

The Advocate of Truth





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E-Mail: cogsevday@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong
David DeLong
Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff
Gary Mills Managing Editor
Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

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SELFISHNESS

Bond Tennant

“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” (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

Man is vulnerable to the attack of Satan and his demons! A twenty-four hour vigil must be kept to avoid calamity. Some of Satan’s methods are harsh, pointed and fearful. His other methods are subtle, cunning and clever.

A study of Satan’s methods of tempting man reveals five ancient sins that should be exposed and overcome. Children of God must erect a strong wall of resistance to prevent chaos and destruction.

One of these sins is selfishness. Selfishness will sap the spiritual life and vitality from individuals and the work of God.

Just what is selfishness? It is the act of caring mostly for one’s own comfort, advantage and good fortune. It draws attention to one’s self which hurts others. It takes in, but it never gives out. Selfishness is sin. The Apostle Paul classified it with stealing, adultery, drunkenness and many other evils.

When we observe selfishness, we find that it displays self-glorification. It substitutes an I for a we, us, they, theirs, and ours. The world may call a man smart who looks out for himself, even at the expense of others. But God calls him selfish, and convicts him of sin!

There is a parable that Jesus told in Luke 12:16-21 which illustrates this truth. Let us quote it: “...The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be,

which thou hast provided? SO IS HE THAT LAYETH UP TREASURE FOR HIMSELF, AND IS NOT RICH TOWARD GOD.”

Selfishness is at the root of all sin! Declarations of war find their beginnings in the selfishness of some warmonger, power crazy groups, or blood thirsty rulers. Every lie and impure thought finds birth in selfishness. The basis for every murder and every act of adultery may be traced to selfishness. Every sinful act and every evil deed has selfishness as its root.

Selfishness causes discord. Everywhere we find confusion which is caused by selfishness. Every sinful act and every evil deed in the church is caused by selfishness. The clatter, boisterousness, and destruction of every riot is the voice of selfishness.

Cooperation is hindered by selfishness. It puts an I before a you, and it destroys the possibility of an us or a we. It will prevent an individual from accepting another man’s point of view. Selfishness causes many complaints.

Spiritual defeat is the result of selfishness. This is illustrated when Abraham and Lot are compared:

Abraham--Let there be no strife--take your choice. Unselfishness prevailed. Lot chose fertile land toward Sodom which was the place of wickedness. Selfishness prevailed, and he lost all that he had.

King Saul failed to kill King Agag and took of the spoil for selfish reasons. His kingdoms were denied him. Spiritual life is defeated when one follows selfishness!

The loss of life and the loss of property is caused by selfishness. We know, by the examples from the Scriptures, that it is safe to say that any gain which an individual makes as a result of selfish scheming will be lost. The rich fool lost his soul. Israel lost because of the selfishness of Achan, and Achan also lost his life and possessions. Ananias and Sapphira lost their lives as a result of selfishness.

Let us determine within our minds and hearts what kind of persons we really want to be. Children of God must be unselfish!

SALVATION OF THE LORD

By Bibi Shimon Allicock

Our Lord has a way to salvage us from every area possible, only we have to be focused upon Him. If we lose our focus as Peter did, after seeing heavy winds, we begin to sink. It can also happen to us, and we can sink in our sins. In the Book of Matthew, we see that Peter was willing to walk on the water as Jesus did but, being afraid, he began to sink seeing the heavy winds. “And when the disciples saw him (Jesus) walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (Matthew 14:26-31) This clearly shows we fail Almighty God, but He does not fail us. After Peter doubted and began to sink, he realized that he had to be focused. Therefore he called out to the Lord to save him, and the Lord did by immediately stretching forth his hand to catch him.

In the Book of Exodus, we see that although Almighty God sent plagues and pestilences upon Pharaoh and his household, still he did not want to release God’s people. Nevertheless, since **ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH ALMIGHTY GOD**, when the Israelites’ backs were against the wall, God miraculously led them on dry ground in the Red Sea. “And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” (Exodus 14:5). “And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them” (verse 7). “...And the children of

Israel went out with an high hand” (verse 8, last part). “But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses, and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea” (verse 9, first part). “And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them: and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD” (verse 10). “And Moses said unto the people, **FEAR YE NOT, STAND STILL, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD**, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. **THE LORD SHALL FIGHT FOR YOU, AND YE SHALL HOLD YOUR PEACE**” (verses 13-14). “And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea” (verses 15-16). “And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a **CLOUD AND DARKNESS TO THEM**, but it gave **LIGHT BY NIGHT TO THESE**: so that the one came not near the other all the night” (verses 19-20).

“And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left” (verses 21-22). “And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea” (verse 23, first part).

“And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the

LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD FIGHTETH FOR THEM AGAINST THE Egyptians. And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. BUT THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WALKED UPON DRY LAND IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. THUS THE LORD SAVED ISRAEL that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. AND ISRAEL SAW THAT GREAT WORK WHICH THE LORD DID UPON THE EGYPTIANS: AND THE PEOPLE FEARED THE LORD, AND BELIEVED THE LORD, AND HIS SERVANT MOSES” (verses 24-31).

In the Book of Daniel, Almighty God did save the three Hebrew boys from the MIDST OF THE FIERY FURNACE although they were not certain, because they answered the king when asked, “...who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?” (Daniel 3:15, last part). “...we are not careful to answer thee in this manner” (verse 16, last part). “If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (verses 17-18). “Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their

other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king’s commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was ASTONIED, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast THREE MEN BOUND INTO THE MIDST OF THE FIRE? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see FOUR MEN LOOSE, WALKING IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRE, AND THEY HAVE NO HURT; AND THE FORM OF THE FOURTH IS LIKE THE SON OF GOD. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the BURNING FIERY FURNACE, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, YE SERVANTS OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, CAME FORTH OF THE MIDST OF THE FIRE. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king’s counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies THE FIRE HAD NO POWER, NOR WAS AN HAIR OF THEIR HEAD SINGED, NEITHER WERE THEIR COATS CHANGED, NOR THE SMELL OF FIRE HAD PASSED ON THEM” (verses 19-27).

“Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, BLESSED BE THE GOD OF SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABED-NEGO, WHO HATH SENT HIS ANGEL, AND DELIVERED HIS SERVANTS THAT TRUSTED IN HIM, and have CHANGED the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they might NOT SERVE NOR WORSHIP ANY GOD, except their own God. Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, SHALL BE CUT IN PIECES, AND THEIR HOUSES SHALL BE MADE A DUNGHILL: BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER GOD THAT CAN DELIVER AFTER THIS SORT” (verses 28-29).

The Apostle Peter was miraculously saved when King Herod desired to kill him as also he did to the Apostle James. “Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed

James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter (Passover) to bring him forth to the people” (Acts 12:1-4).

“Peter therefore was kept in prison: BUT PRAYER WAS MADE WITHOUT CEASING OF THE CHURCH unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. AND HIS CHAINS FELL OFF FROM HIS HANDS” (verses 5-7).

“And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought HE SAW A VISION. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, AND HATH DELIVERED ME OUT OF THE HAND OF HEROD, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together PRAYING. And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter’s voice, she opened not the gate FOR GLADNESS, BUT RAN IN, AND TOLD HOW PETER STOOD BEFORE THE GATE. And they said unto her, Thou are mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, THEY WERE ASTONISHED” (verses 8-16).

A song writer declared that it is no secret what God can do. What He’s done for others, He can do for you. So let us look to the hills from whence cometh our help

for “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). Amen.

Questions for a Father

Papa, I’m needing some answers,
There are some things I’m needing to know;
Is it wrong to tell lies by everyone,
Papa, how can this be so?
There are so many things that I question
That takes place this time of year;
All of this talk about Santa Claus
Is causing me worry and fear.
How can one man in one tiny sleigh
Fit in all the millions of toys?
Is it wrong for grown-ups to lie about this,
Or is lying not for little boys?
We don’t have a chimney for him to slide down,
So does he just knock on the door?
There are just so many things that I wonder,
But I question a great many more.
How many times have you told me:
“Never think of guns as toys?”
Yet that is the first thing you give to us,
Not just me, but to all other boys.
There are so many things that you tell me
That turns out to be only a lie;
And I think that I really should tell you
That reindeer really can’t fly!
I’m beginning to worry now, Papa,
What kind of man I’ll be, too;
Will I always be upright and honest?
Or, will I be someone like you?
To think that this really could happen
Is making me want to cry;
So I guess I’ll just have to ask you:
"Papa, will you teach me to lie?"

By: Betty Whetstone

NOTE: The following, which is taken from an old newspaper, is one of the legends associated with the observance of Christmas, which is a PAGAN HOLIDAY!

THE STORY OF THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Legend has it that a casual blunder by St. Nicholas started the custom of having Christmas stockings. While making his yearly rooftop visits in Holland, this kindly gent dropped his purse down a chimney. Much to the good fortune of those below, the purse fell into a stocking left on the hearth to dry. As word spread of the family's good luck, the tradition of hanging Christmas stockings became popular and widespread.

Questions for a Mother

Mama, if I ask you a question,
Will you promise to tell me what's true?
For Mama, you know I depend on
The answers coming from you.
You tell me I should be a good girl,
Not going about telling a lie;
Does that mean when I have my own little girl
I must tell her reindeer can fly?
This thing that you do called Christmas

Must really be something bad;
For instead of being all nice and happy,
It seems to make everyone mad.
And Santa? I really don't like him,
He scares me with that big, ho ho!
I'd rather not go up to see him,
I thought that you might like to know.
I don't like the presents I'm getting,
I don't want a Barbie and Ken;
A doll should be one I can cuddle,
Not one like a woman or man.
I don't want a doll of high fashion,
With a body as hard as a rock;
I love the one Grandma gave me,
The one she made from a sock!
No matter wherever I'm going,
My dolly is always right there;
Every night she sleeps on my pillow,
And hears every word of my prayer.
I don't think I want to be grown-up,
There is so much that doesn't seem true;
Just tell me this one thing, please, Mama,
Will I grow up to be someone like you?

By: Betty Whetstone

PRINCIPLES AND REASONS

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

By Moises Torres M.

1. What is the mystery of iniquity?

It is a spirit or energy that works against God, His Word, and His Church.

It is the Apostle Paul who mentions this spirit as a "mystery". "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way" (II Thessalonians 2:7). This emphasizes that in those days this mystery was already working against the Word of God and the Church, and that it will continue working "until he be taken out of the way". The apostle was trying to help the Thessalonians to understand the Lord Jesus Christ would not return until, "...there come

a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed..." (verse 3).

NOTE: Apostasy is a rebellion that leads progressively to the desertion from truth until it gets ready the way for the man of sin to be revealed. Evilness and deception (cheating), which the man of sin will embody, was already working in Paul's days. John declares that in his days there were already many antichrists, (see I John 2:18). Anyone who opposes Christ and His Church, and leads others to worship false gods, is an antichrist.

2. When was this mystery of iniquity originated?

When Lucifer revolted and conspired against God. “Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire” (Ezekiel 28:15-16).

Ezekiel lets us know that Lucifer (Satan) was considered perfect, **until iniquity was found in him**, and he was cast out of the mountain of God. He was a covering cherub, but he was lifted up because of his beauty, and he rebelled against God and tried to usurp His throne, (see verses 17-19). Since that very day, mention was made about iniquity, and it became a mystery.

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” (Isaiah 14:13-14).

3. In which sense is iniquity a mystery?

Even though God could destroy Lucifer in the very moment he conspired against Him, he did not do so, and Lucifer continued spreading his evilness throughout the ages. We know the immediate punishment for him was only to be cast out from the mountain of God back in that age. But it is not that God just permitted him to continue living to deceive his creation. It is that according to His justice, God had to take Satan first through a judgment to prove him guilty before His whole creation, and then destroy him at the appointed time (see Revelation 20:7-10). Satan’s evilness, or iniquity, continued working as a mystery (as a hidden power) deceiving nations and people and the whole world.

NOTE: Judgments have their origin in this action God initiated against Satan. Accused people cannot be sentenced to any punishment before a judgment is performed. God acted according to this procedure until he showed Satan guilty. This way God showed His angels and man that arrogance and prepotency have no place in His divine nature; He does not destroy anybody just

because He wants to. God sent His Son to bring out to light the works of the devil.

4. What would this spirit try to do?

Not being destroyed in the beginning, this spirit (Satan’s iniquity) took its course through the centuries as a mystery, a mystery of iniquity that tries to destroy everything created by God. It tried to destroy man in Eden, and to destroy the Son of God on the cross. It also incited the change of the seventh day as the Sabbath, from Saturday to Sunday, and change also “...times and laws...” (Daniel 7:25). And gradually it invented all kinds of apostasy and deception in the world, preparing nations to meet his new god (the man of sin). Apostle Paul confirms that this spirit of iniquity was already working in his days, and would not cease until it creates Satan’s masterpiece, the “...man of sin...” (II Thessalonians 2:3-4).

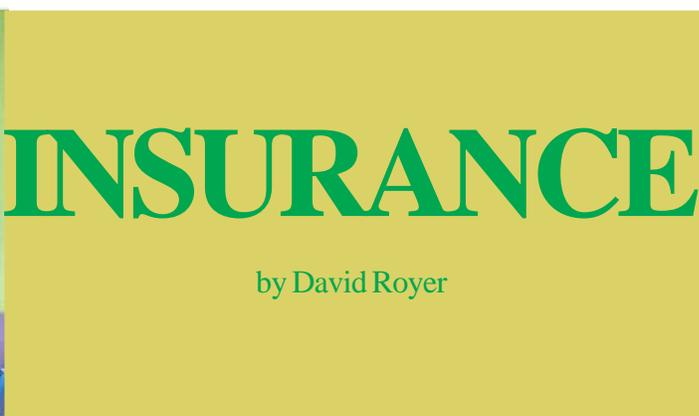
5. What would be the intention of the coming “man of sin” in the last days?

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (II Thessalonians 2:3-4). This is exactly what Lucifer did in the beginning when he was created and walked in the midst of the stones of fire in the paradise of God. Since then, the intention of this spirit of iniquity has been to overthrow God, and sit on His throne, shewing himself that he is God. When the Church is gathered during the reaping phase of the Coming of Christ, and therefore the Holy Spirit leaves this world, “...then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming” (II Thessalonians 2:8).

NOTE: “Coups d’etat” are common in our time, and eventually governments are overthrown by their enemies. In this case, the enemy of God, Satan, wanted to overthrow God and usurp His place. One day this prophecy on the mystery of iniquity and the man of sin will come to its

fulfillment, and then the Son of God will come down to destroy the Antichrist and seize the devil for a thousand years (see Revelation 20:1-3).

6. Who was sent to judge this spirit of iniquity?



While going through one of my father’s Bibles, I found some of his notes. They inspired me to write this article.

I received, in the mail, an advertisement from a large insurance company offering Medicare Insurance. (This will give you an idea of my age.) The ad provided company information and State required disclosures. So, use your imagination that the following information was mailed to you...but instead of throwing it away (as I did with the original mail) take it to heart!

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God sent his Son, to destroy the works of the devil. “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (I John 3:8). The Son of God acted as God’s Advocate.

- cancel. John 3:15; Romans 10:9.
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THE BEGINNING AND ENDING OF GOD'S DAY

"And the evening and the morning were the first day" (Genesis 1:5). Here we have the beginning of the first "day" of creation. The beginning is called evening which begins after the sun has set. This division of God's time called "day" was divided into two parts: "And God called the light DAY, and the darkness he called NIGHT..." (Genesis 1:5). The night or darkness preceded the light or day. "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said,

Let there be light: and there was light" (Genesis 1:2-3). Therefore the common expression of evening (even) as applied to the close of the day is incorrectly used according to God's Word. The even or evening of any day is the beginning and not the ending. We must first have an ending. Let us search out some Scriptures to give us light on this subject.

"And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils" (Mark 1:32). This proves that even or evening

is at sunset, the beginning of another day. In this particular instance, it was the beginning of the first day of the week now commonly called Sunday. Why?

Please read the 21st verse of Mark 1, "And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught." Reading on down this chapter we come to the verse (verse 32) which we just quoted to show that "at even, when the sun did set," was after the Sabbath was past and another day had begun.

And again in Luke 4:16 it says, "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read." Following the worship in the synagogue we read verse 40 of this same chapter, "Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them."

This shows that the Sabbath day had passed with the setting of the sun and another day had begun, for the Jews would not carry the burden of their sick to Jesus on the Sabbath day to be healed.

The evening of any day is not the end or close of that day, but is the beginning of another day. In Deuteronomy 23:11 the verse reads: "But it shall be, when evening cometh on, he shall wash himself with water: and when the sun is down, he shall come into the camp again." Here we have two synonymous expressions: "When evening cometh on" and "when the sun is down," showing the beginning of another day.

In Leviticus 11:24-25, the text shows that uncleanness lasted until that day was past, and the even (beginning of another day) was come. Please read both of these verses.

Now, please turn to Judges 19:9, and read: "...Behold, now the day draweth toward evening, I pray you tarry all night: behold, the day groweth to an end..." Yes, the light part or day was drawing toward evening, but had not yet come to it. The day was growing to an end. The close of a day is called the end of that day.

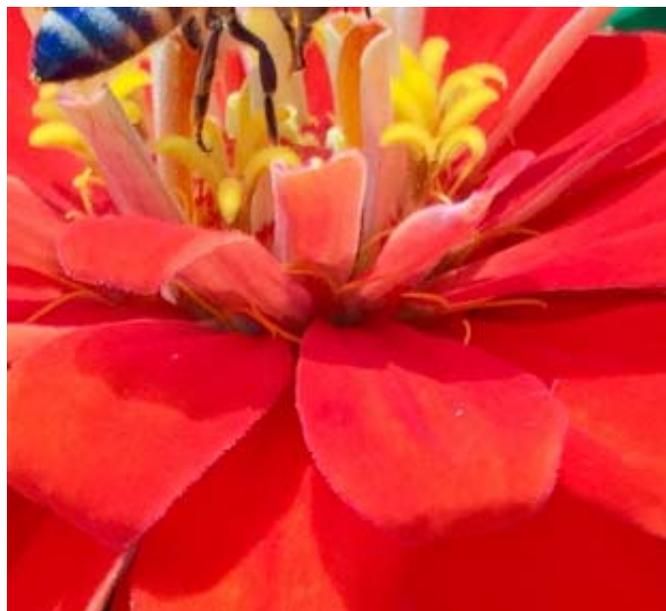
In Matthew 28:1, we read: "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn (draw on) toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre." They came in the end (not the beginning) of the Sabbath (7th day) to see the sepulchre.

The Interlinear Greek-English New Testament gives it thus: "Now late on Sabbath, as it was getting dusk toward

(the) first (day) of (the) week, came Mary the Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre."

The terms "later on", "the end", etc. denote the latter part of the day, never "even or evening."

Now we return to Exodus 12:6: "And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening." When was the Passover lamb to be killed? The verse just quoted says "in the evening." This is the beginning (not the ending) of the fourteenth day after the sun had gone down. From the beginning of this day (the 14th) to the beginning of the next day (the 15th), there were twenty-four hours. The Passover lamb was not killed in the end of any day, but in the evening (the beginning) of the 14th just after the close or end of the 13th after the sun had gone down. Jesus ate the Passover lamb every year at the same time, and the Last Supper with His disciples was absolutely no exception. Everything concerning the last Passover supper that was observed by Jesus with His disciples was on the dark part (beginning) of the 14th day as it had always been since the coming of the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. Please read Exodus 12. In John 13:30 the Scripture says: "He (Judas) then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night." This dark part (night) was the beginning of the 14th starting at sunset, and is according to all the calculations governing God's day. This rules out entirely the 15th of Nisan as having any part in the Passover, or the Lord's Supper.



Conditions For Answered Prayer

By David DeLong



Concerning the Lord Jesus, in Luke 18:1, we learn, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint". The Apostle Paul, likewise taught, "Pray without ceasing" (I Thessalonians 5:17). However, there are conditions that the Lord places upon prayer for it to be answered. Let's look at some of these.

A Clean Heart

If there is any known, unconfessed, sin in our lives the Lord will not answer our prayer. The Psalmist, in Psalm 66:18, declares: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me". If there is an unresolved situation between brothers or sisters in the Church, Jesus warned: "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). Also, if there is a conflict in a marriage, Peter counselled: "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (I Peter 3:7). Perhaps the first prayer, then, that we utter should be one of confession and contrition.

Ask, Seek, Knock

To the person who comes to the Lord with good petitions (see Matthew 7:11), he or she will receive them. Our Lord instructed us in verses 7-8: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it

shall be opened." However, we should be persistent in our asking. Once again we go to Luke, chapter 18, to see the Lord's parable on persistent prayer. "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:1-8).

Ask In Faith

James, for instance, wrote about the person who wanted to receive wisdom. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:5-8). Jesus taught a similar faith. His disciples asked Him why they couldn't cast out a certain devil. "Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a

grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:19-21). When the disciples witnessed Jesus walking upon the sea, Peter requested Jesus that he be allowed to do the same. "And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" (Matthew 14:28-31). Very few people, today, have the kind of faith about which Jesus and James taught.

Wait On The Lord

The Lord answers prayer on His time, not on ours. He does this because He knows what will be the best outcome and when that outcome should take place. David knew that he must wait upon the Lord to receive God's will. Psalm 25:5 shows David's willingness to wait upon the Lord: "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." In Psalm 37, David has all the elements needed for the Lord to answer prayer. These include: trust, commitment, resting in and waiting for the Lord, and having a clean heart. Verses 3-8 read: "Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil."

Acceptance Of "No"

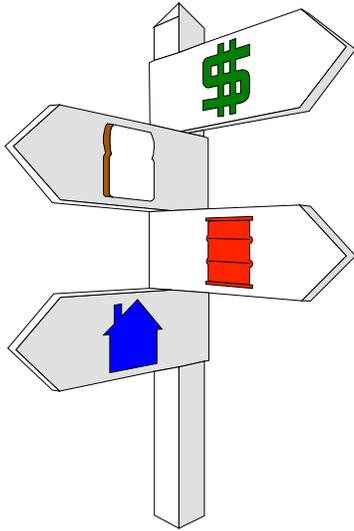
Sometimes the Lord just says "No" to our petition in prayer. We need to be ready to accept that decision from the Lord. God's "no" is actually an answer to our prayer, and it is the best for us at that particular time. We read about the Apostle Paul's request to the Lord for healing, but he was denied that request. "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the rev-

elations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Corinthians 12:7-10). We see here that Paul needed to be kept humble because of the revelations that he received from the Lord. He needed to rely on the Lord's strength, not his own. It is better to bear an affliction now than to lose out on eternal life later.

Prayer And Fasting

We have already read where Jesus told His disciples that, to cast out the devil, they not only needed faith but also the power that comes from prayer and fasting. Fasting adds a dimension of power from the Lord that nothing else will. Fasting is not just going without food and drink for a period of time. One needs to diligently seek the Lord's face at this time also. Notice how He regards fasting in Isaiah 58:6-11: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

If we meet the conditions for prayer, we can know that the Lord will always answer our prayers. May we be the prayer warriors that He wants us to be.



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 FILM: "TO HEAVEN AND BACK" IS ITS CONTENT BIBLICALLY TRUE?

Many months ago, a story was featured in this column of a pastor who claims that he was in heaven during his near-death experience. A film, *To heaven and back*, has been made telling of his experience.

Following is a portion of an article by Maggie Galehouse which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**:

On a rainy January morning in 1989, an 18-wheeler slammed into a red Ford Escort on the Trinity River bridge northeast of Huntsville.

Don Piper, a Baptist minister heading home from a conference to lead a Bible study in Alvin, was driving the car. He was declared dead at the scene. Paramedics placed a tarp over Piper's broken body, still wedged inside the mangled vehicle. "I was gone," Piper confirmed in a phone interview last week.

Or was he?

A new faith-friendly film opening Friday, starring Hayden Christensen as Piper and Kate Bosworth as his wife, Eva, tells Piper's amazing story, "90 Minutes in Heaven," based on Piper's best selling 2004 memoir, recounts the minister's visit to the pearly gates and the grueling, earthly aftermath—13 months in Houston hospital beds and years of rehabilitation.

"Heaven was the most real thing I've ever experienced," said Piper, 65, who travels the world sharing his story. "It was a great reunion with those who preceded me. I was surrounded by my people. Perfect people. The last time I'd seen them they were in their caskets.

Now I'm at the gates of heaven and they've never been more alive. My grandfather was missing fingers, and, in heaven, they were restored."

Piper said he passed through layers of aroma, scores of angels and music unlike anything he had ever heard. He saw Jesus in the distance.

But he did not stay in heaven for long.

A pastor named Dick Onarecker, on his way home from the same religious conference as Piper, stopped at the accident scene to provide what solace he could. Crawling into the car behind Piper, Onarecker placed a hand on his right shoulder and began to sing: "*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!*"

"I remember his voice," Piper said. "We were both covered with a waterproof tarp. It was cold and the car was quite gruesome. Pieces of matter all over the place. My left arm was almost in the back seat, almost severed."

Suddenly, Piper began to sing along with Onarecker. A shocked Onarecker scrambled out of the car to tell the paramedics that the dead man was alive.

Comment

Several people who revived after their near-death experiences gave different accounts of what they saw and where they were during the time before they revived. No two gave identical reports. Some recalled moving through a long, dark tunnel, watching resuscitation efforts from 'outside' the body. Some claimed that they were greeted by relatives and friends who had died earlier. Some claimed to see dazzling lights and having one's life and character reviewed. Some remembered nothing. I had a near-death experience about ten years ago, and I did not

experience anything. I was completely unconscious during the time, and I knew nothing.

We do not question the sincerity of these people who think that they were in heaven during their near-death state. But their account of being in heaven is totally false, and it is a ploy of Satan who goes about the earth as a roaring lion deceiving many people upon the earth because he knows his time is short!

The person in a near-death experience is not completely dead. He is only near death. The account of Pastor Piper's being in heaven for 90 minutes is completely false. His description of heaven does not comply to the truth found in God's Word. We know that it was impossible for him to be in heaven because Jesus in John 3:13 tells us, "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven." Pastor Piper said that he saw Jesus in the distance. Jesus would not have been in the distance.

Now for the final and most convincing fact! Pastor Piper said that he saw his grandfather and his relatives and friends who died while he was in in heaven, and they were all in perfect condition. All of their bodily defects were taken away. This was an illusion!

Let us believe the following verses found in God's Word: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten" (Ecclesiastes 9:5). "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish" (Psalm 146:4). "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

We now can see that in the film, *To heaven and back*, Pastor Piper's account of being in heaven is not biblically true!

BLACK MEN DISAPPEARING

I read that black men are disappearing from daily life in America. They are missing largely because of early deaths or because they are behind bars.

NO RETIREMENT SAVINGS

According to a newspaper article, more than a third of Americans have no retirement savings, and more than two-thirds of 18-to 29-year-olds have saved nothing for retirement, while 14 percent of people 65 and older have put nothing aside for retirement.

ATHEIST BAN

Atheists in seven states are pushing to end an obscure ban which keeps them from holding public office. They say that it is time to get rid of the atheist bans because they are discriminatory, offensive and unconstitutional.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is very much still in the news. There are people who deny climate change. President Obama visited Florida and said, "Simply refusing to say the words 'climate change' doesn't mean climate change isn't happening. It can't be edited out. It can't be omitted from the conversation, and action can no longer be delayed." The question is how much of climate change is caused by man's doing. There have been demonstrations around the world to urge action in the fight with climate change.

LOW PAY

The following is a segment of an article by Nelson D. Schwartz entitled *Pay for many essentially has fallen* that appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**:

Despite steady gains in hiring, and a falling unemployment rate and other signs of an improving economy, take home pay for many American workers has effectively fallen since the economic recovery began in 2009, according to a study by an advocacy group that is to be released on Thursday.

The declines were greatest for the lower-paid workers in sectors where hiring has been strong – home health care, food preparation and retailing – even though wages were already below average to begin with in those service industries.

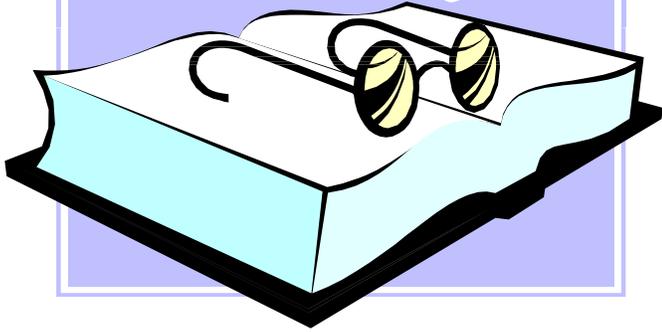
"Stagnate wages are a problem for everyone at this point, but the imbalance in the economy has become more pronounced since the recession," said Irene Tung, a senior policy researcher at the National Employment Law Project and co-author of the study.

Comment

It may not be easy to secure the living standard that we may wish to have on a low salary. However, the Apostle Paul wrote, "...godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (I Timothy 6:6-8). Jesus said, "...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Why should we not be angry with those who do us wrong?

ANSWER: To a carnal man or woman, nothing may feel as good as being angry with someone who has done him wrong. However, nothing destroys one's health and burdens one's life so intensely as resentment and bitterness. It may be natural to be upset with someone, but when bad feelings linger long after the situation has passed, one is just ruining his own life and perhaps working his way toward an early death. Medical studies clearly indicate that lingering anger is at the root of many physical ailments to say nothing about spiritual blindness.

QUESTION: What do you think about the doctrine of eternal security (once saved--always saved)?

ANSWER: It is a false doctrine! As children of God, we are assured that God will never leave us or forsake us. But the Word of God does not say that it is impossible for us to backslide and lose our salvation! Consider the following verses:

1. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13).
2. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience

received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" (Hebrews 2:1-3).

3. "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 3:11).

4. "By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain" (I Corinthians 15:2).

5. "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end" (Hebrews 3:14).

6. "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26).

7. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward" (II John 1:8).

8. "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:36).

9. "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries"(Hebrews 10:26-27).

QUESTION: I cannot find the saying "Pride goeth before a fall" in the Bible. What is its origin?

ANSWER: The familiar saying is a slightly abbreviated version of Proverbs 16:18: “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

QUESTION: A friend tried to tell me that the Queen of Sheba and Solomon were lovers. Can I find that idea in the Bible?

ANSWER: No, you cannot! I Kings 10:1-13 tells of the Queen of Sheba’s visit to Israel. The Queen of Sheba came to Israel to test Solomon with difficult questions and to see for herself if his court was as resplendent as rumors described it. She was satisfied, and she praised Solomon for his wise counsel and for the splendor of his palace. She then exchanged precious gifts with Solomon and returned to her homeland in southern Arabia. That is where the story ends!

QUESTION: What are two kinds of death mentioned in the Scriptures?

ANSWER: In the Bible, more than one kind of death is mentioned. Genesis 50:26 records, “So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.” This was natural death, a result of mortality.

There is also “death unto sin”. We read in II Timothy 2:11, “It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him.” Addressing his brethren who were still alive physically, Paul says, “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). He had brethren who were dead with Christ. How did this come about? Let us read chapter 2:20, first part: “Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world.” They were “dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world.”

In Romans 6, Paul tells us more about this death. “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2). “...sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). As we cease transgressing, we become worthy of God’s blessing. “Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him” (Romans 6:8). “For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead

indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (verses 10-11).

QUESTION: We understand that sin entered into the world when Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit. It was Eve who first wanted it and looked upon it with great desire before she actually ate of it. Was it sin for her to do so, even to touch it and pick it? If so, there was sin before Adam sinned.

ANSWER: Technically you may be correct. However, the Bible looks upon the temptation, Eve’s desire and eating of the forbidden fruit, and Adam’s partaking of it as one act. Adam is blamed: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).

QUESTION: We are told that “when Solomon was old” he worshiped other gods and goddesses, and he tried to kill Jeroboam, whom God had chosen as his successor. He did other evils. Why then did God inspire him to write parts of the Bible? How could he have been “the wisest man who ever lived?”

ANSWER: Solomon began well, and his heart was right with God. In I Kings 3:11-13, we read that God loved him and blessed him abundantly. His God-given inspiration to write Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon occurred long before he fell into sin. It seems that his downfall, which came later in life, was his love for beautiful women. He could not get enough of them.

QUESTION: What did Jesus really mean when He said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death” (John 8:51).

ANSWER: Jesus’ meaning was, “If a man keep my saying,” he shall never see eternal death, shall never experience the “second” or “final” death from which there is no escape.

Obedying Christ’s saying is not a guarantee against never experiencing natural death. The exaltation to life immortal shall never die once it is bestowed upon those who obey Jesus’ saying.



Myanmar

The Church in Myanmar is collecting goods and money for disaster relief.





Some goods collected for the disaster relief.



LESSON I

THE CAPTURE

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:47-56: Luke 22:45-53. Golden Text: Matthew 26:50.

"And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Jesus and the disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus asked His disciples to pray with Him, but instead they slept and left Jesus alone. Let us continue the story.

1. While Jesus was speaking, who came to the Garden, and who was with him? Matthew 26:47.
2. What sign was Judas to give to let the men know which one was Jesus? Matthew 26:48-49.
3. What did Jesus say to Judas, and what happened to Jesus? Matthew 26:50; Luke 22:48.
4. What did one of the disciples do to the servant of the High Priest? Matthew 26:51. Read John 18:10 to find out which disciple did this.
5. What did Jesus say to Simon Peter when he cut the servant's ear off, and what did he do for that servant? Matthew 26:52-54; Luke 22:51.
6. What did Jesus say to the chief priests, captains and elders? Luke 22:52-53.
7. Did the disciples stay with Jesus throughout His capture? Matthew 26:56 (last part).

LESSON II

PETER'S DENIAL OF CHRIST

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:66-72.

Golden Text: Mark 14:71.

"But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak."

NOTE: Jesus is taken before the High Priest and questioned. Peter had followed him from afar and goes into the palace to sit with the servants (Luke 22:54). We will now study of Peter's denial.

1. Where was Peter at this time, and who came up to him? Mark 14:66.
2. What statement did she make? Mark 14:67.
3. How did Peter deny this statement, and what happened next? Mark 14:68.
4. Who saw him again, and what did those who stood by say to him? Mark 14:70.
5. In what uncouth manner did he deny this? Mark 14:71.
6. What happened the second time? Mark 14:72 (first part).
7. What did this make Peter remember, and what did he do? Mark 14:72 (last part).

LESSON III

JESUS OR BARABBAS

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:6-15.

Golden Text: Mark 15:15.

"And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified."

NOTE: The chief priests bound Jesus and took him before Pilate. Pilate questions Jesus and finds no wrong with Him. Let us find out what happens as Pilate talks to the crowd.

1. At the feast of the Passover, what did Pilate do? Mark 15:6.
2. Whom did Pilate bring before the multitude? Mark 15:7.
3. Did this please the multitude? Mark 15:8.
4. How did Pilate answer the multitude, and why had they delivered Jesus unto him? Mark 15:9-10.
5. What did the chief priests do? Mark 15:11.
6. What question did Pilate ask them? Mark 15:12.
7. What did the multitude cry out again? Mark 15:13.
8. What did Pilate then say, and how did this effect the people? Mark 15:14.
9. What did Pilate finally do, and why? Mark 15:15.
5. What were his words to Jesus? John 19:10.
6. What did Jesus mean by His answer in John 19:11?
7. When Pilate tried to let Jesus go, what did the Jews do? John 19:12-15.
8. Who were the actual people that crucified Jesus? John 19:6,12,16. It was the Jewish Temple guards.

LESSON IV

JESUS SUFFERS FOR US

Scripture Reading: John 19:1-15.

Golden Text: John 19:2.

"And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe."

NOTE: What does "crucify" mean? Answer: To put to death by nailing the hands and feet to a cross.

1. What cruel thing did Pilate do? John 19:1.
2. Did the Roman soldiers have any part in causing Jesus to suffer? John 19:2-3.
3. Could Pilate find any fault in Jesus even though the Jews cried out to crucify Him? John 19:4,6.
4. Why did Pilate go to the judgment hall to talk to Jesus? John 19:8-9.



Answers to Bible Shoes -

1. Moses, 2. John the Baptist, 3. Boaz, 4. The twelve disciples, 5. Joshua, 6. David, 7. Peter, 8. The preparation of the gospel of peace.

Answers to First Things In The Bible -

1. Genesis, 2. In the beginning, 3. Adam, 4. Eve, 5. Cain, Abel, 6. Light, 7. Jabal, 8. fig leaves, 9. Nimrod, 10. Abel, 11. Cain, 12. Jabal, 13. Tubalcain, 14. Joseph, 15. Abraham, 16. Raven.

Answers to Bible Town -

- Benjamin, Ebenezer, Thomas, Hannah, Lot, Esther, Herod, Elijah, Methuselah, The Place, Bethlehem.

CINDY'S NEW SKATES

By Katherine Blake



Cindy had a new pair of roller skates. She had been wanting skates for a long time. Big sister Ann and brother Jerry both had new skates, but Cindy had only Ann's old ones. She had learned to skate quite well, though the old skates were too big and came off her feet once in a while.

But yesterday had been Cindy's birthday, and Cindy had gotten a new pair of skates. It had been too late after her birthday party to try them out, so this morning she intended to see how much fun it was to skate with her very own new skates.

She put on her sweats and went out on the front porch. She sat down on the bottom step and put on the skates. They fitted just right. She fastened the straps on the skates to be sure they would not fall off.

She stood up. She gave a big push with her right foot. Away she went. Down the sidewalk she rolled. What fun it was! Clear down to the corner she went in a flash, then back again to her own house, then down to the next corner. Cindy had never gone any farther than the first corner on the old skates, but those were hard to skate on. She wondered what it would be like to skate around the block. When she came to the next corner, she did not turn as she should have, but hopped off the curb and crossed the street. Down the sidewalk she flew. On and on she went. "It is like flying," she thought. "I never did anything that was so much fun."

Cindy kept going on and on. Sometimes she would turn a corner. Sometimes she would cross the street. But never once did she stop long enough to remember that Mother had told her she must never, never go away from home unless she had asked Mother. And she must never, never go away from their own block unless some older person was with her.

All of a sudden, Cindy's foot caught on a bump in the sidewalk. With a crash, Cindy went tumbling. She skinned her knee. She tore the elbow of her pretty new sweater.

Cindy began to cry. She got up and started home to get Mother to fix her knee.

Then she looked around. All at once, she realized that she had never seen this street before. She had no idea where home was. She did not know how to get there.

Cindy was frightened. She began to cry harder than ever. Then she thought, "Jesus knows where home is. He knows where I am. He can help me find my way."

She felt better then. She shut her eyes and said, "Dear Jesus, I am awfully lost. I do not know where home is. Will You please tell me how to find my house?"

After she prayed, Cindy was not so scared. When she was not scared, she could remember what Mother and Daddy had often told her to do if she got lost.

"When I am lost, I must find a policeman," she said. "But I do not see a policeman anywhere. I wonder where one is."

Just then she saw a lady watering her flowers.

"Lady," Cindy called. "Do you know where a policeman is? I am lost."

The lady stopped her watering. She came over to talk to Cindy. "There is not a policeman near here, but I can call one for you if you want me to, my dear."

Cindy sat down on the grass. "I will wait here until he comes."

Then the lady had an idea. "What is your name? Do you know where you live?"

"Oh, yes," said Cindy. "Mother taught me that when I was a very little girl. My name is Cindy Ward. And I live at 54 Oak Ridge."

"That is fine," said the lady. "I will just call your mother on the phone. That is better than calling a policeman. If every little child knew their name and address as you do, they would not be in trouble if they got lost."

In a few minutes, Mother came in the car to get Cindy. She thanked the lady for helping Cindy. She started the car.

"Mother," Cindy said. "I did not mean to get lost."

"I know," said Mother. "But when we disobey, something usually happens that we do not expect or want."

"Jesus helped me when I was scared," Cindy said. "He helped me remember what to do."

"Jesus always helps us," said Mother. "And we should say thank you for His love and care."

A BIBLE TOWN

- The name of Jacob’s youngest son. (Genesis 35:18)
- A stone that told what God had done. (I Samuel 7:12)
- A saint who showed great unbelief. (John 20:24)
- One who to God poured out her grief. (I Samuel 1:15)
- A man to save his life who fled. (Genesis 19:18-22)
- A queen who filled another’s stead. (Esther 2:17)
- A king who had God’s witness slain. (Matthew 14:3-11)
- And a man whose prayers stayed the rain. (I Kings 17:1)
- He lived the longest here below. (Genesis 5:25)
- The initials name a place you know.

- 9. Who was the first hunter of the Bible? (Genesis 10:9)
- 10. Who was the first shepherd of the Bible? (Genesis 4:2)
- 11. Who was the first farmer or “tiller of the ground”? (Genesis 3:23)
- 12. Who was the first to play musical instruments? (Genesis 4:21)
- 13. Who was the first to work with brass and iron? (Genesis 4:22)
- 14. Who was the first man in the Bible to shave? (Genesis 41:14)
- 15. Who was the first man to buy a piece of land? (Genesis 23:20)
- 16. What is the first bird mentioned in the Bible? (Genesis 8:7)

FIRST THINGS

- 1. What is the first book in the Bible?
- 2. What are the first three words in the Bible?
- 3. Who was the first man in the Bible?
- 4. Who was the first woman? (Genesis 3:20)
- 5. What was the first murder in the Bible? (Genesis 4:8)
- 6. What was the first thing God ever made? (Genesis 1:3)
- 7. Who was the first man to live in a tent? (Genesis 4:20)
- 8. Of what were the first clothes mentioned in the Bible made? (Genesis 3:7)

BIBLE SHOES

- 1. Who was told to take off his shoes because the place on which he stood was holy ground? Exodus 3:4-5.
- 2. Who said he was not worthy to bear the shoes of Jesus? Matthew 3:1,11.
- 3. Who drew off his shoe as a sign of buying a piece of land as his inheritance? Ruth 4:8.
- 4. Whom did Jesus command to be shod with sandals? Mark 6:7-9.
- 5. What other Old Testament leader was told to loose his shoes from his feet for the place on which he stood was holy? Joshua 5:15.
- 6. Who took off his shoes when he went up Mount Olive? II Samuel 15:30.
- 7. Who was told by an angel to bind on his sandals? Acts 12:7-8.
- 8. With what is the Christian to have his feet shod? Ephesians 6:15.

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IT'S NOT GOODBYE

by Gloria Degamo Ygay

Why does a baby cry?
Why do people die?
What is the meaning of life?
Is it sweet with a single bite?

Sometimes life is good with substance,
Babies cry because they have the chance,
And people die,
But it's not goodbye.

It's not goodbye, it's not goodbye,
Everybody dies, but it's not goodbye;
Why worry when we can pray?
Take it to the Lord, we'll meet again someday.

Why does a baby cry, if it's not goodbye?
People die but it's not goodbye;
Pray to God and ask for a guide,
Through all your life He will abide.

Why does the baby cry? Lots of questions;
Why do people die? More emotions;
For life will be sweet, eternally with our King,
Always be ready for His second coming.

