

The Advocate of Truth

Divine Intervention

Temple of God

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The Holy Spirit

Fighting Fables





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DIVINE INTERVENTION

By Moises Torres M.

Salvation always comes accompanied by destruction.

At The Flood: There was destruction for the unbelieving world, but the children of God were saved in Noah's ark. Noah always recognized and feared God. Even though only eight souls were saved, there was salvation in the middle of the destruction of that evil world. The ark was the place God prepared for the salvation of them.

At The Destruction Of Sodom And Gomorrah: There was salvation for the children of God at the moment of destruction. This time only Lot and his family were saved from the destruction of fire, with the exception of his wife, who looked back and refused to let go of her past. She became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:26). Let us remember that this time THE REFUGE WAS THE CITY OF ZOAR where Lot and his two daughters were allowed to hide so they would be safe (Genesis 19:17-30).

During The Plagues: When the time of famine came upon all the land of Canaan, God, through Joseph, arranged a place of salvation for the people of Israel in Egypt. This city was Goshen (Genesis 45:1-10). During the time of the ten plagues that fell upon Pharaoh and all the land of Egypt, the children of Israel were protected from all danger in the city of Goshen (Exodus 8:22; 9:26). HERE ANOTHER CITY WAS THE CHILDREN OF GOD'S REFUGE.

At The Firstborn's Death: The tenth and last plague that the Lord let fall upon Egypt was the death of the firstborn. The blood of a Lamb protected all of Israel's

firstborn so the angel of death did not come near their dwelling. IN THE MIDDLE OF DESTRUCTION, THE LORD WILL PROTECT HIS CHILDREN FOR SALVATION (Exodus 12:21-30).

Exodus 14:13-31 narrates the salvation of Israel when they walked upon dry land in the middle of the sea. The Egyptians followed them, but God destroyed them in the middle of the sea. In the middle of destruction, God is there for the salvation of His people.

The Seven Last Plagues Coming Upon The Earth: The time when the Lord will pour out His wrath upon the earth is at hand. This time it will be seven plagues. Four of them will fall upon a third part of the earth. The last three, which are called "three Woes," will be upon all the earth, and there will be no possibility for one to find salvation. The Lord is calling those who will listen to repentance so they can come into the NEW ARK, which the Lord Jesus Christ is preparing for those who love Him and are awaiting His coming. This place of escape for the children of God during the plagues is the NEW JERUSALEM which comes down out of heaven from God (Revelation 15:1-8). Once again a city will be the place of protection or refuge for the children of God. This time, it will be a celestial city prepared by God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God is faithful, and He will always have a place of salvation for His children in the middle of destruction.



The Temple Of God

By Bibi Allicock

About The Following Article

The Temple of God is a wonderful study. In Old Testament times, God, at certain times, dwelt in physical temples built by His servants. Please read I Chronicles 29:1-5 to find with what great care Solomon's Temple was built. The people were to know that God dwelt there. It was furnished with such greatness because it was to be the house of God.

In this dispensation, God does not dwell in temples made with hands. See Acts 17:24. In the following article, Bibi Allicock brings us the Bible truth that our bodies are the Temple of God because the Holy Spirit lives within us. Therefore, we must take good care of our bodies. She also gives us some Scriptural truths on how we must live and act to prove that the Holy Spirit is within us, making our bodies the Temple of God.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men” (I Corinthians 3:16-21, first part). “That according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (I Corinthians 1:31).

“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” (I Corinthians 3:13-15). “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and

honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls” (I Peter 1:7-9).

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God . . . that no one of you be puffed up for one against another” (I Corinthians 4:5, 6 last part). “For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?” (verse 7) “Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (I Corinthians 5:7-8). “...for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men” (I Corinthians 4:9, last part).

Brethren and friends, we ought to know how our body must be kept since it is to house the Holy Spirit of God. “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” (I Corinthians 6:19-20). “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (verses 9-10).

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. All things are

lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? GOD FORBID. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. FLEE FORNICATION. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; BUT HE THAT COMMITTETH FORNICATION SINNETH AGAINST HIS OWN BODY” (verses 11-18).

The Apostle Paul tells us, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation” (II Corinthians 5:17-18). “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” (verse 20). “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.) Giving no offence in any thing, THAT THE MINISTRY BE NOT BLAMED: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things” (II Corinthians 6:1-10).

“Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2). “I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (verse 1).

Here we see that as our BODIES ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, we ought to present it as A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD. Therefore the things we used to do before we accepted the Lord should be erased from our lives, and we should NOT DARE TO LOOK BACK as Lot’s wife who looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. The Lord Himself said, “...No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). Brethren and friends, if we really want to be in the kingdom of God, we should “...put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is CORRUPT ACCORDING TO THE DECEITFUL LUSTS; AND BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND; AND THAT YE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, WHICH AFTER GOD IS CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUE HOLINESS” (Ephesians 4:22-24). “AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, WHEREBY YE ARE SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION” (verse 30).

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But FORNICATION, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 5:1-6).

“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the LORD; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST; Submitting yourselves one to another in the FEAR OF GOD” (verses 14-21). “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).

Promises and Vows

By Maryane Charles



“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us” (II Corinthians 1:20). “For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself” (Hebrews 6:13).

Several vows are recorded in the Bible, some spontaneously and rashly made, and such was the case of Jephthah: “Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD’S, and I will offer it up for a burnt-offering” (Judges 11:31).

After the Ammonites were defeated, the children of Israel, along with Jephthah, returned triumphant. “And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter” (Judges 11:34). We can only imagine how Jephthah’s heart sank when he saw his daughter coming to greet him with such joy, not knowing what was to follow. Of course, he could not literally sacrifice (*have his daughter killed*) his daughter as this would have been an abomination in the eyes of God, and human sacrifice was something practiced by the heathen nations, who God had warned His people not to follow. We see the result of this in II Kings 3:27: “Then he took his eldest son that should have reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt-offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.” Jephthah’s daughter calmly said, “...My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon” (Judges 11:36). Please read also Judges 11:37-40.

Jacob on the other hand was wise and made a vow that he could easily keep. His father sent him away to

Padan-aram to seek a wife (Genesis 28:5). Weary from his journey and as the sun had set, he gathered some stones for his pillows, “...and lay down in that place to sleep” (verse 11). Jacob went into a deep sleep and began to dream (verse 12). In that dream, God rehearsed the promises made to his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac. When he arose early in the morning, he proceeded to make his vow: “And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee” (Genesis 28:20-22). If you continue the reading up to chapter 50, you will see that Jacob kept his promise and fulfilled the vow, and God blessed Jacob with even more than he asked for. “And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession” (Genesis 48:3-4). Later on in chapter 49:26, Jacob in blessing Joseph bears witness: “The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills...” Jacob was letting Joseph know that God had blessed him more than his foreparents.

Even though his uncle deceived him and underpaid him for years of service, God still made a way for him and blessed him. Laban changed the agreement several times. Please read Genesis 31:6-7. But God continued to bless Jacob. When one works with or for family it may seem sometimes that one’s efforts are unrewarded or unappreciated. We should always take consolation in the fact that, “The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22). You may work and make sacrifices for family for years and

not be rewarded for your years of service by them, but our Lord is not unjust. He will not forget our struggle, and He will not take the reward for our labor to give to another. We must be faithful in our word and commitment, whether we have agreed to do a job or task, be it for free, for a specific price, or to embark on a contract. Ecclesiastes 5:4 informs us, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed." We should be faithful in all aspects of our life and dealings be it to God or man.

Let us look next at Hannah's vow. Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. His first wife, Hannah, was barren. In those days, not bearing children was the greatest shame, but the Scriptures tell us Hannah had no children because the Lord had closed her womb (I Samuel 1:5). Peninnah however had children and provoked Hannah to misery. I'm sure Elkanah, openly giving Hannah a worthy (double) portion, did not help the situation between these two women, but rather brought more frustration on the part of Peninnah (I Samuel 1:5) and tears on the part of Hannah (verse 8). But one day Hannah had enough, and crying was getting her nowhere. She went to God in prayer. In earnest plea, she poured out her heart to God. "And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head" (verse 11). Eli comes in at this point, sees Hannah's lips moving, but hearing nothing presumes that she had been drinking, or was drunken. See I Samuel 1:14. After Hannah explains why she was in such anguish, Eli responds with, "Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him" (verse 17). God remembered Hannah. She conceived and gave birth to Samuel. As promised, Hannah kept her vow. Although Samuel was her only child, the son that she wanted and had longed for all these years, Hannah handed Samuel over to Eli at a tender age as soon as he was weaned. We can only imagine how difficult it must have been to part with him, but Hannah was faithful and kept her vow. For this, God rewarded Hannah with children: "And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters..." (I Samuel 2:21). Hannah showed faith and obedience, and she was able to testify, "For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him" (I Samuel 1:27). The Scriptures state, "When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God,

thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee" (Deuteronomy 23:21).

One of the most important promises in Scripture was made to Abraham. Please read Genesis 17. "For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith" (Romans 4:13). The promise was so important that it was later reiterated to Jacob (Genesis 46:3). "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all" (Romans 4:16). "For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise" (Galatians 3:18). "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (verse 29). Part of the ministry of Jesus was to fulfill and confirm the promise made to Abraham. "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (Ephesians 3:6). When individuals are without Christ, it means they are strangers from the covenants of promise. The promise to Abraham is described by Paul as the gospel. Please read Ephesians 3:8-9. This gospel was being fulfilled in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. This gave us justification through faith from sins. "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" (Acts 3:25-26). The reward of the saints will be a 'land of promise'. It will be an eternal inheritance (Matthew 5:5).

The promise of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to return for His own stands out as a milestone in the Christian life. We are awaiting the realization of that promise: "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" (John 14:3). All the signs are being fulfilled around us as we wait for the coming of our Lord. Let us hold fast and have faith like our forefather Abraham so that when our Lord returns we may be found watching, looking for our Saviour, and being prepared so that we may sing, "...Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:9-10).

Reminders About Christmas

Regular readers of *The Advocate of Truth* have many times read articles that explain why The Church of God does not observe Christmas. One excellent article, which appeared in the December 26, 2011 issue, on the subject was written by Elder David DeLong. It was entitled **Reasons I Do Not Keep Christmas.**

I wish to remind those who read this issue of *The Advocate of Truth* the facts regarding Christmas and its origin. Many of the facts written in this article were mentioned in Brother David's article.

First, let us consider the following. With Christmas observance, tradition has crossed paths with Scripture. Many people think that it is no big thing that December 25 is not the birthday of Christ. They like the flickering Christmas lights, the exchange of gifts, and all the family being together.

We must ask if it is right to observe an adopted pagan festival in honor of Jesus. What does God's Word tell us about observing customs carried over from the pagans who do not know or worship the true God? "Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jeremiah 10:1-4). If the Israelites were not to learn the way of the heathen, we must also not learn the way of the heathen, and the customs of the people are still vain!

Now let us list some facts about this pagan festival called Christmas:

1. Many authorities tell us that Jesus' birth was first celebrated on December 25 somewhere near the end of

the fourth century and the beginning of the fifth century AD.

2. The Catholic Church instituted the celebration which to them means Christ Mass or Mass of Christ.

3. Originally December 25 was a season of revelry and festivity among the ancient Romans in honor of the sun god, and it was celebrated with reckless actions. Two of the symbols associated with December 25 are Nimrod, the sun god, and wolves. The picture did not include our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. The pagan tradition of gift giving was introduced into the church by using the name of St. Nicholas.

5. Pagan or non-Christian peoples are the authors of many of the customs associated with Christmas.

6. Jesus is much lauded on Christmas, but He is not the central figure in the celebration.

7. Many merchants who benefit from the heavy commercialized Christmas season neither honor nor believe in Christ.

8. Excesses are rampant during the Christmas season. There seems to be more depression, more child and spouse abuse, more liquor sales, more suicides, more credit card abuse, therefore more debt.

9. Many social events are held during the Christmas season. These events become so much a part of people's lives which makes it hard to give them up.

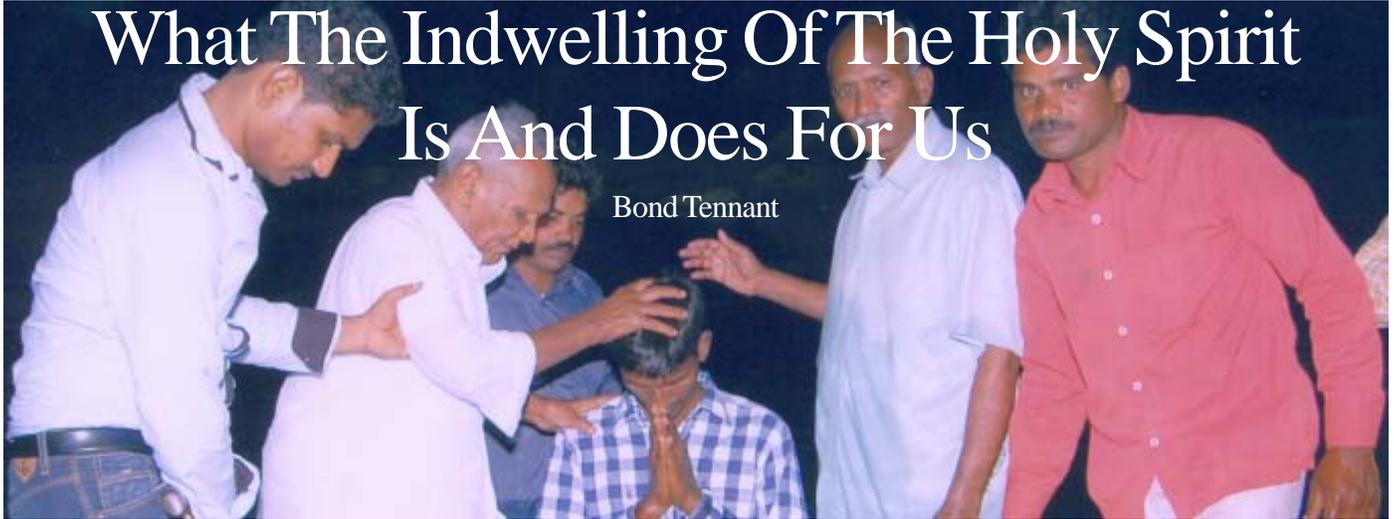
Please ponder the preceding points regarding Christmas. By celebrating Christmas, you are not honoring Christ, but you are conforming to a custom borrowed from those who did not know Christ.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

--Bond Tennant

What The Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit Is And Does For Us

Bond Tennant



“So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit; if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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 8:8-11).

For what purpose does the Holy Spirit dwell in us? In what ways does it bless us?

First, let us say that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is an evidence of sonship. “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16). “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father” (Galatians 4:6).

Second, let us understand that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is an incentive to holiness. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are” (I Corinthians 3:16-17). If we really believe this truth, it will change our thinking and our living.

Now, let us name a few things the indwelling of the Holy Spirit does for us. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit gives us strength and helps us in our Christian living. The last part of Philippians 1:19 speaks of “the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.” The Spirit of Jesus Christ never runs out of all which we may need.

Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we have help with our prayers. “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27).

Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we have comfort. “If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him: for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:15-17).

Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we can produce fruit. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23). “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit” (John 15:2).

Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we can have hope. “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:13). Hope makes us feel that we will get what we want. “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” (Romans 5:5).

Fighting Fables

By David DeLong



The Greek word "muthos" means "a tale, i.e. fiction ('myth'): fable" (Strong's Concordance). The Bible has much to say about fables which men observe instead of the Word of God. In this article we will examine a number of such fables. May the Lord keep us from believing fables. Some of these are very close to the truth and can trap an unwary person.

For instance, the Apostle Paul warned Timothy, "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do" (I Timothy 1:4). While speculation on various topics may be interesting to look at, it does not teach truth which builds us up. Rather, it usually brings up more questions which may lead to more speculation. Some spend much time on speculation about private doctrines and they get "lost" in this vain effort. Paul implies that one should concentrate on those things which builds up his or her faith.

Furthermore, Paul admonished Timothy to be faithful to preach the Word of God. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:1-4).

The Apostle Peter recognized that fables could be

"cunningly devised". In II Peter 1:16-17 we read: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

One of the clearest warnings which Paul gave against the dangers of fables is found in his epistle to Titus. In chapter 1, verses 10-16 we find: "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."

Notice that Paul said their "mouths must be stopped" and that they "subvert whole houses". One of the false teachings of Paul's day, as well as of our own day, is what he termed "Jewish fables". In other words he was warning against Jewish practices that some were claiming were necessary for salvation. We see such a situation in Acts

15:1. "And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved."

Paul and Barnabas and some others then went to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles and elders about the problem. We read in verses 4-6: "And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter."

The outcome of this meeting in Jerusalem is recorded in verses 10-11: "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Adding the condition of circumcision as a part of God's salvation process was termed by Peter as "a yoke upon the neck". This teaching, of course, amounts to bondage.

There are other "fables" which are being taught today which also are a form of bondage. This had also been a problem in Paul's day. Galatians 4:9-10 informs us: "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years." As we have just seen, this "bondage" consists of people keeping "days, and months, and times, and years." This passage of Scripture is referring, at least in part, to various practices that the Lord had given to ancient Israel to observe, but which have now been fulfilled in Christ. There are a number of people who teach that we must still keep these observances as a part of God's will for us today. Let us examine each one of these ancient observances.

"Days"--These days likely involve the feast days that God gave to ancient Israel to observe. In Exodus 23:14-17 the children of Israel were instructed: "Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which

thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD."

We know that the Lord eventually appointed Jerusalem to be the place where these Israelites were to assemble three times in a year to celebrate these three feasts. Those who insist that these feast days must be kept today do so almost everywhere but in Jerusalem. Notice what Galatians 3:10 says: "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."

To keep the feast days (or any other part of the book of the law, that is, the law of Moses) is to be under the curse. No one can keep everything in the book of the law perfectly, which is what one would have to do according to Galatians 3:10. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of this law (see Galatians 3:13).

When we go to the Gospel of John we notice something unique about the feast days mentioned. For instance, in John 2:13 we read: "And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem". Here the passover is called "the Jews' passover". In chapter 5, verse 1, we see: "After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem." Again, in chapter 6, verse 4, we find written: "And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh." Chapter 7, verse 2, tells us: "Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand." In these verses we learn that the feast days are called Jewish, and Jesus went to Jerusalem to keep them in the proper manner.

In contrast, the weekly Sabbath is never called Jewish. In John 5:9 we read: "And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath." Similarly, John 7:23 informs us: "If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day?" Notice that circumcision is referred to as a part of the "law of Moses". Another example of the Sabbath not being called Jewish is found in John 9:13-14: "They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes." Therefore, we conclude that the feast days are not to be kept by us today, but the weekly Sabbath still is to be kept.

"Months"--This term refers to observances by Israel which occurred at the time of the new moon or other times of the month. Smith's Bible Dictionary tells us: "the first day of the lunar month was observed as a holy day". Notice how some of the Israelites were treating the new moons and Sabbaths in Amos' day. "Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit?" (Amos 8:4-5). The time of the new moon was the beginning of the month, and was to be accompanied by the blowing of trumpets. We find in Numbers 10:10: "Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God." We read about a new moon (and full moon) observance in Psalm 81:3-5. "Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed ("At the full moon"--NASB), on our solemn feast day. For this was a statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. This he ordained in Joseph for a testimony, when he went out through the land of Egypt: where I heard a language that I understood not."

"Times"--The Greek word for times, as used in Galatians 4, can refer to a "season" or "an occasion, i.e. set or proper time". The Day of Atonement, for instance, could fall under this classification. This special holy day for Israel was observed on the 10th day of the 7th month.

"Years"--Some of Israel's observances, which came under the law of Moses, were kept after a number of years had elapsed. Two examples of this were the seventh year of release and the year of jubilee. Exodus 23:10-11 reads: "And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: But the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, and with thy oliveyard." Also, we learn in Deuteronomy 15:1-2: "At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called the LORD'S release."

Concerning the year of Jubilee, we read in Leviticus 25:8-13: "And thou shalt number seven sabbaths of years unto thee, seven times seven years; and the space of the seven sabbaths of years shall be unto thee forty and nine years. Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you: ye shall not sow, neither reap that which groweth of itself in it, nor gather the grapes in it of thy vine undressed. For it is the jubilee; it shall be holy unto you: ye shall eat the increase thereof out of the field. In the year of this jubilee ye shall return every man unto his possession."

The Galatian church was apparently observing these Jewish holy days because Paul rebuked them in Galatians 4:19-21: "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you. Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?" We know that Paul was referring to the book of the law (see again Galatians 3:10) which is the law of Moses rather than the Law of God (the Ten Commandments).

Let us heed the Apostle Paul's advice to the Galatians as found in Galatians 5:1-4: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

The law which taught the Israelites about circumcision (the law of Moses, see again Acts 15:5) was placed in the side of the ark rather than in the ark as were the tables of the Ten Commandments (see Deuteronomy 31:24-26 and 10:1-5). This book of the law, as we have seen, must be kept perfectly for one to be approved of God. No one except Jesus has kept this law perfectly and no one else can. To even try to do so (including the feast days) is to put one under the curse of God. Let us not be deceived by man-made fables.



Elder M. Kanakaratanam

We sadly report the death of our dear Brother and co-worker Elder M. Kanakaratanam. In his name, "kanaka" means gold, and he certainly lived up to its meaning. He was golden in his work for the Church and was dedicated to the Church. He was a worker in the Church for the past fifty years, and he served as the overseer of India for thirty years. In the above photo, he was doing what he loved - spreading the message of God's Word.

He left behind his wife, five children, and twelve grandchildren. His oldest son, M. Joseph, who is a minister of the church and a government worker. His second son, M. Yehoshuva, is one of the Apostles of the Church, and he works full time for the Church. His daughters are Shusheela, a house wife, Shantha a government teacher, and Kumari, a government nutritionist and teacher. His daughters are married to two of our ministers D. Wilson and J. Nagaiah,

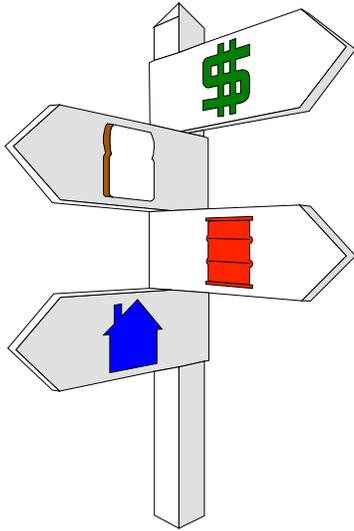
and a teacher, T.V. Rao.

Elder Kana built many of our church buildings in India. He was a tireless worker and a great inspiration to the Church members. He has built a lasting legacy in India.

He now rests peacefully in his grave, and he waits for the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the Saints. It will be a wonderful reunion when Jesus returns. Time has no meaning for Brother Kana right now, for the next thing he will know is the resurrection.

We will miss this energetic worker, but we are glad that he has made his calling and election sure, so that he will be part of that first resurrection.

Well done thou good and faithful servant. Let us make our calling and election sure as well, so we can be part of that first resurrection and wonderful reunion when Jesus comes again.



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.

The Water Problem

Do any of you remember the song, “Cool, Clear Water?” I believe that it was sung by the Sons Of The Pioneers. There is now a shortage of cool, clear water. As a matter of fact, there is a shortage of water period, especially drinking water. This shortage of water is brought on in part because of the drought conditions in the world.

Consider the portion of the following article from the *Houston Chronicle*:

Rural well users find their taps are running dry

Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN ILL. – After months of record breaking heat and drought, many rural Americans who rely on wells for water are getting an unwelcome surprise when they turn on their faucets. The tap has run dry.

The lack of running water can range from a manageable nuisance to an expensive headache. Homeowners and businesses are being forced to buy thousands of gallons from private suppliers, to drill deeper or to dig entirely new wells.

Mary Lakin’s family drained the last of its well water late last month in the small northern Indiana community of Parr. Since then, Lakin, her husband and two children have bathed and done laundry at relatives’ homes and filled buckets from their backyard pool every time they need to flush a toilet.

Having water is “just something you take for granted,” she said. “It’s a big hassle, but we’re surviving.”

Going dry early

No one tracks the number of wells that go dry, but state and local governments and well diggers and water

haulers report many more dead wells than in a typical summer across a wide swath of the Midwest. It’s not unusual for rural wells to stop producing toward the end of a hot summer. But this year is different. Some of the same wells that are known to run dry in August or September instead ran out in June.

Water suppliers and well drillers across the Midwest say they’re working long hours to keep up with demand.

“It’s seven days a week, man,” said Carl Marion, a water hauler in Athens, Ill., north of Springfield. “I work until 12 o’clock or 1 o’clock every single night.”

Wells are typically drilled 30 to 50 feet down. Some go hundreds of feet before hitting water. And the deeper the well, the more expensive it is, with costs at several thousand dollars and climbing in extreme cases into tens of thousands.

In the summer, when lawns, gardens, pools and livestock all drive up use, water levels can drop below a well’s pump. If rain doesn’t replenish the supply, sometimes the only option is to drill deeper or dig an entirely new well (end of article portion).

The above only told us about the desperate situation of the rural dwellers in the Midwest whose wells run dry mainly because of drought. However, the Midwest is not the only part of America that is suffering because of the lack of water. CNN reported that the Mississippi River has more beaches in it than Florida. I also read in the morning paper that a portion of the Mississippi river was closed to boating because of lack of water. The rapid warming of the earth is causing water to evaporate. In the western United States, the Colorado River is drying

up.

The lack of water is also affecting the animals. A reliable source reports that many horses were abandoned because the owners could no longer afford to feed them because of the drought and lack of water. They have been dropping dead in the Navajo reservation. There the neighbors are battling neighbors and livestock for water, an inherently scant resource on tribal land.

Rivers in other countries are also drying up. I understand that some of these rivers are the Yangtze in China, the Indus in Pakistan, the Nile in Egypt and the Ganges in India.

It seems as though nations are squandering the water in their principal rivers to such a degree that their rivers have very little left to run into the sea.

The lack of good water for everyday family use is not the only aspect of the water problem. There is the problem of contamination. The contamination problem is especially acute in Africa. I read that in Africa 6 families out of 10 do not have a proper toilet. It seems that a World Health Organization report says that this contributes to the transfer of bacteria, viruses and parasites found in human excreta. These, in turn, contaminate water resources, soil and food.

In the Millennium, there will be plenty of cool, clear water for everyone's need.

Not Fit For Foster Parents?

On February 28, 2011, the High Court of England handed down a landmark judgment that Christians with traditional views on sexual behavior are unsuitable as foster parents. They believe that homosexual rights trump freedom of conscience in the UK. The judges also stated that Christian beliefs on sexual ethics may be inimical to children, and they implicitly upheld an Equalities and Human Rights Commission submission that children risk being infected by Christian moral beliefs.

The Johns family have a proven track record of being foster parents. However, now they will be unable to foster a child as desired.

--Source: *The Berean Call*

Comment

This brings to my mind II Peter 2:1-2 that records, "But there were false prophets (*and leaders*) also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers (*and leaders*) among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and

bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom THE WAY OF TRUTH SHALL BE EVIL SPOKEN OF." (italics and caps are mine)

Another Bible Translation

You may have heard that there is another Bible translation called "The Voice." It is written from a carnal insight. The name of our Lord Jesus Christ does not even appear in it. Neither do the words apostle or angel appear in it. Angel is rendered as "messenger." An apostle is called an "emissary." Jesus Christ is "Jesus the Anointed One" or "liberating king."

One authority said that it is a more accurate translation for modern American readers. He said some who have gone to church for years don't realize that the word "Christ" is a title. The Voice is said to be formulated like a modern screenplay or novel!

There are some, including the Church of God, who disagree that The Voice and other translations are accurate, although they may be easier to read. For accuracy, the King James Version is the best.

Comment

No matter what version or translation is used, the carnal man can never understand. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Corinthians 2:14).

Nothing New

There is fear of an Asian arms race as India launched a missile last April with nuclear capability and a range of 3,100 miles. This gives it the ability to strike Beijing and Shanghai.

An article in the *Houston Chronicle* reads, "With the launching of the missile, called the Agni 5, India joins a group of countries with long-range nuclear capability, including China, Britain, France, Russia, Israel and the United States. Agni is the Hindu word for fire."

Comment

A nuclear arms race is nothing new. There was the arms race between Russia and the United States in the 50's and 60's. In these last days, there is distrust and fear among the nations, and there is no cause to think that things will improve.



Questions and Answers

Question: How long a time is there between the battle of Armageddon and the Millennium?

Answer: The Millennium will follow immediately after the battle of Armageddon. Please read Revelation 19 and Zechariah 14.

Question: With Satan and all his powers and principalities bound, how can people sin during the Millennium?

Answer: Please consider this--the presence of Satan is not necessary to have sin in the flesh. When we let the flesh alone, it will certainly sin and do nothing but sin.

Question: What is the biblical name for the church?

Answer: The answer to your question is "Church of God." There are some who think that using the name Church of God will turn some people away from attending services, and many do not think that the name of the church is important. They think that using the name of a person, doctrine or location is just fine for the name of the church. Others say that many have disgraced the name Church of God. Therefore, it should not be used. Let us consider the matter.

If the name used for the church is not important, then it can be called anything the congregation desires. But if there is real importance to the name "Church of God," then we would do well to know what that is, understand it clearly, and teach it to others.

The fact is that there is no discussion of the name in the New Testament. But that does not mean that the name is not important. There simply was no occasion in the first century to discuss the name. There was only one church, and everyone knew it. There was no problem like the present one of distinguishing "churches" from one another. We find that a dozen times in the New Testament the church is referred to as the "Church of God." Therefore, it is the only Scriptural name for God's church.

The name of the church is more important to us than it was in the first century because we do now have the problem of identifying ourselves and our unique contribution to the world.

A name is important to a person, a group, or an institution because it helps to establish identity. If someone asks me who I am, the first thing I tell him is my name. This does not tell him much, but what it does say is important. Since there are several other men in this city with exactly the same name, he may confuse me with one of the others, and I will have to explain to him more about who I am. I could change my name, but if I did I would lose some of the connection with my past and with my parents and family.

We can see that the name of the church is part of its identity. The name shows something of its origin, its family derivation, its allegiance, and its history. The name of the church says something to the world about the church. It speaks of the self-image of the people who comprise the

church, and the name itself can be a means of evangelism.

The name, "Church of God," is biblical for two main reasons. First, it is the name used in the New Testament; and second, it conveys a New Testament message. We can see why this is true by considering the following eight aspects:

1. *Church of God is the New Testament designation of the church which Jesus purchased with His own blood. The name is used twelve times in the New Testament.*

2. *The church is the PEOPLE – the people of God. The Bible never uses the word to mean any building, service, or denomination, but always people – the people of God. So the name "Church of God" says to the world that we are the people who belong to God.*

3. *The church does not belong to the community. If it did, the community would control it. It does not belong to the people, but God alone. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).*

4. *God's church cuts across all cultural and ethical barriers and includes all children of God in the whole world. But the church does not belong to the world. Let us mention again that it belongs only to God. Hence the name "Church of God" or God's church.*

5. *The term "Church of God" is not a denominational name, but shows that we know the New Testament concept of the church as the people of God. We are not ashamed to be called God's people.*

6. *The fact that some misunderstand our use of the term should not cause us to stop using it. This should encourage us to take every opportunity to explain it. It can become a means of instruction and evangelism.*

7. *Some have disgraced the biblical name by their peculiar and unbiblical doctrines. Many criminals may have the same last name as mine, but I must not give up for that reason. It is also my father's last name, so I will use it no matter who disgraces it, or how. As a church, we should be proud to bear our Father's name.*

8. *Our purpose in the world is to be a church of the New Testament, seek to bring souls to Christ and*

teach them all that Jesus and His Father has commanded us.

Therefore, since we want to use every means to win people, not to ourselves, but to full commitment to God in Jesus Christ as presented in the Bible, we must continue to use the only biblical name. The name "CHURCH OF GOD" is part of our heritage from the Word of God.

Question: Do the words "oppositions of science," mentioned in I Timothy 6:20, mean that we are to avoid false conclusions of science? Does the word "science" used in this verse refer to the same study of science as we know it?

Answer: Let us first quote I Timothy 6:20-21a: "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith."

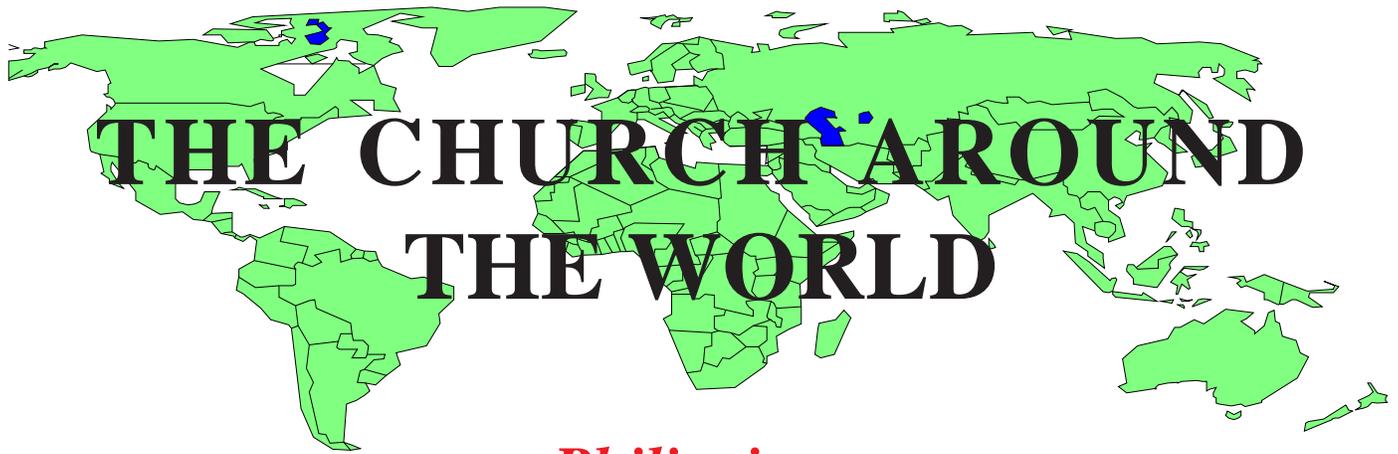
In the King James Version of the Bible, *gnosis* is the Greek word translated science or knowledge. The modern definition of science did not come into common use until around the nineteenth century. Many think that Paul's warning to Timothy refers to a sect known as the Gnostics, who sought salvation through inner knowledge, not through Christ's atoning work.

Question: Since God is righteous and good, how could He drive the Canaanite nations out of their land before the children of Israel?

Answer: It was the righteousness of God that compelled Him to do it. These nations were so corrupt that it made it necessary for a just God to destroy them. Please read Leviticus 18, and take note of verses 24-30. Also read Deuteronomy 12:29-32.

Question: I just read Job 19:25-27. In these verses, is Job prophesying of the second coming of Christ and the bodily resurrection?

Answer: Yes. Job may not have fully understood the matter. The prophets were often ignorant as to the true meaning of the messages they delivered. Read I Peter 1:10-12. Without a doubt, the second coming of Christ and the resurrection of the body are included in Job's prophecy.



THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

Philippines

Brethren in the Philippines





These are pictures of Church of God members who partook of the Lord's Supper last April 6, 2012 in Camanjac, Dumaguete City, in the Philippines.



LESSON I

DAVID ACCEPTS GOLIATH'S CHALLENGE

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 17:12-37.

Golden Text: I Samuel 17:32.

“And David said to Saul, Let no man’s heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Goliath was a giant of a man and challenged the Israelite armies. The Israelites were afraid, but we will now learn of David’s courage.

1. How many of Jesse’s sons followed Saul into battle, and where was David at this time? I Samuel 17:12-15.
2. What did David’s father instruct him to do? I Samuel 17:16-19.
3. Did David obey his father? I Samuel 17:20-22.
4. When David reached the army, did he hear about the challenge made by Goliath? I Samuel 17:23.
5. Were the men of Israel afraid of Goliath, and what did the king promise the man who killed the giant? I Samuel 17:24-25.
6. What question did David ask when he met the Israelites? I Samuel 17:26-27.
7. Who became angry with David when he spoke to the men of the army? I Samuel 17:28.
8. Saul sent for David. What did Saul say to him? I Samuel 17:31-33.
9. How confident was David that he could slay the giant? I Samuel 17:34-37.

LESSON II

DAVID’S VICTORY OVER GOLIATH

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 17:38-58.

Golden Text: I Samuel 17:50 (first part).

"So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him;..."

NOTE: The Philistine army with Goliath has challenged the Israelites. All the men of Israel are afraid to fight Goliath even though the king has promised great riches and his daughter in marriage to the one who killed the giant. David is confident that he can slay the giant. Let us see if he is successful in doing so.

1. How did Saul arm David for battle? I Samuel 17:38-39.
2. David did not wear the armor. What does he get to prepare to fight Goliath? I Samuel 17:40.
3. When the Philistines looked upon David, what taunting remarks did they make to him? I Samuel 17:41-44.
4. What was David’s reply to their remarks about him? I Samuel 17:45-47.
5. When the Philistines arose and came nigh to David, what happened? I Samuel 17:48-50.
6. After he has smitten the giant with the stone, what did David do next? I Samuel 17:51.
7. Did the Philistines flee from the Israelites after this? I Samuel 17:52-53.
8. What did David do with the head of the Philistine? I Samuel 17:54-57.

LESSON III

**SAUL'S JEALOUSY OF DAVID
(PART I)**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 18:1-16.

Golden Text: I Samuel 18:12.

“And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we studied how David was successful in defeating the giant who was with the Philistine army. David trusted fully in God, and he knew the Lord would help him to slay Goliath. David is now before Saul. Let's study more about the life of David and how Saul becomes jealous of him.

1. Who became a good friend to David? I Samuel 18:1-3.

NOTE: Jonathan is Saul's son.

2. What did Jonathan give to David? I Samuel 18:4.
3. What prompted Saul to become jealous of David? I Samuel 18:5-7.
4. Did this displease Saul? Did he watch David closely after that? I Samuel 18:8-9.
5. An evil spirit came from God upon Saul. How did he say he would smite David? I Samuel 18:10-11.
6. Was Saul afraid of David? I Samuel 18:12.
7. What position did Saul give to David? I Samuel 18:13.
8. Did all Israel and Judah love David? I Samuel 18:16.

LESSON IV

**SAUL'S JEALOUSY OF DAVID
(PART II)**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 18:17-30.

Golden Text: I Samuel 18:29.

“And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.”

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that Saul was jealous and feared David because the Lord was with him. As we continue this lesson, we find what Saul tries to do to David.

1. Why did Saul want to give his eldest daughter to David for his wife? I Samuel 18:17-18.
2. Did he marry Merab? I Samuel 18:19.
3. Which one of Saul's daughters loved David? I Samuel 18:20.
4. Why did Saul willingly offer Michal to David for his wife? I Samuel 18:21.
5. What did Saul command his servant to do? Did they tell David? I Samuel 18:22-24.
6. What did Saul want David to do and why? I Samuel 18:25.
7. Did David slay the Philistines as Saul desired? I Samuel 18:26-27.
8. Why was Saul yet more afraid of David? I Samuel 18:28-30.

“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving....” (Psalm 95:1-2).

PATIENCE IN A BUCKET

"Did you bring a kitty home tonight, Daddy? Did you? Did you?" asked Danny, as he met his Daddy at the door.

Night after night Danny asked his Daddy that same question. Night after night Daddy replied, "Not tonight, Danny. But I will find a kitty for you soon. You must be patient."

Every night after supper, Danny sat beside Daddy in the big chair while Daddy read the ads about kittens in the newspaper. Danny listened quietly. Sometimes there were kittens for sale. Sometimes the kittens were free. And Danny wanted the kitty in every ad.

Danny got excited each evening when Daddy read the ads in the newspaper. "Maybe tomorrow night, Daddy? Maybe tomorrow you will bring home a kitty?" he would ask.

"I will try, Danny, but you must be patient," Daddy always answered.

Each day Danny waited and hoped that Daddy would bring a kitty home that night. Sometimes Daddy said, "Not tonight, Danny. The kittens cost too much money. You must be patient." Or the times Daddy said, "Not tonight, Danny. The kittens were free, but when I got there they were all gone."

Danny and Mother often talked about the kitty while Daddy was at work. Mother tried to help Danny find a name for the kitty. But Danny always thought more about wanting the kitty than he did about naming the kitty.

Finally, one night when Daddy came home again without a kitty, Danny started to cry. "I want a little, baby kitty soooo baaaad. I have asked everyone for a kitty. I have even prayed for a kitty, but nooo one gives me a kitty. Even Jesus did not hear my prayers." And Danny put his arms around Daddy's neck and cried.

Daddy patted Danny's back and gave him a big squeeze. When Danny stopped crying, Daddy kissed away the tears. "Danny", Daddy said softly, "one of these days we will find the right kitty for you. But you must be patient and be happy while you wait. Jesus will help us find a

kitty. Jesus wants you to have a kitty. Jesus always hears and answers our prayers."

"Come and eat," called Mother from the kitchen. While they were eating, Mother said, "Danny, I have an idea! I think we should name your kitty 'Patience' because you have waited so long to get it."

"And that would remind us always to wait happily, too, would it not?" said Daddy with a smile.

After supper Danny climbed up beside Daddy in the big chair, and Daddy opened the newspaper and looked on the ad page. "I am sorry," said Daddy, "but there are not any ads for kittens in the paper tonight." Danny was having a hard time waiting happily. His lip quivered. He blinked his eyes. He put his head down on Daddy's shoulder.

"Well, now here is something," Daddy continued. "Listen to this, Danny. It says here in the paper that the firemen found a baby kitty. It was stuffed in an old bucket and hidden under some bushes. Let us take a ride down to the fire station right now. Maybe you will have a kitty tonight."

Danny held Daddy's hand tightly as they walked in the big fire station. There in a box on the fire chief's desk was a little kitten.

"So you want a kitten, do you, young man?" boomed the big fireman. "Well, here you are!" And he put a soft little black-and-white kitty into Danny's open hands.

Danny gently snuggled the kitten up under his chin. Danny's eyes were big and shiny. He was smiling. He was so happy.

"What are you going to call your kitten?" asked the fireman.

"I am going to name my kitty 'Patience' cause I have waited so long for my Daddy to get it." The fireman laughed. "That is a good name for this kitten," he said. "It has been waiting, too. You know it has been waiting for a good home."

On the way home, Daddy told Danny that sometimes Jesus does not answer our prayers right away. Sometimes Jesus has a reason for waiting a little while. Maybe Jesus has something special for us. Or maybe Jesus is teaching us a lesson. When we pray, we must have patience. That means we must wait happily, knowing that Jesus always hears and answers our prayers.

FORTY OLD TESTAMENT PERSONALITIES

Here is a list of the names of forty people chosen from the Bible stories of the Old Testament. Most are well-known. All of the names are hidden in this puzzle.

- Aaron*
- Abel*
- Abram*
- Adam*
- Amos*
- Barak*
- Benjamin*
- Boaz*
- Cain*
- Caleb*
- Dan*
- Daniel*
- David*
- Eli*
- Esau*
- Ezekiel*
- Ezra*
- Gad*
- Gideon*
- Ham*
- Haman*
- Hezekiah*
- Jacob*
- Jehu*
- Jeremiah*
- Job*
- Joel*
- Jonah*
- Judah*
- Laban*
- Lot*
- Mordecai*
- Noah*
- Obed*
- Reuben*
- Samuel*
- Saul*
- Shem*
- Solomon*
- Zephaniah*

B L C E S A U N I A C D A N L W
P N E X O U I M V Q E Y O B E D
A C P B M M O C B M L R H A O N
K I O E A R D U O W A L C B J A
A P Z J R A A R Q A X R D O M X
R R N B E G D H E P I Q B V H E
A E D F H E S A M U E L U A D C
B E L A C G C L M E K P I O M T
O C H A J B L F R B S M T C I O
A H I L E K H C L O E N A B A L
Z E P H A N I A H R H N D Q E U
G Z F K E M G P E M D A V I D A
R E U B E N O J W D G M N C H S
B K J B H L E O A P T A I S D O
D I U J M H V G W C D H A M F L
F A E P U Y I M B N O X E O L O
S H E M B D E C I R U B J B I M
B J F K E O A H A N O J G V C O
G H C O K G L H F P B W E K B N
D L N F M B T Q J E Z E K I E L

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"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help. My
help cometh from the LORD, which
made heaven and earth." (Psalm
121:1-2).

