

The Advocate of Truth

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Halloween

By Tim Buechner

How is it that we have a day set aside every year in our country where the focus is on ghosts, goblins, witches, devils, death and violence all packaged in a kid-friendly, family oriented manner? A visit to the History Channel website can provide a pretty comprehensive overview of how Halloween came to America in a few short videos and articles they have posted there. What follows is my summary of how Halloween came to be in the US based on their information provided.

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween/videos/haunted-history-of-halloween>

Step 1: Start with an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced "sow-in") that marked the end of summer and harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year they associated with human death and the belief that the boundary between the worlds of the living and dead became blurred. On the night of October 31st, they celebrated Samhain when it was believed the ghosts of the dead returned to the earth. To celebrate this event they would gather together to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities and would wear costumes to "confuse" the spirits roaming the earth into thinking they too were a spirit and leave them alone. Many other practices that are associated with this holiday can

be found with their roots in Samhain.

Step 2: Under the power and authority of the Roman empire, combine Samhain with Roman holidays celebrating the dead and the goddess Pomona.

Step 3: Re-brand these celebrations as "Christian". To convert or combine the Celtic and Roman practices of the different observances/celebrations of the dead with the so-called "Christian" holidays of All Martyrs and All Souls Day, under Popes Boniface IV and Gregory III, the holidays were moved to November 1st and 2nd and October 31st became "All-Hallows Eve", later becoming Halloween.

Step 4: Although the early settlers to America did not believe that Halloween was appropriate and did not widely recognize or observe the holiday, over time, the practices of Halloween came to America. The main thrust came from the millions of Irish immigrants fleeing to America during the potato famine in the mid-1800's, bringing with them their well ingrained Celtic Samhain celebrations.

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>

Step 5: Further re-brand the holiday as a family time and a time to focus on children and add-in new customs and traditions that are uniquely American. The idea of community, family, children and a time of celebration were heavily infused and the "evil" side of the holiday downplayed and de-emphasized.

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween/videos/halloween-goescommercial?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false>

Step 6: Commercialize it. Retailers began to latch onto the holiday to take advantage of the business opportunity and began to promote the celebration of it to make profit. The History Channel indicates the annual holiday is responsible for \$6 billion in revenue making it the second largest commercial holiday in the country. The relentless advertising, commercials and in-store displays

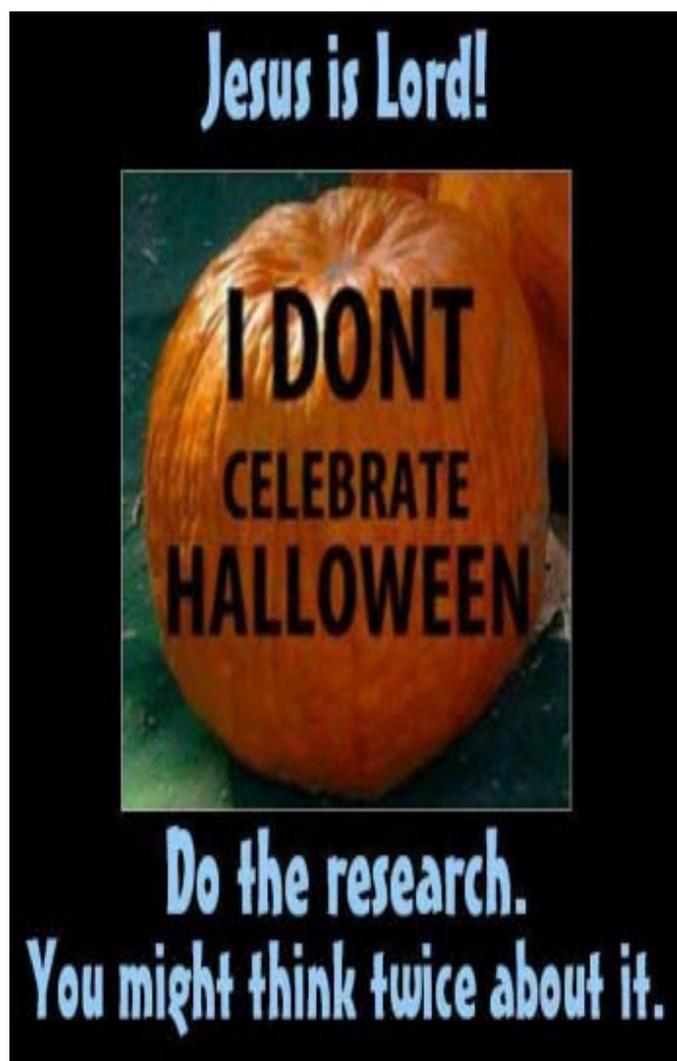
has continued to grow year after year.

There you have it. From my perspective, this is how Halloween became a powerful institution in America.

"Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thessalonians 5:22).

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils" (I Corinthians 10:21).

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween> Haunted History of Halloween (3 min) TV-PG
Bet You Didn't Know: Halloween (3 min) TV-PG
Halloween Goes Commercial (3 min) TV-PG © 2017, A&E Television Networks, LLC. All Rights Reserved.



THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill..." (Matthew 5:14). These are the words of Jesus to His disciples as He taught them in the beginning of His wonderful sermon on the mount. Words fitly spoken are like apples of gold in pictures of silver, something very precious. These precious words spoken to the disciples of the Lord Jesus are as lasting and true as time that speeds swiftly on toward the end of this age. Light is something that dispels darkness, therefore, He said further, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (vs. 16). Our light (knowledge of the Word of truth) and our good works (laboring for lost souls) must be manifested before men in giving the message of salvation by mouth, by the printed page, and by being living epistles, known and read of all men. Jesus is still speaking the same words to His disciples today, and if we are followers of Him, we will come unto Him and let our light shine that our Father in heaven may be glorified.

The Lord has given unto all His servants sufficient talent to carry out the dictates of His will, therefore we should not neglect the gift that is in us. If we have talent for speaking the word, we should cultivate this gift, for the work needs ministers who can proclaim the truth with power. If we have literary talent, this should not be neglected, for numbers of people learn the truth by reading. And if there be any other talent we possess, we should make the full extent of it, for God has given unto everyone His Spirit in a measure to profit withal. There is a place for all, even from the least to the greatest, and as workers together our light will shine out to all the world. God in His infinite wisdom has reserved a place for everyone, and He expects you to fill that place and not come short of the standard He has set. Tithes and offerings with which the Lord blessed you can let your light shine unto others and bring the truth to them, and those who are brought to the knowledge of the truth in this way can in turn do likewise.

We are very thankful to those who have so faithfully paid their tithes and given liberal offerings to keep the work growing. Remember, "YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD," and he that shall endure to the end shall be saved. May God bless you. *--Reprinted*

“Behold, The Bridegroom Cometh; Go Ye Out To Meet Him”

By O. D. Grimm (Deceased)

“And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him” (Matthew 25:6).

You will notice here in the tenth verse of this same chapter; “...and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” These five “wise” virgins were ready with the oil (Holy Spirit) in their lamps. It is this quickening Spirit that makes the change, “...In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...” (I Corinthians 15:51-52).

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (Romans 8:11).

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (verse 14).

We have shown that it is the Holy Spirit (oil in our lamps) dwelling in us that changes or quickens our mortal bodies so that we are ready to meet Jesus in the air and go with Him to the marriage supper. We cannot be called the sons of God without the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said in John 14:2-3: “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Yes, dear Christian friend, we are going to be wherever Jesus is when the cry goes forth, “go ye out to meet him.”

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together

with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

This is the meeting of our Lord Jesus Christ in the air with His saints. It cannot be disputed that Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the Bridegroom. Therefore, there must of necessity be a bride that He will take unto Himself when He comes. There are two phases of the coming of our Lord, the reaping phase first, and the warring phase second or later. We, as sons and daughters of God should be greatly interested in the reaping phase, for this is the time when they that are ready go out to meet Him. Please read Revelation 14:14-16. If we are not ready by not having oil (Holy Spirit) in our lamps, then the door will be shut, and we will be here on this sin cursed earth when the plagues are poured out. Let us make ourselves ready to dwell in the secret place of the most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91).

John, on the isle of Patmos saw the bride, the Lamb’s wife. “And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God” (Revelation 21:9-10).

We have shown the Bridegroom, the Lamb of God, and also the bride, the holy Jerusalem with the saints in it when they are caught up to meet Him in the air.

In Revelation 15:2-3, it describes the victorious saints standing on the sea of glass, the New Jerusalem, and they are singing the song of the Lamb, “...saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and

true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”

This meeting of the saints with their King is not when His feet shall stand upon the mount of Olives. The marriage supper is over, and the saints go with Him to the mount of Olives when He wears many crowns and is King of kings and Lord of lords. The saints then shall receive their reward

as kings and priests and shall reign with Him for one thousand years.

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure...” (II Peter 1:10); “and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut” (Matthew 25:10).

THOUGHTS ABOUT DISCOURAGEMENT

Bond Tennant

Discouragement is only one method used by Satan to oppose God’s people, and the Apostle Paul speaks of his own infirmities. He wrote, “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (II Corinthians 12:7-10).

There are many differences of opinions as to just what Paul’s infirmity might have been. However, the important thing was the apostle’s recognition of the manner in which Satan was making use of it to discourage him. He asked the Lord three times to remove this thorn in the flesh, but the Lord replied, “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”

Satan did not succeed in discouraging Paul. The apostle testified, “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong”

The Apostle Peter says that we should resist Satan by being steadfast in the faith. What lesson can we learn from this? It is very obvious. All of God’s children have afflictions of one sort or another. There are illnesses, deaths in the family, economic reverses, misunderstandings and many others. Satan often endeavors to have us believe that if we were truly God’s people, He would take these burdens from us. Therefore, our adversary instills fear in our hearts that perhaps we have been unfaithful to the Lord, and because of this God has withdrawn His favor from us. We can defend ourselves from this sort of attack by returning to the many Scriptures which reveal that the followers of the Lord are a sacrificing and suffering people, and that there is no assurance that the Lord will protect us from the trials and difficulties which are experienced by mankind in general. Our attitude in these situations should be to cast all our care upon the Lord knowing that He cares for us not according to the flesh, but as New Creatures in Christ Jesus.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (I Peter 5:6-7).

THE CRY AT MIDNIGHT

By Moises Torres

One of the parables of Jesus says: “And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him” (Matthew 25:6). This is a verse of time for the children of God. The question is: Is the day when the cry at midnight will be heard near? Our duty is to be ready to come and meet our Lord. Midnight comes threatening, but the morning comes right after it!

The Lord Jesus comes to establish His kingdom and to rule over all the nations of the earth. The actual situation of all nations is confusion and vanity and will stay like that until the coming of the Lord. Job says: “... and the people shall be troubled at midnight...” (34:20).

Since the beginning of mankind, many nations and kings have been trying to have dominion upon the Earth; Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, etc. In our modern world, the nations get together trying to acquire power and strength, all with the same purpose, without knowing that such right belongs to the Son of God. The Prophet Ezekiel was inspired to write a divine verdict about humankind, which will be fulfilled at the return of the Lord Jesus. “I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him” (Ezekiel 21:27). This prophecy is not only for Israel, for the Lord Jesus will be King of kings and Lord of lords. Every single intent of the nations trying to govern the Earth have become an overturn, and their last try will be with the help of the Antichrist who comes according to Satan’s operations. But the Lord will defeat them with the word coming out of His mouth.

The Prophet Isaiah says: “... Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come” (Isaiah 21:11-12). This “Watchman” in prophecy is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who never sleeps and will return. We also have to be saying today: Watchman, what of the night? We must be prepared to hear the cry at midnight.

WONDERS AMONG YOU

By Elder F. L. Summers (*Deceased*)

“...Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you” (Joshua 3:5). The words “Sanctify yourselves” were a command that passed from tent to tent in Israel on the day before a great event was to take place. This memorable day came after forty years of wandering in the wilderness where so many of the children of Israel were lost because of lack of faith in God. They would grumble against God or disobey that only two men who left Egypt over the age of twenty were permitted to take part in this sanctification and to behold the wonders God was to show them.

This command was given so they might prepare for a mighty display of God’s power on the morrow. This sanctification was carried out, and God did show wonders to them. If they had not heeded the command, God would not have performed this miracle.

The priests bearing the ark proceeded to the Jordan River followed by a sanctified people. These people were camped by the banks of Jordan which at this time of year overflowed its banks. They had no boats, and it was an impossibility to cross unless something supernatural was done. They confidently moved to the banks of the Jordan. The priests marched into the water, and it was then that God’s wonder-working power began. Praise God, no man can hinder such power, and this power was shown by faith. When they had faith to step in, the water began to roll back, and a sanctified people walked over dry shod. Twelve men were selected to gather stones from the bed of the river to build a memorial of this great event on the banks of this river. Years have passed and men are still being told of this glorious and triumphant entry into the promised land. This day did not come until a day of sanctification was proclaimed in which the people sanctified themselves.

Many times in reading the history of Israel, we find God had them to sanctify themselves before He would

deliver them from the powers of evil men. I would like to state that God's power is unchanged and is still mighty to work wonders among His people. His power is limited, however, according to the extent of sanctification among His people. If His people expect to behold His wonders, they must sanctify themselves by not being afraid to humble themselves and ask God to forgive them of every mistake and draw near to Him with all their heart.

We have a statement in Matthew 13:58 as follows: "And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." Jesus was reared to manhood at Nazareth, and, it seemed, there should have been the place for many mighty works, yet it was limited by reason of the hardness of their hearts. Mark says: "And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them" (Mark 6:5).

His power was limited because of unbelief. The very possibility of aid was cut off because of the absence of those fixed principles on which His wonder working power depends. There had been no day of sanctification, and they saw no tomorrow of wonders.

God today has not changed, but men and women have changed. They are not willing to humble themselves before the mighty hand of God and sanctify themselves so they might behold the wonders of God.

God's power is marked by obedience to His laws. These marks are seen among the remnant group who have a deep hungering for a closer walk with God. It is when men and women are not willing to humble themselves but manifest a self-righteous attitude, honoring Him with their lips, yet their hearts are far from Him, that God cannot do any mighty work. It is no wonder God withholds the manifestation of His presence and power from people who continue to live worldly and have no fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives. That window from which God pours out His blessings is barred from the manward side but not from the Godward side. When we sanctify ourselves, we have no doubts, so our sanctification must precede God's tomorrow.

The world as well as the churches have fallen into a deep sleep, and the spirit of lethargy is gripping the people

who profess God, blinding their ministers that they cannot see. Our natural or human eyes and ears cannot see or hear the things God has for us, but God can and will reveal them to us by His Holy Spirit which must dwell in us if we are to be saved in that great day. That is the office of the Comforter or Holy Spirit to lead us into all the truth. If we do not have the Holy Spirit in us, it is an impossibility for us to understand or grasp the deep things of God.

John had a wonderful vision on the Isle of Patmos, looking on down beyond 1954. He saw the holy City coming down with sheets of pure gold as transparent glass and gates of pearl. It is the Spirit-filled man and woman who are caught up to the marriage supper of the Lamb in this great city. See Revelation 15:1-2; 19:7-9. May the Holy Spirit come into our lives and open up our hearts and minds that we may grasp the truth, for it is the truth that makes us free.

Remember that the ten virgins all looked alike as far as having lamps and being virgins were concerned, but when the cry went forth, "...the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," it was then shown who had oil or the Holy Spirit. Those who had the Holy Spirit entered into the marriage supper, and the door was shut.

Please consider these things, and do not get your eyes fixed on Jesus' coming to the mount of Olives, for it is then He brings the saints with Him. They have been caught before this time. Remember the harvest of the earth is reaped before the cluster of the vine is cast into the winepress of Almighty God. Please read carefully Revelation 14:14-20. This is marvelous Scripture. Then please read Revelation 15:1-2. This will show you just what will take place one of these days soon. The winepress is trodden outside the city, and blood came out up to the horses' bridles. This is the Battle of Armageddon when Jesus comes to the mount of Olives to take over the kingdoms of this world.

May God bless you to love the truth well enough to study these Scriptures that that day will not overtake you as a thief in the night.

Remember, sanctify yourselves today, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

FLEEING IDOLATRY

Reprinted

The Book of Daniel contains practical lessons for the Christians of this present day. The most outstanding lesson is in relationship to idolatry. Perhaps one would suggest that the Christian needs no exhortation in regard to idolatry; but Paul in writing to the Corinthians says, "Flee from idolatry". And John in concluding his first Epistle writes, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols". If idolatry were not a real evil for the Christian to avoid, these exhortations would not have been given.

The three Hebrew children were confronted with the choice of bowing to Nebuchadnezzar's image or being thrown alive into the fiery furnace. But they were determined not to commit idolatry, even though their courageous stand cost them their lives. Today, the Christian is tempted on every side to bow to the world's idols. Although the test is largely a spiritual one, and the penalty does not affect our physical lives as it did the Hebrew children, yet the principle involved is the same. Anything we love more than God is idolatry. All about us are people bowing low to the gods of pleasure, money, self-gratification, power and praise. And if we are to avoid this evil idolatry, we must depend upon God as the three Hebrews did.

Can you not picture the occasion of which Daniel writes? The signal sounds out which means that everyone is to bow before the golden image. And while everyone bowed these three young men stood. No doubt the Babylonians around them laughed them to scorn. What foolish young men! They need only bow once to spare their lives. But they would gladly sacrifice their lives than betray their God.

Perhaps as the signal sounded and Meshach remained standing, he wondered if he were the only one. He looked

around and saw that Abednego and Shadrach were also standing, and how he rejoiced at this companionship in suffering. Friendship is sweet as we share our joys with one another, but how much more precious it is when our friends stand with us in times of trial, and reproach, and suffering! Paul writes of fellowshiping with Christ in His sufferings, as he identifies himself with the reproach of the Cross. A true Christian not only enters into the joyful aspect of fellowship with Christ and His followers but is quite willing to go with Christ and His disciples into the furnace of affliction, also.

Today the two's and three's who meet together in His Name, and who refuse to bow to the world's institutions, feel the scorn of the world upon them. "In the world ye shall have tribulation"; "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you"; "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" are the words of Scripture, and the faithful few that meet in Christ's Name realize these facts fully. But as they fellowship, they look at each other and are mutually strengthened, encouraged, and cheered. That is one reason that the child of God should not forsake the assembling himself with other Christians.

What happened to these young Hebrew stalwarts? They were bound hand and foot and cast alive into the burning, fiery furnace. But what was an apparent defeat for them and the God that they served, was used of God to glorify His holy Name. In the fiery furnace, they not only enjoyed the fellowship of one another, but above all they had companionship of the Son of God. Every child of God who takes his stand for Christ, and refuses to bow to the world's idols, may be assured of the presence of Christ in the midst of the world's reproach.

These young men were fortified by God's Word. They knew that it commanded them to worship the Lord their God and to bow to no image, and thus enlightened they adhered completely to "Thus saith the Lord". The same Sword of the Spirit which Jesus used to defeat the devil in the temptation in the wilderness was used by these three young men triumphantly.

Such a victory always resounds to the praise of God. In this case, it resulted in a world-wide proclamation made by Nebuchadnezzar himself. He exclaimed, "...Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted

in him,...and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God." Then he made a decree which closed with these words, "...because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort" (Daniel 3:28, 29).

Let us flee from idolatry at any cost. We may not be faced with such alternative as the three Hebrew children were, but even if we were we may have this assurance: their God still lives today, and He is the same yesterday, and today, and tomorrow; and with each test He gives all the grace and strength that is necessary. Through our steadfastness, great glory will be given to His Name.

Why Me?

By David DeLong

When bad things, or troubles, come upon people, many will throw up their hands and ask: "Why me?" Many people think that what they are going through is unfair or unjust, not realizing that far greater calamities are really their just desert. Let us, as believers, never get into the mold of asking "Why me?" when things don't go our way.

Jesus never asked "Why me?" when He went through hurtful experiences, though He of all people did go through truly unjust situations. Jesus always looked for the Father's will in every experience that He went through. He did so by at least two methods. The first method that we will examine was that of prayer.

In Mark 1:35 we read: "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." It was Jesus' custom to pray for everything. We see in this passage in Mark that Jesus was even willing to make a sacrifice to pray. He arose a great while before day to be in contact with His heavenly Father. If the truth be told, many of us would rather be in bed, sleeping, than to get up a great while before day to spend time in prayer. But prayer was one of the methods that Jesus relied upon to help answer the many situations in which He was involved.

The second method that we will look at that Jesus

used was the study of the Scriptures. It was His habit to say "It is written" when referring to the Scriptures. Jesus even spoke to the devil this way. We gain much information about our situations in life by studying the Scriptures. Many folks only study their Bibles when they are in Church. This is a tragedy, because as we eat food every day, so we need the spiritual nourishment every day that only the Scriptures can give us.

Instead of asking, "Why me?" when we go through an unpleasant experience, maybe we should ask, "What is the purpose for which I'm going through this experience?" Perhaps it is just common, every day situations that are coming upon us. Perhaps we have committed a particular sin, that we can think of, and the Lord may be chastising us. Hebrews 12:5-13 reads: "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye (illegitimate), and not sons. Fur-

thermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."

If you can think of no particular sin that you have committed, then perhaps it is a test of the Lord to see if you will continue to be faithful to Him under trying circumstances. Remember that Job and other saints went through difficult situations and they proved to be faithful through them. In any circumstance, look for a lesson that you can learn through the trying times.

The Scriptures also advise us to give thanks for every situation that we go through. First Thessalonians 5:17-18 reads: "Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." This really does work to help us through the rough times.

I was feeling bad the other day about circumstances that I thought were unfair in my life. But then I started giving God thanks for even the negative things that were in my life, and then the "unfairness" of the situations faded away from me.

When Jesus was hanging on the cross He did ask His Father: "...Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). But this was not said in pity for Himself, but was a question that Jesus asked His Father in fulfillment of biblical prophecy (see Psalm 22:1).

Instead of asking, "Why me?" maybe we should ask, "Why not me?" If we are true followers of Jesus, then we are going to suffer with Christ. First Peter 2:21-25 admonishes us: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

Greeting People

By David DeLong

In Paul's letters to the churches he makes a point to greet the brethren in a rather encompassing style. For instance, in his letter to the Romans the Apostle Paul, in his benediction, greets a number of the brothers and sisters. "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also. Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of

the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ. Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us. Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord. Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household. Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord. Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute

the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord. Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them. Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them. Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you" (Romans 16:1-16).

Greeting, or saluting, others, not of your brethren only, was a message that Christ taught. "And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:47-48).

This may have been one of the main reasons that the early Church of God grew so rapidly and in such numbers. I mention this point because, to my recollection, I have attended a church, or churches, where hardly anyone recognized that I was even in attendance. And then, apparently, I have attended a church, or churches, where there was an appointed "welcoming committee" that made sure I was greeted and welcomed to that church. What a difference it makes. In one church you may feel that nobody cares a bit if you attend or not. And in another church

you may feel like a king or queen in attendance.

The reason, I believe, that Paul made such an effort to greet the brethren was because he genuinely cared for them. He was interested in how they were doing, and how the church was doing where they were in attendance. Such a caring attitude made the brothers and sisters closer to each other and, possibly, to the Lord. When Paul was leaving the Church in Ephesus there was a tremendous outpouring of emotion for him. They felt really close to him. In Acts 20:36-38, after Paul had addressed the brethren, we learn: "And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him, Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship."

Of course, if a church member really doesn't care if another is in attendance or not then he or she should question his or her relationship to the Lord. This is the one identifying characteristic of a disciple of Jesus. The Lord taught in John 13:34-35: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John: The Beloved Disciple

By David DeLong

The Apostle John is known as the disciple whom Jesus loved (see John 13:23). Now we know that Jesus loved all of His disciples, but there appears to be a special bond between John and Jesus. Let us take a few minutes to see why this was possibly the case.

Going back to John 13:23 we can see a possible reason for this closeness. "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved." This event was at the time of Jesus' last passover with His disciples. Of all twelve of the Lord's disciples with Him at this passover, we find only John "leaning on Jesus' bosom". This shows a special connection that John had for his Master. In Proverbs 8:17, in a verse speaking about Wis-

dom personified (Jesus), we read: "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me." Those who have a special love for the Lord will, in turn, be loved by the Lord. We see this relationship in the early days of Solomon. In II Samuel 12:24 we learn: "And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him." We can also see the great love that Solomon had for the Lord in I Kings 3:3-14. "And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thou-

sand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days." The same can be true of us as well. If we love God by keeping His commandments and ways, He will have a special love for us too.

Going back to the Apostle John, we see him becoming one of Jesus' first disciples. In Matthew 4:21-22 we read: "And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him." John became one of Jesus' inner circle of disciples because of his devotion to the Master. In various situations we see him, with Peter and James, being in this inner circle. We see these three at the mount of transfiguration with Jesus (Matthew 17:1-9). We witness the three with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

(Matthew 26:37-38). We glimpse Peter, with John, visiting the empty tomb of Jesus (John 20:3-10). And we find Jesus speaking about John to Peter (John 21:20-24).

John seemed to have a special understanding of Jesus' ministry. He recorded the conversation that Jesus had with the woman from Samaria (see John 4). He wrote about Jesus as the water of life (John 4:13-15. See also 7:37-39). He wrote of Jesus being the bread of life (John 6:32-58). He recorded Jesus' teaching that He was the door of the sheepfold (John 10:1-9). John gave special attention to Jesus' message of love (John 14:23-24; 15:9-14; 16:26-27).

John is the disciple to whom Jesus entrusted His mother, Mary's, care after He was gone (see John 19:26-27). Yes, John was a disciple whom Jesus loved. Will He be as close to you and me? He can be!

"Master, Is It I?"

By David DeLong

The Master's heart was troubled,
He knew that bye and bye
Then Judas would betray Him:
"Master, is it I?"

Jesus gave to him the sop,
The day that He would die;
And Judas only half replied:
"Master, is it I?"

For Judas knew what he would do,
That he would surely try
To sell his Lord for silver:
"Master, is it I?"

We may, too, betray the Lord
And never wonder why;
If we won't speak a word for Him:
"Master, is it I?"



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.

ASTEROID APOCALYPSE

The following is an article which appeared in **USA Today**. Its title is *NASA prepares for asteroid apocalypse*:

Today's forecast: end of the world.

Well, not really, but if a big enough asteroid was on a collision course with Earth, we'd really have something more than scattered showers to worry about.

NASA (not to mention the rest of us) would like to avoid such a catastrophe. The agency is conducting a drill this week to see how we'd prepare if a giant rock was hurtling toward our home planet.

"Although large impacts are rare, it's important to be prepared," NASA said in a statement. "That's why NASA and other U.S. agencies and international partners gather periodically to simulate impact scenarios and discuss the best course of action."

The project will play out as a tabletop exercise through Friday at the 2019 Planetary Defense Conference in College Park, Maryland, Space.com said. NASA experts prepared a fictional scenario in which an asteroid apparently will crash into Earth in 2027.

Space.com said, "They'll talk through how to determine what regions face what risks and how to respond – all in the hopes that if they ever face a similar situation in real life, they'll be ready for it."

To avoid any unnecessary panic, the conference plainly states on its website that "Although this scenario is realistic in many ways, it is completely fictional and does NOT describe an actual potential asteroid impact."

Lindley Johnson, NASA's planetary defense officer, said in a statement that "these exercises have really helped us in the planetary defense community to understand what our colleagues on the disaster management side need to know. This exercise will help us develop more effective communications with each other."

The drill is part of the National Near-Earth Object Preparedness Strategy and Action Plan developed over two years and published by the White House in June 2018. NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office, which leads the drill, is the federal entity in charge of coordinating efforts to protect Earth from hazardous asteroids. It's responsible for finding, tracking and characterizing potentially hazardous objects and issuing warnings about possible impacts.

For more than 20 years, NASA and its international partners have scanned the skies for "near-Earth objects," or asteroids and comets that orbit the sun and come within 30 million miles of Earth's orbit. NASA has participated in six impact exercises – three at Planetary Defense Conferences (2013, 2015, 2017) and three jointly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Deflecting an asteroid on a collision course with Earth would have to be done years before the predicted impact. The two most promising techniques NASA is investigating are the “kinetic impactor” (striking an asteroid with an object to slightly slow it down) and the “gravity tractor” (gravitationally tugging on an asteroid by placing a large mass near it).

Fortunately, no known asteroid poses a significant risk of impact over the next 100 years, NASA says.

A study in 2017 found the deadliest effects of an asteroid impact would be ferocious winds of up to 1,000 mph and intense shock waves.

Comment

Webster’s New World Dictionary defines apocalypse as meaning “a disclosure regarded as prophetic revelation”. True prophetic revelation is only found in God’s Word, the Bible. Biblical prophecy mentions nothing about an asteroid being on a collision course with the Earth. Therefore, this idea is an invention of man. However, it is good that many are aware that the world (age) will end although they cannot make or prepare for any one apocalypse.

ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY

It is reported that the Arizona legislature is now considering declaring pornography a public health crisis. A state representative introduced the resolution. She noted that 30 peer-reviewed studies show the detrimental effect of pornography on the brain. She said pornography is a social toxin that destroys families, damages children, harms women and breeds violence. The representative noted that a national study shows that 64 percent of young people ages 13 to 24 view pornography once a week or more and that 1 in 10 visitors to pornography websites are 10 years old or younger. The representative compared pornography with the tobacco industry. She said both have created a public health crisis. Thirteen states have passed similar resolutions.

Comment

We agree that pornography is a public health crisis.

ROBOTS IN LAS VEGAS

This year a company plans to install at Vegas resorts an unknown number of automated beverage machines which are programmed to mix hundreds of different drinks all at the touch of a button. The job depended on service workers for many years. At Nevada casinos, rank and file union workers do not know for certain whether machines will force them to abandon their jobs and force them to develop new skills.

FARMERS IN CRISIS

American farmers were already plagued by a biblical parade of misfortune which includes years of low prices and a trade war with China. They are now grappling with record Midwest rain. This will likely prevent a large portion of this year’s crops from even getting planted.

ABOUT VENEZUELA

At this time, U.S. military action is still possible in Venezuela to bolster opposition leader Juan Guaido’s bid to oust President Nicolas Maduro. However, Secretary of State Pompeo and other officials, including President Donald Trump, have said “all options are on the table” but focused mostly on economic sanctions and other diplomatic tools.

“We are trying to do everything we can to avoid violence. We’d prefer a peaceful transition of government there when Maduro leaves and a new election is held.”

Comment

Let us pray that economic sanctions and other diplomatic tools work. We do not need to go into another conflict where many of our troops may lose their lives.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULTS

According to a report, sexual assaults in the military rose nearly 38 percent from 2016 to 2018. The spike in crime within the ranks comes after years of focused effort and resources to eradicate it.

Comment

This is a prime example of the “lust of the flesh”.

NO MORE PELL GRANTS?

--Continued on page seventeen.

BIBLE

Study



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Many in the political world today seem to be liars. What does God's Word tell us about the person who lies?

Answer: First, let us begin with a **NOTE**. Then we will list a few consequences for the person who lies, bears false witness:

The ninth Commandment of God's Ten Commandments states, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour" (Exodus 20:16). False words dig deep into the heart when this Commandment is broken. False words can do more harm than a physical blow. The person who breaks this Commandment becomes a willing partner with Satan (the devil) who is the "father of all lies" and "the accuser" of believers. Consider the following two verses: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day

and night" (Revelation 12:10).

The person who lies will not inherit the kingdom of God. "But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, AND ALL LIARS, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, OR MAKETH A LIE: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27).

The person who lies will not escape. He shall face the judgment of God and perish. "A false witness shall not be unpunished, AND HE THAT SPEAKETH LIES SHALL NOT ESCAPE" (Proverbs 19:5). "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, AND AGAINST FALSE SWEARERS, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 3:5).

The person who lies only deceives himself. He has an empty religion. "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

The person who lies will have a life marked by a critical spirit that is quick to judge the actions of others. "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" (James 4:11).

QUESTION: How should we respond to the Scriptures?

ANSWER: There are many ways in which we should respond to the Scriptures. The following are some of them.

We should awe (reverence) the Scriptures. "Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word" (Psalm 119:161). We should treasure the Scriptures more than food. "Neither have I gone back

from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12).

We should love the Scriptures. “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it” (Psalm 119:140).

We should obey the Scriptures. “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:25).

We should hide the Scriptures in our hearts. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

We should study the Scriptures. “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39).

QUESTION: Will you please comment on the humility of Christ by citing Scriptures?

ANSWER: Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Jesus did not seek His own. “And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth” (John 8:50).

Jesus ate with sinners. “Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them” (Luke 15:1-2).

Jesus was long-suffering during His cruel trial. “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously” (I Peter 2:23).

--Continued from page fifteen.

Comment

The Pell Grants are a great help to deserving low income college students. Our daughter received a Pell Grant which helped tremendously.

LOW U.S. BIRTH RATE

According to a news source, the low U.S. birth rate is a risk to the economy. The news source reported that an aging society can hold back growth as spending slowly decreases. It reported that women in the United States gave birth last year at the lowest rate in 30 years, a trend that could weigh on economic growth in the coming decades.

DELIVERY DRONES

A self-driving drone could soon be delivering our Amazon orders. An Amazon official said, “We’ve been hard at work building fully electric drones that can fly up to 15 miles and deliver packages under five pounds to customers in less than 30 minutes.”

Comment

We have featured this before in a previous Signs Of The Times.

AIR POLLUTION IN NATIONAL PARKS

Air pollution in national parks such as Yellowstone, Yosemite and Acadia is as bad as some of America’s largest cities, and the foul air may be causing tourists to cut visits short or avoid going at all.

HELICOPTER TRAVEL

Soon it may be possible to avoid commuting in bumper-to-bumper traffic. Several companies are working on manufacturing a small, relatively inexpensive, partially electric-powered craft designed for two people taking short trips.



Salem, West Virginia.

Electrical work done by brother Alex Rosales from Dallas, Texas, at the Publishing House in Salem.





One of six Exit signs installed by Apostle Del DeLong at the Publishing House.

LESSON I

LESSON II

THE MARVELOUS FEATS OF SAMSON

SAMSON AND DELILAH

Scripture Reading: Judges 15:1-20.

Golden Text: Judges 15:15.

"And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith."

NOTE: We have learned how Samson was appointed by God to be Israel's deliverer from the Philistines, even before his birth. We have also learned that Samson had great strength. Now let us see how he used this strength to deliver his people.

1. What happened to Samson's wife in Judges 15:1-2?
2. What did Samson do to the Philistines as a result of this? Judges 15:4-5.
3. After Samson destroyed the Philistines' corn and vineyard, what did they do to Samson's wife and her father for causing this trouble? Judges 15:6.
4. Was Samson pleased by this act? What did he do in return and where did he go? Judges 15:7-8.
5. The Philistines were still angry and wanted to destroy Samson. What did they do to him? Judges 15:9-13.
6. After Samson was bound and taken to Lehi, how did he slay the Philistines? Judges 15:14-17.
7. Samson slew 1,000 men with the jaw of an ass. He then called on the Lord because he was athirst. Did the Lord hear his pleas? Judges 15:18-19.
8. How long did Samson judge Israel? Judges 15:20.

**Write the Memory Verse
in the spaces on page 21.**

PROVERBS 3:5A

Scripture Reading: Judges 16:1-21.

Golden Text: Judges 16:17.

"That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned of the great strength of Samson, and now we shall see how his great strength was broken.

1. Samson went to Gaza, and when the Gazites found that he was there, what did they try to do? Judges 16:1-3.
2. Samson went to the valley of Sorek, and there he met Delilah. What did the Philistines want Delilah to do, and what did they promise her? Judges 16:5.
3. Delilah did as the Philistines wanted her to, but did Samson tell her the truth about his strength? Judges 16:6-7.
4. How did Samson prove his strength in Judges 16:8-9?
5. Delilah realized that Samson did not tell her the truth, so she tried again to find out wherein his strength did lie. What did Samson tell her the second time? Judges 16:11-12.
6. What was the third story Samson told Delilah about how his strength could be broken? Judges 16:13-14.
7. Delilah pressed him daily and urged him to tell her how he received this strength. Did he finally tell her the truth? Judges 16:17-18.
8. After Samson fell asleep, what did the Philistines do to him? Judges 16:19-21.

LESSON III

SAMSON'S TRAGIC DEATH

Scripture Reading: Judges 16:21-31.

Golden Text: Judges 16:28.

"And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned how Delilah betrayed Samson and how he lost all this strength when his head was shaven. Now we shall see how Samson gained back his strength long enough to take revenge on the Philistines.

1. What did the Philistines do to Samson after his strength was gone? Judges 16:21.
2. Did Samson's hair grow back as it had been? Judges 16:22.
3. What boasts did the Philistines make after they had put him in prison? Judges 16:23-24.
4. Why did the Philistines call Samson out of prison? Judges 16:25-26.
5. What was Samson's request of the Lord in Judges 16:28?
6. Did the Lord grant Samson's plea and what was the result? Judges 16:29-30.
7. Where was Samson buried? Judges 16:31.

LESSON IV

NAOMI AND RUTH

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:1-22.

Golden Text: Ruth 1:16.

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God".

NOTE: We're beginning a new study in this lesson about a Bethlehem family who sojourned in the land of Moab. Moabites were descendants of Lot; thus distantly related to the Jews. They were, however, heathen.

1. What was the name of the man and his wife who came to Moab, and for what reason did they journey there? Ruth 1:1-2.
2. What happened to Naomi's husband? Ruth 1:3.
3. Who did his two sons marry, and how long did they dwell in Moab? Ruth 1:4.
4. Then what happened to Naomi's sons? Ruth 1:5.
5. Where did Naomi and her daughter-in-laws go after the death of her husband and sons? Ruth 1:6-7.
6. What was Naomi's request for her daughter-in-laws? Ruth 1:8-9.
7. Did both daughter-in-laws return to their own families? Ruth 1:14-15.
8. What did Ruth do after Orpah left? Ruth 1:16-17.
9. Into what land did Naomi and Ruth go? Ruth 1:19-22.

JESUS TEACHING HOW TO PRAY

Jesus often rose very early in the morning to talk to His Father in heaven. The disciples saw that His face looked happy and strong when He came back from praying. They said "Master, teach us to pray."

Upon the quiet mountain, Jesus sat down with His disciples around Him. He told them the Lord's prayer. If they received no answer at once, Jesus told them to keep asking and seeking in prayer. "If you ask your father on earth for bread, would he give you a stone?" He asked them. They shook their heads. "If you give good things to your children, how much more will the heavenly father give good things to you when you ask Him!" said Jesus.

One day Jesus told them the story of men who came into the temple to pray. One wore fine clothes and held his head proudly high. He was a wise teacher called a Pharisee. The other was a man who collected taxes. He was called a publican. All the tax collectors were hated because they took too much money from the people.

As the proud man went along, he was thinking what a good man he was, He kept himself holy, and obeyed the law, and gave money to the poor. He walked out the front of the temple and prayed so that all might hear him, "O God, I thank Thee that I am not wicked like other men. I am not like the publican." Then he went on about good deeds which he did.

The publican found a dark corner in which to stand. He bowed his head, and cried out to God to forgive him. His heart was full of sorrow for his sins. Then he turned and went away happy, for he knew that God had heard him and had forgiven him. But the rich man received nothing from God, for he had asked for nothing. He had only told God how good he was, and had not asked to be forgiven.

Jesus taught His disciples that God heard the prayer of the man who was sorry for his sin, but not the prayer of the proud teacher.

Answers to "Who Am I"

- 1. Abraham 2. Moses 3. David 4. Jeremiah 5. Jonah 6. Daniel 7. John the Baptist 8. Mary 9. Jesus

CIRCLE PUZZLE

Starting at the dot move clockwise around the circle and write every other letter to discover the message.



MESSAGE: "... _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ..."

In the Bible, older people would give advice to young people, just as they do today. Look up the Bible verses below and describe who was handing out advice and what he or she said.

Advice From:

To:

- 1. Joshua 23:1-2, 6
2. I Chronicles 28:20
3. I Timothy 1:1, 18-19, 2:1
4. James 1:1, 22
5. II Peter 1:1, 5-8

"WHO AM I?"

1. God told this man that he would have a great family that would become a great nation and through his family all families would be blessed. His son's name was Isaac.
2. God called this man to lead the people out of exile, and he made a great promise or covenant with him on Mount Sinai.
3. As a boy, he showed his courage and trust in God by defeating a giant named Goliath. As king, he united his country.
4. The people thought this prophet was out of his mind because he warned that the kingdom would be destroyed by the Babylonians. He smashed a vase to try to make his message clear.
5. God called this man to help save the people who lived in Nineveh. Instead of obeying, he ran away. Later, he returned to do God's will.
6. This prophet was thrown into the lion's den for praying to God. His faith in God saved him.
7. This man baptized Jesus in the river Jordan. His mother's name was Elizabeth.
8. This woman said yes to God and the Angel Gabriel.
9. A beautiful Savior, Son of God and Son of Man.

Follow the instructions for each name to find out why Jacob sent his ten sons to Egypt. Put those letters in the blanks below.

- JUDAH Circle the 5th letter
- ASHER Circle the last two letters
- LEVI Circle the 2nd and 4th letters
- ISSACHAR Circle the 2nd and 5th letters
- SIMEON Circle the "O"
- REUBEN Circle the 1st letter
- DAN Circle the last letter
- BENJAMIN Circle the last two letters
- ZEBULUN Circle the 2nd letter
- GAD Circle the first letter
- JOSEPH Circle the fifth letter
- NAPHTALI Circle the "T"

"T _ _ _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _."

To solve the question below find the answer to the first question and remove the first letter to get the answer of the second question.

1. The name of the Gospel after Matthew, Noah's famous boat.
2. A famous Bible tower. (Genesis 11:9)
The first shepherd. (Genesis 4:2)
3. A stone worn by a priest. (Exodus 28:19)
A door in a city wall. (Genesis 23:10)
4. A place where fire is laid. (Jeremiah 36:22)
Something which is the Lord's. (Psalm 24:1)
5. The place where Moses saw the burning bush. (Exodus 3:1)
A prince of that country. (Judges 7:25)
6. A man who wrote a book. (Joshua 10:13)
One of Jacob's sons. (Genesis 30:13)
7. Belshazzar's famous dinner. (Daniel 5:1)
The place where the Wise Men saw the star.
8. The father of Jahdo. (I Chronicles 5:14)
A land mentioned in Job 1:1.
9. A friend of Moses and Aaron. (Exodus 17:10)
A city where Abraham lived. (Genesis 15:7)
10. A Bible battle ground. (Numbers 21:23)
A Bible King. (II Chronicles 28:22)



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CONSIDER THIS

How often on a quiet Sabbath evening
Our minds dwell on scenes up above;
And our souls long to be in that Kingdom,
And be ruled by its peace, joy, and love.
It will be so different from what we now know
In this world filled with sickness and pain;
Where we cry for the help we are needing,
Our prayers echo this time and again.
We should consider the mind of Jesus
As he hung on that cruel, hateful tree;
His thoughts did not dwell on his suffering,
But of what he could prepare for you and me.
He had mentioned time and again in his preaching
How it would be the Father's great pleasure to give
All the wonders that would come with His Kingdom
That would be ours, and forever we live.
So when your mind dwells again on that Kingdom,
Picture all of the good things you will get;
Think again of His pleasure in giving
Such blessings we will never forget.

--Betty Whetstone (deceased)

