, Phoebe, what your mother means to her friends and neighbors here! No, you do not. None of us can. If ever I feel discouraged, I think of her beautiful, helpful life, lightening other's burdens. You are a fortunate girl, my dear, to have such a mother. I only hope that you are as proud of her as she deserves. Now I shall go over to Mrs. Gray's and send your mother home for a little rest." And the little woman went out, now knowing what a flood of thoughts she stirred up in Phoebe's mind. Phoebe stood looking thoughtfully out of the window when the door opened, and her mother came in. She was no longer young and looked years older than she was. Her face was a little weary, but her eyes had a shining brightness like clear sunshine as she said. "Little Willie is better, and we are so thankful to our heavenly Father. I thought last night that we would lose him, but now it looks as if he will get well!" She started toward the stove to start dinner, when Phoebe caught her in her arms saying, "Mother, O Mother! Why didn't I ever know before how beautiful you are?"

And now, children, let this be a lesson to us. Let us look upon Mother as beautiful, not because she can dress prettily as Grace Hunter's mother did, but because of her loving heart and her gentle ways. Let us give her the tokens of love she deserves, but above everything else, give her the true love of our hearts.

**"Dear Mother, ne'er shall forget
Thy brow, thine eyes, thy pleasant smile;
Oh, never shall thy form depart
From the bright picture of my heart."**

*A FOOLISH TRADE
GENESIS 25:27-34*



A - One of the twins (verse 27).

F - Weak (verse 29).

O - A thick soup of meat and vegetables (verse 30).

O - Deer meat (verse 28).

L - Beans or peas (verse 34).

I - right of the oldest son (verse 32).

S - One of the twins (verse 27).

H - One who searches for game (verse 27).

T - Canvas shelters (verse 27).

R - "The boys _____" (verse 27).

A - Father of the twins (verse 28).

D - Food made from flour (verse 34).

E - Mother of the twins (verse 28).

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Because You Prayed For Me

*You did not know the burden I was bearing,
But you saw my silent tears
And came to me,
As the Master would have come,
With the touch of understanding.*

*Your words were few.
A simple prayer that He would meet my need,
And then the added plea,
"This is my sister."*

*Once more I realized that I belonged to Him
And to that large and unseen host of His.
Blood-bought,
Redeemed,
An heir to heaven's best.
The tears evaporated in the sunshine of His love.*

--Robert Lashley Bonnici

