

***THE ADVOCATE OF TRUTH***



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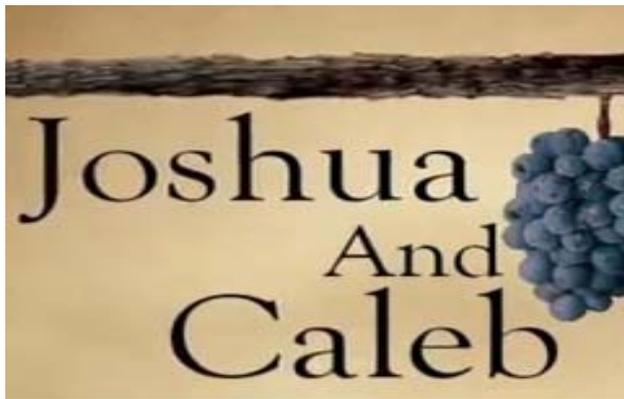
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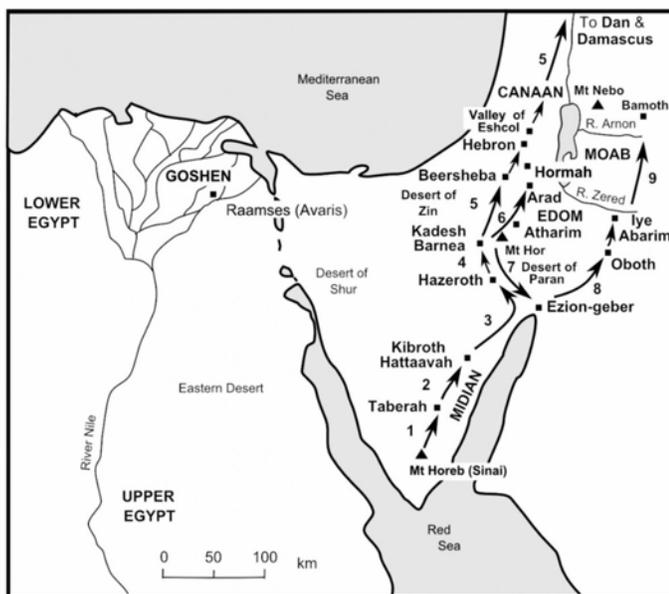


By David Royer

We first learn of these two men, Joshua and Caleb, from the Old Testament account of Moses leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. About 70 days after leaving Egypt, Moses and the Israelites reached Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:1-2). They camped there for almost a year and then traveled north for eleven days (Deut. 1:2) along the western side of the Gulf of Aqaba to Kadesh-Barnea in the Desert of Paran (see Map A, and Locations 1, 4&7).

Kadesh-Barnea was an oasis with many springs of water and pasture land for their flocks and herds. It is close to the border of Canaan, and the Israelites were poised to enter the Promised Land.

Map A



Before deciding how to mount a military campaign against the existing inhabitants of Canaan, Moses needed accurate and up-to-date information about the towns, cities, fortifications, military targets, inhabitation, geography, forests, and availability of food sources. He sent a dozen spies to gain this intelligence, one person from each tribe of Israel, on a six-week mission. The 150-mile incursion into Canaan was from Beersheba and Hebron in the south to Damascus and Hamath in the north. (Numbers 13:21) (See Map B)

Map B



Caleb and Joshua are introduced to us as selected spies. These two men, along with the other ten spies, were recognized leaders of their ancestral tribe. (Numbers 13:2) [I assume that since they would be dividing up the land between the twelve tribes, it is important that representatives from all the tribes be in on this initial survey of Canaan].

**Caleb**, the son of Jephunneh, was approximately 40 years old when he became one of the 12 spies sent by Moses into the Promised Land. He was a member of Judah, the largest of the twelve tribes. Caleb and Joshua

were the only two spies who brought back a good report about the land and believed that God could help them take it. Much later, Caleb became one of the leaders of Israel after the death of Joshua. God promised Caleb and Joshua that they would receive the land they had explored for themselves and their descendants. Also, they were told they would live to go into the Promised Land.

Joshua, the son of Nun, was also 40 years old and a leader from the tribe of Ephraim. Joshua's first appearance in the Bible was in Exodus 17, when the Amalekites attacked the Israelites immediately after crossing the Red Sea. It is Joshua, a/k/a Hosea, who leads the counter-attack. He defeats the enemy and eventually becomes Moses's assistant and, ultimately, the Israelites' leader after Moses's death.

The detailed story of Israel's failure at Kadesh-Barnea is found in Numbers, Chapters 13&14. Here is a summary: After 40 days, the spies return to Kadesh-Barnea and meet with the entire encampment and Moses. They carry a large cluster of grapes on a pole between them. They talk about the abundance of the land, "it does flow with milk and honey." But ten of the spies are frightened by the prospect of defeating the inhabitants, saying the cities are fortified, and the people are more powerful than us, and some are gigantic. There were many kingdoms and tribes to be conquered.

Caleb tries to reassure the people by saying, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." To no avail. The next day, all the children of Israel (except a few) rebel and want to return to Egypt. Joshua and Caleb try again: "And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not." (Numbers 14:7-9)

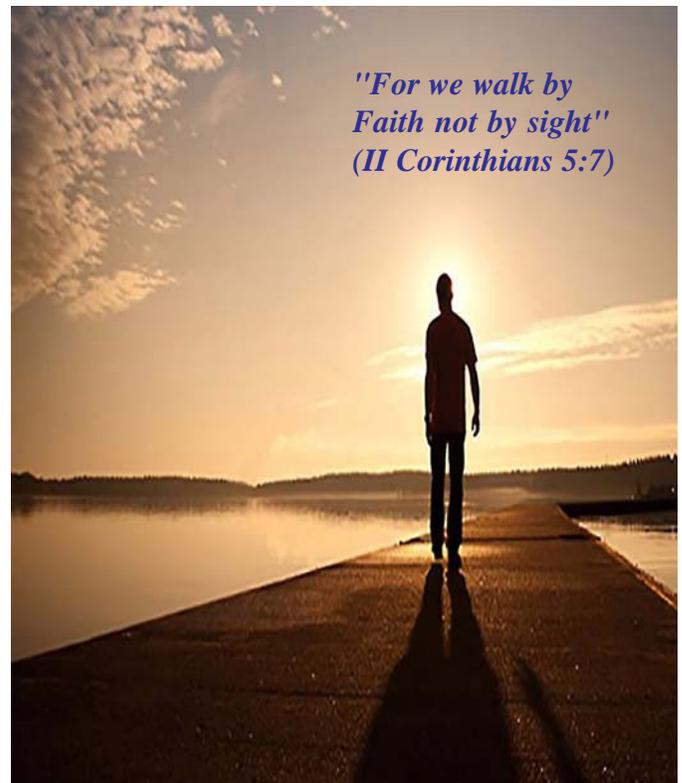
Joshua and Caleb had faith in God's promise. However, even after building the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant, witnessing hundreds of miracles (from the time

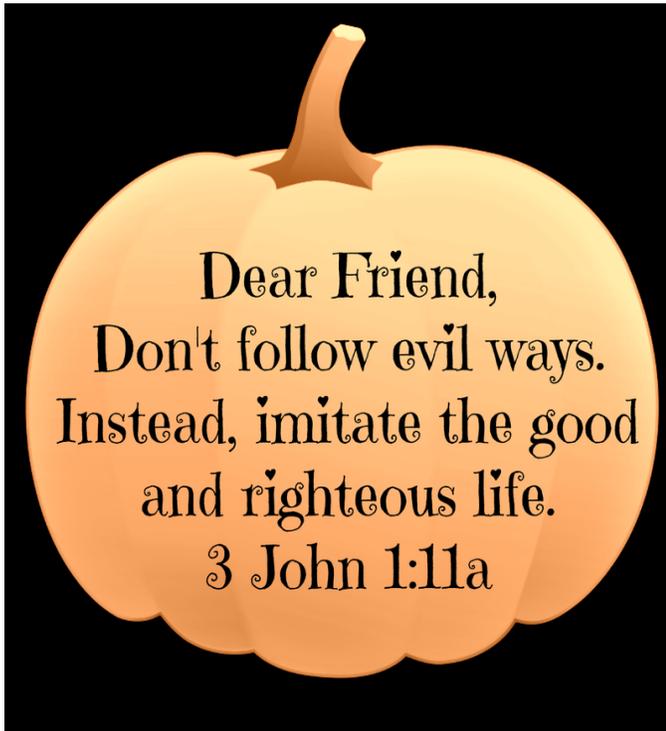
before leaving Egypt until the time they reached Kadesh-Barnea), the children of Israel viewed God as too weak to help them enter and conquer the Promised Land. The people's fear leads to a failure to trust God. As a result, they rebelled against God's plan for them to enter the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Deut. 1:7-8).

As a result, God severely judged them for their lack of faith and condemned the Israelites to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. All people of the exodus 20 years and older died, except two: Joshua and Caleb. These two men and the younger generation entered the Promised Land.

Like many people today, this first generation walked by sight and followed crowd rhetoric only and not by faith. Their failure is a lesson for us. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

Note from the author: Locations on these maps are approximate, and some are under dispute.





## **HALLOWEEN: TRICK OR TREAT**

**From The Post Newspaper, Texas City, TX**

**II Corinthians 6:17 says, "...come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord..."**

Is Halloween wrong or evil? As Christians, should we celebrate Halloween? Are there any clues we can get from the Bible concerning this topic? Let us see what the Bible has to say!

### **What does the Bible say about Halloween?**

Halloween does not have any direct reference in the Bible. However, there are biblical principles that directly relate to the celebration of Halloween. The best way to understand how Halloween relates to the Bible is to look at the meaning of Halloween and its history.

### **What does Halloween mean?**

The word Halloween literally means the evening before ALL HALLOWS DAY (or All Saints Day) celebrated on November 1. Halloween is celebrated on October 31. The origin and meaning of Halloween are derived from ancient Celtic harvest festivals, but over time, we have seen Halloween as a night of candy, trick-or-treating,

pumpkins, ghosts, and death.

### **The history of Halloween.**

Halloween as we know it, began over 1,900 years ago in England, Ireland, and Northern France. It was known to be the biggest holiday of the year which emphasized that day as the time when the souls of the dead supposedly could mingle with the living. Also, it was the time when demons, witches, and evil spirits freely roamed the earth with joy to greet the arrival of "their season." The demons would have fun with mortals that night. However, to escape the fury of these demons, a human could disguise himself as one of them and join in their roaming, which is why people dress the way they do on Halloween. There was also the custom of eating or giving away fruit, especially apples. Today the fruit is replaced by candy.

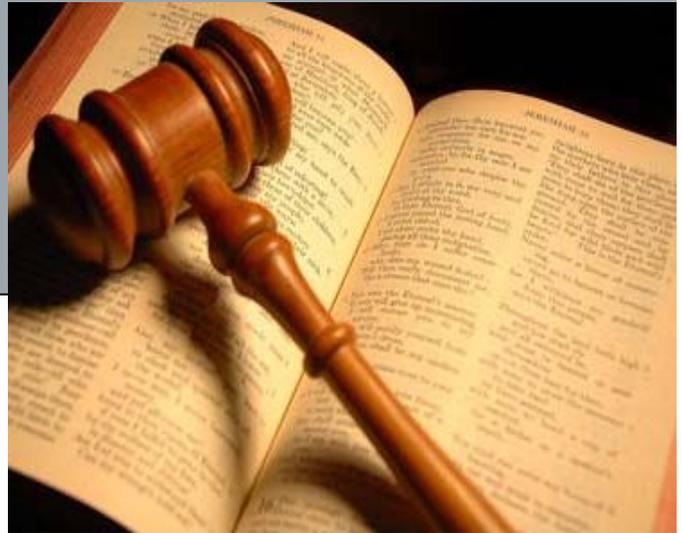
So, the question is should Christians celebrate Halloween? As a godly-thinking person, consider for a moment what you are celebrating and what Halloween stands for. Philippians 4:8 says, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, pure, lovely, and are of good report, if there is any virtue and anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things." Is the holiday uplifting, pure, lovely, praiseworthy, or of good report? No, it's not! It is not based on godly themes such as the idea of peace, freedom, and salvation in Jesus Christ. It does recall feelings of fear, oppression and bondage. The Bible does not sanction witchcraft, witches, and sorcery. It is clear these practices are an abomination to the Lord.

Leviticus 20:27 says anyone who practiced witchcraft and sorcery should be killed. Deuteronomy 18:9-13 also speaks about witchcraft, mediums, or a spiritualist, or claims to speak with the dead. These things are an abomination to the Lord. Also, in Ephesians 5:11, as Christians we are called NOT to have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. We should have no association with any kind of darkness.

II Corinthians 6:17 says "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.

# THE CHURCH OF GOD

## Organization and Standard of Righteousness



The Scriptures present the importance and significance of names which God has applied to His servants, and especially to His Church in the New Testament. Jesus said in John 17:11 that they were to be in the name of the Father (God); and Paul said the same thing in Ephesians 3:14-15.

This new name (Church of God) bears a standard of righteousness. "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (I Corinthians 1:2).

Here we find that in every place all who called on the Lord were set apart from the world in Christ Jesus, and the Church of God were called to be saints. Now, if we can find a Bible definition for the word "saint," we will know the standard of righteousness of the church. "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

If there were no successors to the twelve and the seventy chosen by Christ, then the work would have stopped with the death of these men, but we know that Christ expected others to be chosen by lot to succeed the ones

who died. Some will say that Matthias was not chosen and accepted of the Lord and that Paul took Judas' place several years later, but from the Scripture we learn differently. From the following testimony we will see that others were chosen before 96 A.D.

"Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables...And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 6:2,5).

It can readily be seen that the twelve called the disciples together and Stephen was chosen to help take care of the matter of serving tables. He was also an evangelist. Paul had not yet been converted. We will now read about him as Saul at Stephens's death.

"And cast him (Stephen) out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:58-59). "And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I (Paul, then called Saul) also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him" (Acts 22:20).

This proves that there were Twelve apostles before Paul was converted. They (the apostles) called a conference. Stephen was chosen for a special work, and later

we find Paul consenting to his death. You will find that Paul was one of the prophets or one of the seventy until after the killing of James; then Paul and Barnabas were ordained into the apostleship.

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith and delivered it to the saints. The remnant church was keeping the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus. See Revelation 12:17. Then the testimony of Jesus that the saints kept was the faith of Jesus that He authorized and delivered to the saints, and includes both the Old and New Testament.

"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" (I Peter 1:9-11). "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son..." (Hebrews 1:1). "Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw" (Revelation 1:1-2).

"What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Romans 7:7). "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:19-20). "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law" (James 2:10-11). (See also Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17). "All unrighteousness is sin..." (I John 5:17) "Sin is the transgression of the law." (I John 3:4).

The law is the TEN COMMANDMENTS, so righteousness is obedience to the law and to the testimonies of Jesus. The church of the new Testament did not use strong drink or touch the unclean things (See Galatians 5:19-22; II Corinthians 6:17-18; II Corinthians 7:1) because God had forbidden it, and to do so would be transgression of the tenth commandment which forbids us to

covet the things that God has not given us or the things that belong to another.

The New Testament "Church of God" is to be without spot or wrinkle, holy, without blemish, clothed in the righteousness of saints, with God the eternal Rock of Ages as its foundation; with the twelve apostles and the seventy elders as its officers, and the seven deacons (Acts 6). The name is the "Church of God," her standard of righteousness - the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, complete in Him who loved us and gave His life for us, ready and waiting when He comes for His Church.

### **The Standard Summarized**

If everybody kept the first commandment, there would be no one in the world having other gods before Him.

If everybody kept the second commandment, there would be no idolatry in the world.

If everybody kept the third commandment, there would be no cursing in the world, nor taking the Lord's name in vain.

If everybody kept the fourth commandment, there would be no Sabbath-breaking in the world, for they would be keeping God's memorial of creation, the seventh day Sabbath.

If everybody kept the fifth commandment, there would be no fathers and mothers dishonored in the world.

If everybody kept the sixth commandment there would be no murderers in the world.

If everybody kept the seventh commandment, there would be no adultery or fornication in the world and no children born out of wedlock.

If everybody kept the eighth commandment, there would be no rogues, thieves, or robbers in the world and all the lock making companies would have to go out of business.

If everybody kept the ninth commandment, there would be no liars or false witnesses in the world.

If everybody kept the tenth commandment, there would be no covetousness or greed in the world.

Now, if these righteous principles were manifest in the lives of all the people of the earth seasoned with the instruction of the testimony of Jesus we would be living in a world of peace and righteousness. These principles will decide our entrance into the holy city and Kingdom of God. See Revelation 22:14. AMEN.

# Did Jesus Cleanse All Meats?

By David DeLong

Jesus addressed a group of Jews: "And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable. And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man" (Matthew 15:10-20).

The cleansing of unclean meats was never an issue here. Jesus, in His mission to fulfill the law, would not have taken the law of the clean and unclean away. The whole crux of the matter is what Jesus said in His last statement to the Jews: "but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." Jesus explained this parable to Peter and the other disciples.

Now, let us jump a number of years ahead to the time when Jesus has already gone back to heaven. Peter is contemplating a vision that he has received of the Lord. "On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is

common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him. And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean" (Acts 10:9-28).

Jesus had already explained the parable to Peter in Matthew 15. Therefore if Jesus had cleansed unclean meats then Peter could not have called these meats "common or unclean". The end result of the vision was: "but God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean."

## EXCHANGED LIFE

By Al Dyke

### *The Key To Happiness And Effectiveness*

Are you sometimes frustrated with the lack of progress in your Christian life? Perhaps you have difficulty overcoming a sin, or relating to other people or loving others. Many people are not as effective as they would like to be in their personal, family or church lives or in their careers.

I have been a Christian 37 years and most of those years have been a struggle to become a better person. As an evangelist I have found an even greater struggle to be the kind of person that I felt God wanted me to be. I tried so hard – reading the Bible, praying, going to church, witnessing, preaching, writing, but I did not seem to be making the kind of progress I wanted to make, and I was not really happy. But those struggles are now in the past. I have found the secret for happiness and effectiveness. It is the exchanged life.

I am not saying there are no problems in the life of children of God. The Bible talks about the fact that we "wrestle" against powerful spiritual forces, and also that we can expect persecution. But in the midst of opposition, I have found the way to experience God's joy and peace and to be effective in Christ.

First of all, we need to recognize that God has a standard for our lives which is far different than the world's standard. Happiness and success is not the attainment of financial security, material possessions or a respectable position in your business, profession, job or community. Genuine happiness and success is found through forgiveness of your sins and experiencing the divine life of God; living by the divine life of Christ in you. It is a new quality of life --a life of love, joy, peace and purpose. It is

being one – in union – with God and His Son.

The child of God's life is not what you do for God but what He does in and through you. Jesus said:

*"I am the vine, and you are the branches: he who abides in me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5).

As you abide in union with Christ He lives His life through you, producing fruit – effectiveness.. So it is not what you do but what Christ does through you as you abide in Him. Effectiveness is accomplished by Christ living His life through you.

In Romans 6, we read that many wonderful things were accomplished for us by Christ when He died and arose from the dead. When Christ died on the cross, He paid for our sins and He freed us from the power of sin. We are free both from the penalty and the power of sin. Our old nature of sin was crucified with Christ (verses 6-7). Christ's resurrection from the dead gives us a new life – now in this life time and forever (verse 4).

Because of what Christ has done for us, Romans 6 goes on to say, *"Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus"* (verse 11). So all you need to do is consider yourself to be what you already are in Christ. It is not up to you to die to sin and live a new life. Consider it accomplished in Christ and trust Him to live His new life through you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that salvation is God's work. You cannot accomplish it yourself. While most Christians know that salvation is a free gift of God and they can do nothing to earn it, not very many know that they must live their Christian lives in the same way – not by their own effort but by Christ living His life through them.

*"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him"* (Colossians 2:6).

Living the Christ-like life depends on God just as your salvation depends on Him. God does not want you to live for Him. He wants you to live His life in and through you, and it is the only way you can live the Christian life

effectively.

You can decide to live by the new life of Christ in you or by your old life. Several times each day you must decide which life will be expressed through you. The Bible is our guide for right and wrong, but the life of Christ in us is the power to live a life of righteousness.

You are a container of God's life if you are a saint, just as non-Christians contain the life of Satan. We do not live our own lives but we live the life of the one who is in us.

*"We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us" (II Corinthians 4:7).*

Paul expressed it this way in his letter to the Galatians:

*"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).*

This is the secret for a new life – a really happy and successful life. Stop trying to be somebody – a successful or good person. Just consider your old life dead and buried and your new life to be Christ living in you and through you. It really is true: just realize it and live accordingly. Allow Christ to live His divine life through you in the place of your old life. This is the **exchanged life**.

As you trust Christ to live His life through you, you can be sure that everything He does is good (Romans 8:28). Even the seemingly purposeless and bad things are part of His plan. This is joy, peace and success.



## THINE HEART

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee." "I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them." And, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." The above are the words of the Psalmist David and of the writer of the Book of Hebrews.

The commandments of God, in the nature of things, are binding on His creation, and all of them, I believe, were in full force prior to their being written at Sinai.

The Apostle Paul said that "where no law is, there is no transgression," and the Apostle John points out that "sin is the transgression of the law."

Cain, who lived many centuries before the law was written on stone, killed his brother, and was said to be a murderer. Prior to the flood, sin was in the earth, and the people were destroyed for their sins.

God's Word is unchangeable, and He has declared that He will never change the Word that has gone out of His mouth.

Think you not that you would rather appear before God in the judgment, having kept all His commandments, than to appear before Him to say, "I have followed the traditions of men, I have kept nine of the Ten Commandments, I have served and bowed down to gods of wood and of stone," or, "I became mad at my neighbor last week, and I cursed with all my might, taking the name of God in vain, and finally in a fit of anger I killed him," or, "I have faithfully kept all of the commandments of God, except one that says that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.

"Circumstances did not seem to make it convenient to do so, and I have followed in the wake of Christendom, and have kept Sunday for the Sabbath, and Lord, while I did not have much faith in it as the Sabbath, and I knew that it had its origin with people who worshipped the sun, and that many people among whom were the Romans, and that finally Constantine, the Roman emperor, living 300 years this side of Christ, began to, and did put their seal upon that day, since which time people have falsely said that Christ arose from the dead on that day, and therefore falsely stated that the Sabbath holiness was transferred to Sunday."

Again, the word of the Psalmist, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day."



# *The Body*

*By Carol Buechner*

God has given you something precious and it is your body. When you think about it, the body is a miracle. It came from the union of one sperm and one egg that were extremely small and not even noticed at first. It was implanted in your mother's body and began to grow. From this union came a body of bones, muscles, skin, heart, stomach and so much more. You are unique and there is no other person just like you. All of this is God's handiwork and is truly a miracle. It is up to you to care for this body and do all you can to keep it functioning at a healthy level. What you eat and drink is vital. What you do with your body in the form of exercising, keeping clean, caring for injuries, sheltering it and so much more is extremely important. Neglect toward your body, in any form, can lead to disastrous consequences. If you become ill and ignore it, this can lead to more illnesses that can cause malfunctions in the body causing serious debilitations in the ability of your body to function. If you have a pain in your hand, it affects the activities you are able to do. Turning a doorknob becomes difficult, as does brushing your hair and teeth, picking up things, typing on the computer and so much more. A little pain in the hand can lead to pain and sickness in other parts of the body caused from compensating and overuse of the other body parts. When you think of this precious gift that God has given you, perhaps you will want to do all you can to keep your body physically strong and active. It is important that you keep the mind, soul and spirit healthy, too. All of these things function together to keep you enjoying life and living the way God desires for you to live.

STOP right now and contemplate seriously another

body that is even more precious than your own body! Scripture will describe it quite well. Ephesians 1:22-23 speaks of Jesus Christ in this manner: "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to THE CHURCH, WHICH IS HIS BODY, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." Turning to Colossians chapter one, more information is given concerning this body: "And he (Christ) is the HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. ...I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for HIS BODY'S SAKE, WHICH IS THE CHURCH: Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God" (verses 18, 23-25). These Scriptures are backed up in Romans 12:4-5: "For as we have many MEMBERS IN ONE BODY, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are ONE BODY IN CHRIST, and EVERY ONE MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER." The Scriptures are clear about this PRECIOUS BODY. It is talking about the BODY OF CHRIST and that BODY IS THE CHURCH! After His death, Jesus became the BODY OF THE CHURCH ON EARTH. This is not the physical aspect such as the church building in which you meet but it is the SPIRITUAL BODY that is being presented. Paul informed those under his care that those persons on earth made up THIS BODY. He had become a minister in this CHURCH BODY and spent the rest of his life building up the CHURCH BODY.

Now it is important to find out just who are members of this precious spiritual body of Christ, the church on earth. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many (I Corinthians 12:12-14). This passage states that a person is baptized into the body. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, repented of your sins, been baptized and had the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit, you are a member of the spiritual body of Christ, the Church. You at this point would join the scores of others who have followed the same procedure and make up the membership of the Church. This includes everyone in the world that has done this. It is not just those that worship with you in the physical church building but is everyone that has joined the spiritual body of the Church. It does not matter where you live because the body of Christ is not limited to any boundaries. Sometimes a person's thinking limits them to think only of those they personally know and worship with in a physical church building. Are you a member of the body of Christ? If so, you may need to take special notice of how the body is to function and consider your part in all the overall operation.

God does not leave us without guidance concerning how the precious body of Christ, His Church on earth, is to function. The apostle Paul, the authority on building spiritual churches, gave definite instructions. Take time to very carefully consider what needs to be done to have a strong, effective and living body of Christ. Mediate on all the Scriptures and ask God to enlighten you to become a more effective member of Christ's precious body. Start this examination in the Scriptures by studying I Corinthians 12:12-21: "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole

body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you."

This passage clearly states in verse eighteen that GOD establishes every member in the body as it pleases Him. He knows that every member of the body must be represented and ALL members must work together. If someone is not performing his particular function, all the members are affected. No one should be turned away from their proper functioning of a healthy body of Christ, the Church.

There are more instructions from Paul for the functioning of the body in I Corinthians 12:22-27: "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

This passage states that one member cannot say to another member of the body that they are not needed. Not even the member that seems unimportant or not necessary can be removed. It may be the "cog that keeps the wheels turning." Remember God has put this body together, not man. This passage instructs that there be NO divisions in the body of Christ and that all members must be aware of the needs of others and be ready to minister to them. There should be comfort and joy because all are members of the precious body of Christ.

Paul gives more information to be studied from I Corinthians 12 concerning the structure of the body of Christ, the Church. This is found in verses 1, 4-11 and 28-30: "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant...Now there are diversities of gifts,

but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

The healthy body of Christ must be operated efficiently with many different people. It takes those who are talented in administration, those who understand the overall operations and those who have special gifts and talents. Notice that God is setting the positions and He has given the Holy Spirit to guide each one in their particular role or roles. The structure of the Church begins with the apostles who are chosen to oversee the entire body of Christ throughout the world. They have an extremely difficult and vital job of keeping the truth first and foremost and seeing that the worldwide body is functioning at a level that is conducive to the growth of every facet of the Church workings. This is not a one-man operation.

Paul has many more instructions for the operation of the body of Christ. Carefully consider what he adds in Romans 12:3-16: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving

the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."

This passage again discusses gifts, abilities and skills and their important use in the body of Christ. Each gift is necessary but the person with the gift **MUST** use it for the benefit of the whole Church group because "all members have not the same office." If that gift is not functioning, it impedes everyone because we all are "members one of another." Then Paul discusses how members should interact. There must be love without pretense or deception among the brothers and sisters. When evil is present get away from it and embrace good. Preference needs to be given for keeping company with those of the faith rather than those of the world. It is necessary to rejoice in the hope of the Lord, always walking in the Spirit. Prayer must be a priority. Be hospitable and bless others with your words. You cannot ever forget what is most important -**THE BODY OF CHRIST**. The body must be healthy and functioning in harmony.

Hopefully your mind is still sharp and concentrating on vital words from the Bible concerning the body of Christ. Paul again provides further instruction for the proper functioning of the body of Christ, the Church. They are found in Colossians 3:1-15: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither

Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

This passage reminds you that you have sacrificed your worldly living and it is time to concentrate on living like Christ every second of your life. You do this by focusing on heavenly things not earthly things. This may be difficult to do because the world is upon you but it is not what is important. There is quite a list of things that you must "mortify" or kill because they cause you to disobey God. Do not skip over them lightly because even just one area of disobedience in your life can break your communion with God and His Precious Son. Yes a little "white" lie counts, as do angry words without a just cause. If you "have put off the old man" and "have put on the new man," you will be following ALL the instructions listed in verse twelve through fifteen. It is quite a list and nothing can be left out if you are to walk in peace with God and your fellowman.

Examination of one more of Paul's writings will bring about a clearer understanding of how this all works together. This passage is from Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ... And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro,

and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

There are some key words that need to be highlighted to aid you in your pursuit of helping to maintain a healthy body of Christ. They are: worthy, vocation, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing, love, endeavoring, unity, bond, peace.... These all work together to strengthen you to carry on the work that is necessary for the body. Again Paul mentions the apostles, prophets, etc. But of great importance is the reason for such workers. They are to perfect the saints, be involved in the ministry and to edify the whole body of Christ. Edification means to instruct or teach in such a way as to bring about improvement, to bring enlightenment and to uplift spiritually. This can be such an important aspect of keeping the members of the Church working to their fullest capacity. It brings encouragement that results in harder workers. It cannot be overlooked why all of this is so important. Verse thirteen says it is all for bringing about unity of everyone's faith, to increase in the knowledge of Jesus and to strive for perfection through the fullness of Jesus our Savior! Verse sixteen relates that the whole body then can be joined and compacted together because all that is needed is supplied. Every part of the body is working in harmony and there will be an earthy, thriving body. It takes effective working of everyone as a whole. The outcome will be a wonderful relationship among the brothers and sisters, which opens the door for the growth of the Church body, resulting in bringing glory to God.

In this article much has been quoted from the epistles of the apostle Paul. It would be of benefit to pause and think about him and the work he did while alive so long ago. There is no doubt that he was zealous (devoted and enthusiastic) about what he was doing. Jesus had given the command to "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This was to bring thousands to salvation. Paul took this command seriously and was going to bring as many to salvation as he possibly could. It was also important to him to not leave those brought to salvation on their own. Paul was going

to support them to growing in the faith. He organized and supervised the growth of the church groups, the body of Christ, in many different places. He knew the saints involved quite intimately, doing his best to keep in contact with them at all times. Paul knew from this contact what correction they needed and he rebuked them as needed. Not only that but he was one to praise and exhort the members of the body of Christ and encourage them to carry on the work. If Paul saw things that were not right, he informed and corrected those involved.

Paul had to spend most of this time keeping in contact with the different church groups and this kept him traveling much of the time. He knew he could not build strong churches without strong involvement. The traveling Paul did was very difficult. It wasn't like today where you can ride in comfort and arrive in a few hours. No, it was walking in all kinds of weather, riding donkeys, going by boat on dangerous seas and having uncomfortable accommodations. It was being shipwrecked, bitten by a very poisonous snake and being imprisoned for his passion for Christ. When Paul was unable to visit the different bodies of Christ, he did not "drop the ball" and leave them unattended. Paul hand wrote letters to them to keep in contact because he did not have the convenience of email or a cell phone. Even from dark, stinky and miserable prison cells, he wrote letters of instruction and exhortation, praise, warnings and rebuke.

Paul should be an example for all followers of Christ today. The need to bring others to salvation should be a burning goal in every member of the body of Christ. As Paul gave care and supervision, so should the members of the body do today. ALL should be concerned about the welfare of the other members and be ready to minister and give to them as needed at all times even when circumstances are inconvenient or difficult. There should be strong communication among members, not for gossip's sake, so that everyone is aware of what needs to be done and so prayer can be offered for all. Goals to bring people to salvation and nurturing the existing members could be easily completed. Just think what could be done for the body of Christ today if the members were filled with passion, as was Paul!

One other characteristic of Paul that must not be ignored was that he prayed and prayed and prayed. He prayed for the saints and asked them to pray for him that he could continue his work. His prayers are inspiring be-

cause he asked for spiritual blessings in specific ways. Wouldn't it be nice to know that someone is praying for you that you would "...be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:16)? How about a prayer being given for you that you would "...be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9-10). On numerous occasions throughout Paul's epistles, he offered prayers for the saints and many times he asked to be supported by the saints in their prayers. How often and with what expectations do you enthusiastically pray for other saints to prosper spiritually? Are they sincerely prayed for the benefit of others or is it to bring an outcome that you want? Paul knew that prayers of the right kind were a necessity for all involved.

There are so many more Scriptures that tell about the healthy functioning of the body of Christ, the Church. Search them out and live by them. Do not forget that you are a part of the body of Christ and it is your responsibility to uphold your part so the body can be healthy and strong, working in unity and harmony. Realize and remember that being a member of the body of Christ is not a Sabbath only activity. It is twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred sixty-five days a year. Just as you care for your physical body, you must care for your spiritual body and the spiritual welfare of all the members of the Church. It is of utmost importance because your salvation can be affected as well as the salvation of other members.

In closing, please read with all your heart Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-20. Pray it often for other saints in the body of Christ. "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at this own right hand in the heavenly places."



## The Food Corner

Fish which have fins and scales are kosher. Fish which only have fins are not kosher. The scales must be true scales that can be removed without damaging the skin of the fish. Bony tubercles and thorn like scales that can be removed only by removing part of the skin are not considered scales. Some fish that have such scales such as sharks are not kosher. All shellfish and mammals such as dolphins are not kosher. Care must be taken when buying fresh whole fish, filleted, or frozen because of the possibility of substitution by non kosher fish or of contamination by remnants of non kosher fish from knives and cutting boards.

**Watch out for these NON-KOSHER FISH**

**Angler See: Goosefishes**

**Basa (Pangasius bocourti)**

**Beluga See: Sturgeons**

**Billfishes (Family Istiophoridae). Including fishes (Istiophorus species); Marlins and speishes (Tetrapterus species, Makaira species).**

**Blowfish See: Puffers**

**Bullhead See: Catfishes**

**Burbot See: Freshwater Cod**

**Cabezon See: Sculpins**

**Catfishes (Order Siluriformes). Including: Channel catfish (Ictalurus punctatus); Basa (Pangasius bocourti, Swai, Tra (Pangasius hypophthalmus)**

**Cutlassfishes (Family Trichiuridae) including: Cutlassfishes (Trichiurus species) Scabbardfishes (Lepidopus species)**

**Dogfish See: Bowfin, Sharks**

**Eels (Order Anguilliforms). Including American and European eel (*Anguilla rostrata* and *Anguilla anguilla*); Conger eel (*Conger oceanicus*). Gars (Order Semionotiformes). Freshwater gars (*Lepisosteus* species).**

**Freshwater Cod (Family Gadidae), Burbot, lawyer, or freshwater ling (*Iota Iota*).**

**Goosefishes or anglers (*Lophius* species)**

**Grayfish See: Sharks**

**Hoki (*Macrurus novaezelandiae*) also known as Blue Hake; Ed. note: Hoki (*Macrurus novaezelandiae*) is listed as kosher by Kosher Australia;**

**Lampreys (Family Petromyzontidae)**

**Lanceor Lance See: Sand lances**

**Lawyer See: Freshwater Cods**

**Leatherjacket See: Jacks (*Oligoplites saurus*)**

**Lomosuckers (Family Cyclopteridae). Including: Lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*); Snailfishes (*Liparis* species).**

**Marlin See: Billfishes**

**Monk fish (added by Rabbi Donnal Epstein in consultation with Dr. Atz)**

**Midshipman See: Toadfishes**

**Ocean pout or eelpout (*Macrozoarces americanus*)**

**Oilfish (*Ruvettus pretiosus*) Puffers (Family Tetraodontidae).**

**Paddlefish See: Sturgeons**

**Pout See: Ocean pout**

**Puffers, blowfishes, swellfishes, sea squab (Sphoeroides species)**

**Ratfish See: Sharks**

**Ray See: Sharks**

**Rock prickleback or rockeel (Xiphister mucosus)**

**Sailfish See: Billfishes**

**Sand lances, launces, or eels (Ammodytes species)**

**Sculpins (Family Cottidae). Including: Sculpins (Myoxocephalus species, Cottus species, Leptocottus species, etc.). Cabezon (Scorpaenichthys marmoratus); Searaven (Hemitripterus americanus)**

**Searaven See: Sculpins**

**Sea squab See: Puffers**

**Sharks, rays and their relatives (Class Chondrichthyes). Including Grayfishes or dogfishes (Mustelus species, Squalus species); Soupfin shark (Galeorhinus zyopterus); Sawfishes (Pristis species); Skates (Raja species); Chimaeras or ratfishes (Order Chimaeriformes).**

**Skates See: Sharks**

**Snake mackerels (Gempylus species)**

**Spoonbill cat See: Sturgeons**

**Sturgeons (Order Acipenseriformes). Including: Sturgeons (Acipenser species, Scaphirhynchus species); Beluga (huso uso); Paddlefish or spoonbill cat (Polyodon spathula)**

**Swordfish (Xiphias gladies)**

**Toadfishes (Family Batrachoididae). Including: Toadfishes (Opsanus species); Midshipment (Porichthys species).**

**Tiggerfishes and firefishes (Family Balistidae). Triggerfishes (Balistes species, Canthidermis species)**

**Tra (Pangasius hypophthalmus)**

**Trunkfishes (Family Ostraciidae). Trunkfishes and cowfishes (Lactophrys species). WolEshes (Family Anarhichadidae). Including: Wolffishes or ocean. catfishes (Anarhichas species)**

**[Try this recipe for dinner tonight - Salmon Cakes](#)**

**1 (14.75 ounce) can salmon, drained and flaked**

**1 small onion, minced**

**1 egg**

**½ cup fresh bread crumbs**

**1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce**

**1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce**

**¼ teaspoon ground black pepper**

**¼ cup shredded Cheddar cheese**

**2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley**

**2 tablespoons all-purpose flour for coating**

**¼ cup butter**

**3 tablespoons olive oil**

**Directions**

**Step 1 - Combine salmon, onion, egg, bread crumbs, Worcestershire sauce, hot pepper sauce, black pepper, cheese and parsley; mix well. Shape into four patties. Dust lightly with flour. Chill for 20 minutes.**

**Step 2 - In a large skillet heat butter and olive oil over medium high heat. Cook the patties until browned on both sides, about 10 minutes. Drain briefly on paper towels before serving.**

**Optional dill ranch dressing with capers**



# THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

The Church of God 7th Day in Garikapadu Khammam India where 432 members participated in the Lord's Supper 2021. Pictures provided by Elder Modugu Yehoshuva whom is seen below conducting the services and seen to the right performing the baptisms of 22 new members.





LESSON I

JOASH FALLS INTO IDOLATRY

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 24:17-27.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 24:18 (first part).

"And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols..."

NOTE: While Jehoiada lived, Joash reigned well. Now we are going to study about his turning to idolatry and now he is slain by his servants.

1. What has happened to the princes of Judah? II Chronicles 24:17-18.
2. Who was sent to bring them again unto the Lord? Did they hear? II Chronicles 24:19.
3. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Zechariah. What did he say to the people? II Chronicles 24:20.
4. What did they do to Zechariah? II Chronicles 24:21.
5. What did Joash do in II Chronicles 24:22?
6. Who came against Judah and Jerusalem? Whom did they destroy and why? II Chronicles 24:23-24.
7. Who slew Joash? II Chronicles 24:25.
8. Who reigned in his stead? II Chronicles 24:27.

LESSON II

UZZIAH'S REIGN

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 26:1-12.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 26:3 (first part).

"Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem..."

NOTE: After the death of Joash, Amaziah began to reign at the age of twenty-five years. He reigned well for about

fifteen years, but he finally turned from following the Lord. He was slain, and now his son is going to reign in his stead.

1. Whom did the people of Judah make king after the death of Amaziah? II Chronicles 26:1.
2. How long did Uzziah reign, and who was his mother? II Chronicles 26:3.
3. Did he do that which was right in the sight of the Lord? II Chronicles 26:4-5.
4. With whom did Uzziah war against? II Chronicles 26:6.
5. Did God help Uzziah with this war? II Chronicles 26:7.
6. Who gave gifts to Uzziah? Was he exceedingly strong? II Chronicles 26:8.
7. Name some of the things he built in II Chronicles 26:9-10.

LESSON III

UZZIAH'S ARMY AND HIS DEATH

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 26:11-23.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 26:21 (first part).

"And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper;..."

NOTE: We last learned about Uzziah becoming king at the age of sixteen, and he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. We will now learn about his army and what he does to transgress against the Lord.

1. Uzziah had a host of fighting men. How many mighty men of valor did he have? II Chronicles 26:11-12.
2. How many were in the army under the chiefs? II Chronicles 26:13.
3. What did he prepare for them to use in battle? II

Chronicles 26:14-15.

- 4. He was now very strong. Did he still rely on God, or did he transgress against Him? II Chronicles 26:16.
- 5. When Uzziah went into the temple to burn incense, who went with him? II Chronicles 26:17.
- 6. What did the priests say to him? II Chronicles 26:18.
- 7. Uzziah was wroth with the priests. What disease did the Lord bring upon him? II Chronicles 26:19-20.
- 8. How long did he have this disease? Who reigned in his place? II Chronicles 26:21-23.

**LESSON IV**

**THE REIGN OF AHAZ**

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 28:1-27.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 28:22 (first part).

"And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the Lord:..."

**NOTE:** We have finished studying about the reign of Uzziah who reigned well during the days of Zechariah. After his death, his son Jotham was a good king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. After his death, Ahaz, the son of Jotham, began his reign. We shall study now about his reign to see if he continued in the steps of his father Jotham.

- 1. How old was Ahaz when he began to reign? Did he do that which was right in the sight of the LORD? II Chronicles 28:1-4.
- 2. Into whose hands was Ahaz delivered because he had forsaken the Lord? II Chronicles 28:5.
- 3. How many were slain at this time, and how many were taken captive? II Chronicles 28:6-8?
- 4. Who was Obed, and what did he tell the host which

came to Samaria? II Chronicles 28:9-11.

- 5. Azariah and others stood up against those who came from the war, and what did they demand to do? Did they obey? II Chronicles 28:12-15.
- 6. King Ahaz sent unto the king of Assyria for help. What had happened to Judah that the king needed help? II Chronicles 28:16-19.
- 7. Did any of the kings of Assyria help Ahaz? What did he give the king to try to get their help? II Chronicles 28:20-22.
- 8. Read II Chronicles 28:23-25, and then tell some of the things he did which only further provoked the anger of the Lord God.
- 9. Who reigned in his stead after his death? II Chronicles 28:27.

**GOD KEEPS US**

**Find the Bible verses and fill in the blanks.**

- 1. "Fear thou...; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will...thee; yea, I will...thee with the right hand of my ..." (Isaiah 41:10).
- 2. "And the Lord shall deliver me from every...work, and will...me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (II Timothy 4:18).
- 3. "O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the..., and plentifully rewardeth the proud..." (Psalm 31:23).





### *CHARITY, FAITH AND LONGSUFFERING*

Below are three Bible verses and a short story or thoughts to go along with them. What thoughts do you have about these verses?

"Charity never faileth..." (I Corinthians 13:8).

"Did you hear what Debbie said about you? She said that you were just an old busybody who tries to make everyone else feel bad by trying to be so goody-goody!" Sharon whispered to Sandy as they sat down at their desks at school.

"I'm sorry she feels that way," Sandy said sadly.

"Sorry? Is that all you can say? Why, if it were up to me I'd just tell her off! That's what I'd do!" Sharon sneered.

"If I did that, Debbie would never believe that Jesus lives in me! The Bible tells me to love and pray for my enemies. That is just what I am going to do. Then maybe someday Debbie will want to know Jesus, too."

"But without faith it is impossible to please him..." Hebrews 11:6.

In the Bible we can read story after story about how faith in God brought miracles in the lives of God's children.

It was Daniel's faith in God that caused God's angels to shut the mouths of the lions. It was faith in God that protected the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. It was David's faith that gave him courage to kill Goliath and defeat the Philistines for the children of Israel.

The Bible says that through faith in God all things are possible, but without faith we cannot please God. How much do you believe the promises of God?

"Put on...longsuffering; Forbearing one another..." Colossians 3:12-13.

Day after day, Bill had teased and made fun of Rick. He had called him names, hit him, tripped him in the halls, everything he could think of to make Rick angry. But day after day, Rick tried to find as many ways as he could to be kind to Bill. Rick prayed to Jesus for help to become longsuffering.

Finally Bill stopped Rick on the way home from ball practice. "You want to fight, big boy?" Bill teased.

"No, but I'll tell you what. I will buy you a coke at the soda shop," Rick replied cheerfully.

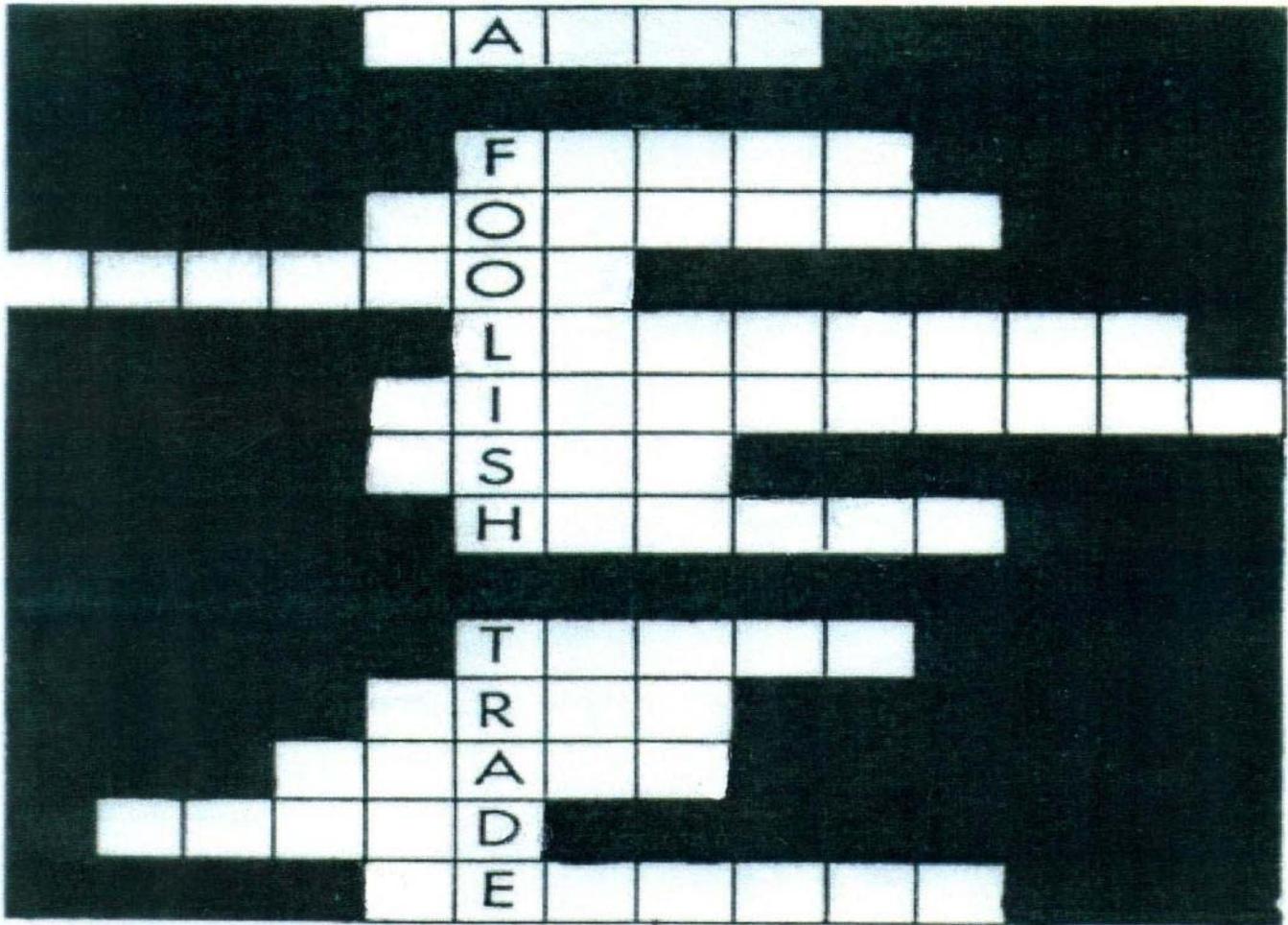
"I just do not get it!" Bill was baffled. "All I have ever done is mean things to you but still you act as though we are the best of friends. How come?"

"It is because of my friend, Jesus. Come on. I will tell you all about Him while we drink our cokes!"

### *"The Ten Rules For Human Relations"*

- 1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.*
- 2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.*
- 3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to everyone's ear is their own name.*
- 4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.*
- 5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were genuine pleasure.*
- 6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like everybody if you try!*
- 7. Be generous with praise. Cautious with criticism.*
- 8. Be considerate of and with the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.*
- 9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to a controversy - yours, the other fellow's, and the right one.*
- 10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.*

*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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### *SEEKING FAITH*

*This world where we live is filled with evil,  
With violence, hatred and sin;  
And this evil is camped on our door step  
Just waiting for a chance to sneak in.*

*Here little children are abused and forsaken,  
Old folks pushed off in a corner to die;  
And we so hope for the Faith once delivered,  
And for it we hope and we cry.*

*But God is the same as He always has been,  
And His mercy never once has gone wrong;  
And He hears every prayer that we utter,  
And smiles at every word of our song.*

*The cares of the world can't defeat us  
Even tho' they carry great weight;  
God knows how to conquer our enemy,  
And His love overshadows the hate.*

*We must always press onward and upward  
Where God holds in waiting our crown;  
His love for us will always abound.  
And when finally we have reached the Kingdom,  
Our Faith held in our hearts like a seed;  
And when we all can touch the hem of His garment  
We will find all the Faith that we need.*

By Betty Whetstone

