

The Advocate of Truth



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The Lord's Supper is on Saturday evening, March 31, 2018, after sundown, the beginning of April 1.

WISDOM AND UNANIMITY

By Carlo Rasmussen
(Deceased)



India

There is an old saying among brethren that goes like this: “The wheels of God grind ever so slow, but they grind exceeding well.” The Scripture reads: **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”** (Romans 8:28). Both of these thoughts reveal a God who is ever moving forward at a steady pace. The first expression is not found in the Bible. However, it does accurately describe the continuous workings of our Creator as He guides the destiny of mankind through the ages by His Son, Jesus Christ.

The reverse thought of Romans 8:28 would be that all things work against those who reject God and refuse to humble themselves according to His will.

In trying to understand God’s will in our lives, we may not always have an immediate reason for our circumstances as we would prefer. Our loving Father holds back in some instances. Those who have been long in the faith should be able to remember several examples when their patience was sorely tried. Yet through patient waiting and prayer, a way was made by the Lord. In the end, the situation was found to have ended on a far higher plane than if we had taken our own way. Thus, we begin to understand the greatness of the wisdom and ways of God. **“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”** (Isaiah 55:9).

As we continue reading in this portion of Isaiah, we also begin to understand, by the examples given, that the Lord’s time-schedule may not coincide with ours – even when we feel our patience is exhausted and certainly God

must make His move now. With God everything has its season; just as the rainy season brings the water in its due time, that the earth maketh the plant to come forth and bud, resulting in seed to the sower and bread to the one who eats. He which eats thereof cannot partake of it before its time.

We then as children of God must keep in mind these important points, or we may easily run ahead of the Lord and thereby fail to receive a full blessing intended for us. Consider this – if the impatient heart were obeyed, there could result the loss of blessings to the whole Church, as the Body of Christ could be dealt a crushing blow which could carry a negative impact for a long time to come. Our adversary would certainly relish just such a situation.

Let us think for a moment of a Bible account given about the Old Testament king, Ahab, and the events surrounding Ramoth-gilead. In the book of II Chronicles, chapter 18, we read of a series of circumstances which led to serious consequences. Along with King Ahab of Israel, we read of Jehoshaphat who was king of Judah. The nation of Israel was divided at this time in history.

In verse three of our chapter, we find King Ahab suggesting to Jehoshaphat that they go together against a common enemy at Ramoth-gilead. The king of Judah requests an inquiry of the Lord be made. Ahab then assembles 400 prophets of Israel and poses the question to them – **“...And they said, Go up, for God will deliver it into the king’s hand”** (verse 5). Jehoshaphat continues to consider the matter by asking – **“...Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?”** (verse 6). King Ahab then

reveals that there is one, however, this prophet has always spoken “evil” about Ahab’s inquiries. None the less, the prophet Micaiah was called and was presented before the two kings.

The messenger who summoned Micaiah explained how the 400 other prophets “...declare good to the king with one assent,” – and he hoped Micaiah would also speak the same. Micaiah responded by saying, “**...As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak**” (verse 13). Then when the king questioned him, the prophet made what appears to be a casual remark – “**...Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand**” (verse 14). Notice there was not any hint of a Thus saith the Lord in his comment.

Then, after the king said a few words, Micaiah went on to reveal the vision he saw. “**...I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace**” (verse 16). The prophet went on to describe how the Lord had put a lying spirit into the mouths of those 400 prophets, and how it was the Lord Himself who was speaking evil against the king – and not from the prophet by his own words. Micaiah was imprisoned for his witness of the truth. Ahab lost his life at the setting of the sun on the day of the battle, and the Word of the Lord prevailed.

There is a special kind of godly wisdom for us to understand in this account of Micaiah and Ahab. We know these events have been preserved as examples for our admonition.

We read in these inspired verses how 400 prophets were saying the same thing – which certainly constitutes a majority by today’s standards. On the other hand, Jehoshaphat asks if there is another prophet yet who has not spoken. The king may have been suspicious like today when a situation seems too good to be true. This one true prophet, Micaiah, speaks the truth and foretells the impending doom by the Spirit of God. It is no small thing to speak against such an overwhelming majority. Who do we find was on God’s side in this case and truly speaking for the Lord? Of course, we know it was Micaiah.

How many times in history has the one voice been the right one to follow, and yet the way of the majority seems to prevail, bringing disappointment to those involved. Can

we learn something from this? The Word of God is very plain in such matters. When there is a unanimous decision, the operation is a success and countless blessings will follow. The unanimous decision of the Church in Acts 6:1-7 resulted in the increase of the Word of God, “**...and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith**” (verse 7). It was God who brought unanimity and the resulting increase and blessings. If the Lord is not involved in a decision or is opposed to it, there will be found differences of opinion, and it was better left alone until such time as there is a one spirit.

Ahab, as evil a king as he was, still had been given the opportunity by the Lord to follow God’s will concerning Ramoth-gilead. Though God permitted the spirit to inspire those 400 prophets to lie, He still offered the way of righteousness by the prophet, Micaiah. The ultimate decision was in the hands of Ahab, and he listened to the wrong spirit.

Only when a unanimous decision is reached will the end result in a true blessing from the Lord. This is the working of God’s Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of His Church.

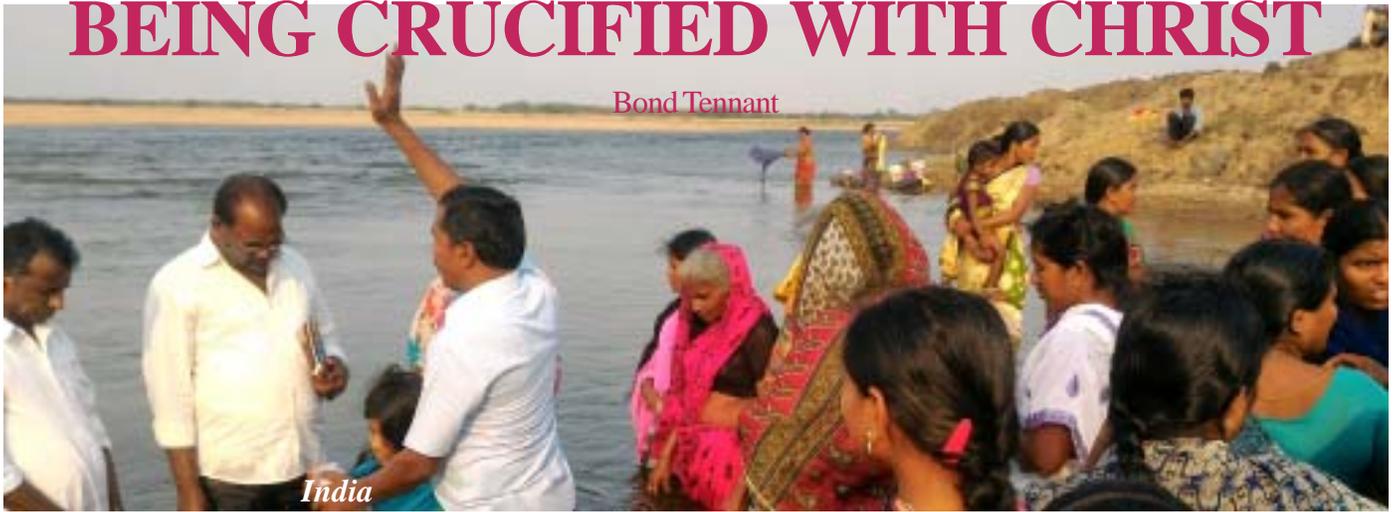
May God bless you as you think on these things.

--Reprinted



BEING CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

Bond Tennant



India

The crucifixion of Christ is sometimes used in the New Testament to signify total commitment, nothing barred, in obeying Christ. In Galatians 5:24, the Apostle Paul speaks of this crucifixion, **“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”** Paul was very much alive when he said they (loyal followers of Christ) had died or been crucified with Christ. Just what did Paul mean? In Romans 6:10-11, Paul explains of what death of Christ he was speaking, **“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.”** To be crucified with Christ is to be dead to sin. It is to put to death, not our physical bodies, but our sinful passions and desires.

Christ had to overcome just as we do! He said, **“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne”** (Revelation 3:21). The writer of Hebrews also tells of Christ’s need to overcome, **“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered”** (Hebrews 5:8). This is how we must do it. **“And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”** (verse 9). By obeying Christ, we put to death our passions and desires. **“God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”** (Romans 6:2).

We know that Paul was not physically crucified with Christ, yet he said, that **“...our old man...”** is **“...crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed,**

that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Romans 6:6). Being **“crucified with Christ”** is the putting away of sin in ourselves, not being literally crucified. In Ephesians 4:22, Paul defines the **“old man”** as our former conversation (life): **“...put off concerning the former conversation (life) the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts”** (Ephesians 4:22). Paul even tells us what this former conversation (life) is, **“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds”** (Colossians 3:8-9). To be crucified with Christ means simply to put away our former way of life, and pattern our life after Christ’s example of total obedience to God without sin. The Apostle Paul said, **“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”** (I Corinthians 11:1). The Moffatt translation has it, **“Copy me as I copy Christ.”**



India

SEEDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Psalm 95-105)

By Pat Evans

*Seeds of gladness and light for the righteous
Are sown deep in the heart of the upright;
His presence is felt throughout the heavens,
By the beauty of the star filled night.*

*He stretches out the universe like a curtain,
And He walks upon the wings of the wind;
He appointed the Moon for all seasons,
And He's preparing for us a world without end.*

*The Lord is clothed with honor and majesty,
More powerful than the mightiest sea;
Strength and beauty are part of his sanctuary,
And His glory is for all people to see.*

*We are the sheep of His earthly pasture,
And our Lord is greatly to be praised;
To be feared above all principles and powers,
For by His hand, every mountain was raised.*

*Yet as high as His heaven reaches,
And as far as the east is from the west
He can remove our transgressions from us,
And through his grace we continue to be blessed.*

*He redeems our souls from destruction,
Granting forgiveness for the sins that He sees;
Like a father, He shows pity on His children,
With lovingkindness and many tender mercies.*

*We should serve Him with heartfelt gladness,
Spreading His Word both near and far;
And enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
For it is He that made us all that we are.*

*So let us nurture the seeds planted by Him,
And prove to Him they've fallen on fertile ground;
Ever increasing the fruits of the Spirit,
So within us, His true righteousness may abound.*

PROPER BEHAVIOR

By Alexis Viveros

As children of God, we should conduct ourselves in a proper way and have good behavior regardless of the place in which we are. This behavior is required after repentance and conversion. In Ephesians 5:8, we find the following: "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light". When we pay attention to this verse, we can clearly see that the Apostle Paul gave a reminder to the Ephesians about the darkness in which they were before they knew the Lord, but we also find that the apostle exhorted them to walk as children of light.

Behavior is related to the way each person acts in the different aspects of his life and the links he establishes in his environment. The Word of God is a manual which instructs us to have relevant and fruitful conversations everywhere we go.

Ephesians 4:29 advises us the following: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

When evil words come out of our mouth, they do not edify, and our conduct is against the principles that our Lord has laid down for us. We must be careful, because having evil words come out of our mouth will prove that we have not crucified the old man of flesh which was once in us. Since the flesh is not subject to the law of God, neither can be, then the carnal and worldly man will be manifested.

We need to have a proper conduct when correcting our brethren, whether they be old or young. Read I Timothy 5:1-2. This is something clear and commanded in the Word of God. We need to have a good conduct to even entreat our brethren. We cannot forget about that good conduct which identifies the children of God when they talk and behave. Wherever you go, remember that a child of God is distinguished by his good conduct. The Apostle Paul told Timothy to be an example in word and conversation (I Timothy 4:12). Let us examine our personal conduct. If we are failing in something, it is time to correct ourselves by taking the advice found in the Word of God.

WHO HAS YOUR HEART?

A great error has infected the churches of the world theology. Many preachers and paperback theologians erroneously teach that God's will is for all Christians to have an over-abundance of worldly things. They teach that the reason some don't have these things is their lack of faith. Others teach the Bible, showing that love for these things indicates that your heart is not right with God. Let us read I John 2:15-17. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." Cars, houses, clothes, jewelry and all that is in the world are temporal and profit only for now, but the man who serves God will reap the benefits eternally. We can see from the above verses that we are not to have affection for worldly things.

Some say that since we are children of God and joint-heirs with Christ, which we are (Romans 8:17), that God is bound to give us the wealth and extravagance of this world. We have seen that worldly things appeal to the natural man (I John 2:16), not to the spiritual man. Those who love the things of the world are not of God (I John 2:15). Compare the life style of Jesus or Paul with some of the preachers today. Where is the heart of those who live extravagant life styles being paid for by receiving offerings from the poor.

Matthew 6:25-34 teaches us to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's priorities should be our priorities. His righteousness should be our goal. Then we can trust God to supply our life needs (food, clothing, shelter). It's amazing how some read so much more into these verses.

Often it is taught that III John, verse 2 teaches that it is God's perfect will for every Christian to have wealth and abundance. III John 2 says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." Many teach that this "prospering" was to be in the obtaining of things. Was John

contradicting the teaching of Jesus in Luke 12:15, or of Paul in I Timothy 6:5-9, or of himself in I John 2:15-16? NO! He was simply praying for Gaius to have a "good journey." The Greek word that is translated "prosper" means "prosperous journey." Whether the journey was an actual trip or a good journey through this life, I don't know. But it had nothing to do with Gaius obtaining wealth.

Also consider that this was John's prayer for Gaius, not necessarily God's will for every Christian. In Luke 12:15 Jesus said, "...Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." These words of Jesus speak clearly to us.

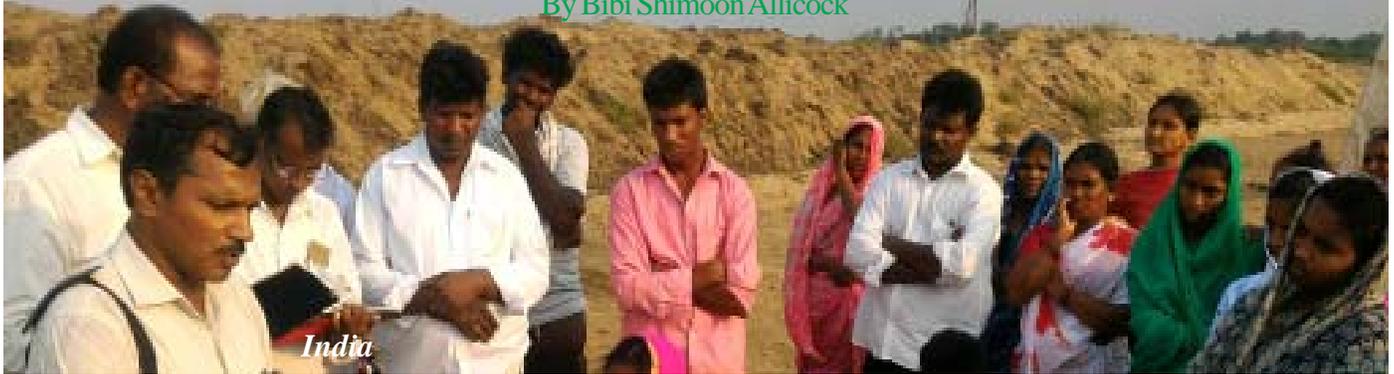
The Word of God is so plain. Jesus warned in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:19, Luke 8:14) that the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches would choke the Word of God and cause us to be unfruitful. The question is simple. Who has your heart?

--Adapted and condensed from the KJIC NEWSLETTER



WISDOM

By Bibi Shimoon Allicock



“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7). From where do we get this wisdom? We get this wisdom from Almighty God. The Psalmist tells us that “THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM: A GOOD UNDERSTANDING HAVE ALL THEY THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENTS: HIS PRAISE ENDURETH FOR EVER” (Psalm 111:10).

In the Book of James, the Apostle Paul expounded on two sets of wisdom. “Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom” (James 3:13). “Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh” (verse 12). “But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. BUT THE WISDOM THAT IS FROM ABOVE IS FIRST PURE, THEN PEACEABLE, GENTLE, AND EASY TO BE ENTREATED, FULL OF MERCY AND GOOD FRUITS, WITHOUT PARTIALITY, AND WITHOUT HYPOCRISY. AND THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SOWN IN PEACE OF THEM THAT MAKE PEACE” (verses 14-19).

Almighty God gave Solomon more wisdom than anyone else in the world because he did not ask for long life and prosperity, but an understanding heart. “In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said,

Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before THEE in TRUTH, and in RIGHTEOUSNESS, and in UPRIGHTNESS of heart with THEE; and thou hast kept for him this GREAT KINDNESS, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD, my God, thou has made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; SO THAT THERE WAS NONE LIKE THEE BEFORE THEE, NEITHER AFTER THEE SHALL ANY ARISE LIKE UNTO THEE. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. AND IF THOU WILT WALK IN MY WAYS, TO KEEP MY STATUTES AND MY COMMANDMENTS, AS THY FATHER DAVID DID WALK, THEN I WILL LENGTHEN THY DAYS” (I Kings 3:5-14).

As we carefully study the Scriptures, we can clearly see how He dealt with the matter between two women. "Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him. And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house. And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house. And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it. And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear. And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king. Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living. AND THE KING SAID, BRING ME A SWORD. AND THEY BROUGHT A SWORD BEFORE THE KING. AND THE KING SAID, DIVIDE THE LIVING CHILD IN TWO, AND GIVE HALF TO THE ONE, AND HALF TO THE OTHER. Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O MY LORD, GIVE HER THE LIVING CHILD, AND IN NO WISE SLAY IT. BUT THE OTHER SAID, LET IT BE NEITHER MINE NOR THINE, BUT DIVIDE IT. THEN THE KING ANSWERED AND SAID, GIVE HER THE LIVING CHILD, AND IN NO WISE SLAY IT: SHE IS THE MOTHER THEREOF. AND ALL ISRAEL HEARD OF THE JUDGMENT WHICH THE KING HAD JUDGED; AND THEY FEARED THE KING: FOR THEY SAW THAT THE WISDOM OF GOD WAS IN HIM, TO DO JUDGMENT" (I Kings 3:16-28).

Is wisdom dumb? Did God Almighty give us His wisdom to do the necessary things in our lives whereby we can gain SALVATION? Our Lord Jesus gave us a very simple instruction. He said, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water ONLY IN THE NAME OF A DISCIPLE,

VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, HE SHALL IN NO WISE LOSE HIS REWARD" (Matthew 10:42). Do we really understand what this Scripture means, or are we behaving DUMB concerning certain things? We may hear a brother say that anyone who does him a favor will receive a favor back from him.

Let us see what our Lord instructed concerning this manner of life. "But I say unto you which HEAR, LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, DO GOOD TO THEM WHICH HATE YOU, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU. AND UNTO HIM THAT SMITETH THEE ON THE ONE CHEEK OFFER ALSO THE OTHER; AND HIM THAT TAKETH AWAY THY CLOKE FORBID NOT TO TAKE THY COAT ALSO. GIVE TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH OF THEE; AND OF HIM THAT TAKETH AWAY THY GOODS ASK THEM NOT AGAIN. AND AS YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU, DO YE ALSO TO THEM LIKEWISE" (Luke 6:27-31).

"FOR IF YE LOVE THEM WHICH LOVE YOU, WHAT THANK HAVE YE? FOR SINNERS ALSO LOVE THOSE THAT LOVE THEM. AND IF YE DO GOOD TO THEM WHICH DO GOOD TO YOU, WHAT THANK HAVE YE? FOR SINNERS ALSO DO EVEN THE SAME. AND IF YE LEND TO THEM OF WHOM YE HOPE TO RECEIVE, WHAT THANK HAVE YE? FOR SINNERS ALSO LEND TO SINNERS, TO RECEIVE AS MUCH AGAIN. BUT LOVE YE YOUR ENEMIES, AND DO GOOD, AND LEND, HOPING FOR NOTHING AGAIN; AND YOUR REWARD SHALL BE GREAT, AND YE SHALL BE THE CHILDREN OF THE HIGHEST: FOR HE IS KIND UNTO THE UNTHANKFUL AND TO THE EVIL. BE YE THEREFORE MERCIFUL, AS YOUR FATHER ALSO IS MERCIFUL. JUDGE NOT, AND YE SHALL NOT BE JUDGED: CONDEMN NOT, AND YE SHALL NOT BE CONDEMNED: FORGIVE, AND YE SHALL BE FORGIVEN: GIVE, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU; GOOD MEASURE, PRESSED DOWN, AND SHAKEN TOGETHER, AND RUNNING OVER, SHALL MEN GIVE INTO YOUR BOSOM. FOR WITH THE SAME MEASURE THAT YE METE WITHAL IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU AGAIN. AND HE SPAKE A PARABLE UNTO

THEM, CAN THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND? SHALL THEY NOT BOTH FALL INTO THE DITCH? (verses 32-39) Jesus said, "THEREFORE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO TO YOU, DO YE EVEN SO TO THEM: FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS" (Matthew 7:12). If we are only doing things to please ourselves and those that love us or who we love, we are the blind leading the blind. However, if we SHOW LOVE TO ALL MANKIND WHETHER THEY LOVE US OR NOT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE CLEARLY WHERE WE ARE GOING, AND WE CAN HELP SOMEONE TO SEE THE LIGHT AND COME TO THE LIGHT WHICH IS CHRIST.

If the GOOD SAMARITAN was thinking of loving himself and those who loved him, the man that was robbed and beaten would have been left to die, but the GOOD SAMARITAN chose to use God's wisdom and did the right thing. "...A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee" (Luke 10:30-35).

The Samaritan was not a man of God, but he had compassion like our Lord Jesus always had. Where was the compassion of the Levite and the priest, who were supposed to show forth a good character as they were people of God? They were supposed to show forth God's wisdom that others would see their good works. Therefore, let us study the Scriptures thoroughly and make our CALLING AND ELECTION SURE, lest we hear "...DEPART FROM ME, YE CURSED, INTO EVERLASTING FIRE, PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS" (Matthew 25:41).

As believers, we must pattern our lives after Jesus.

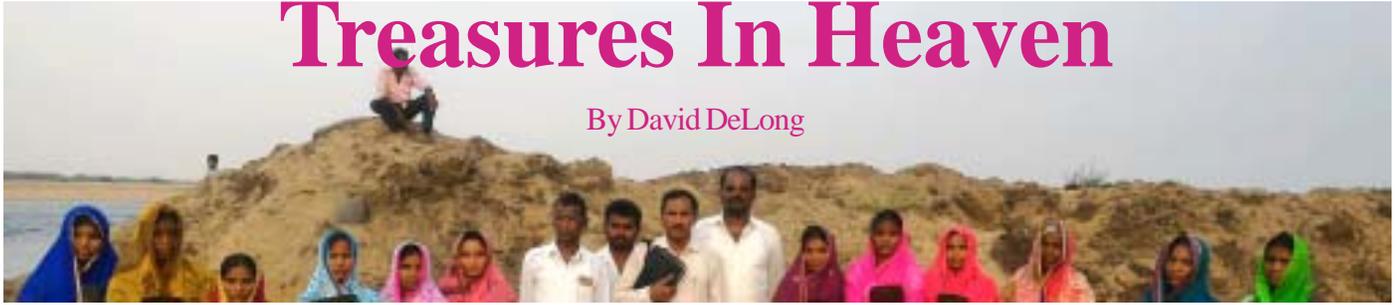
Although Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him, He did not segregate or separate Himself from Judas, or treat Judas in any other way which was displeasing. He fed Judas a morsel of meat to indicate who would betray HIM. And although Judas knew he was the ONE; yet he asked "Is it I?" But when he kissed Jesus to indicate to his associates whom to arrest, Jesus still asked him "FRIEND, WHEREFORE ART THOU COME?" Our Lord called him FRIEND, showing forth no form of malice or hatred. Jesus showed forth His Father's wisdom.

Brethren, friends and the world at large, "...LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU" (Matthew 5:44). "BLESS THEM WHICH PERSECUTE YOU: BLESS, AND CURSE NOT. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. BE NOT WISE IN YOUR OWN CONCEITS. Recompense to no man EVIL FOR EVIL. PROVIDE THINGS HONEST IN THE SIGHT OF ALL MEN. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, VENGEANCE IS MINE; I WILL REPAY, SAITH THE LORD. THEREFORE IF THINE ENEMY HUNGER, FEED HIM; IF HE THIRST, GIVE HIM DRINK: FOR IN SO DOING THOU SHALT HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD. BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL, BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD" (Romans 12:14-21).



Treasures In Heaven

By David DeLong



Jesus made this plain statement in Matthew 6:19-21: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Everyone who is healthy needs to work for a living and there is bound to be checking and savings accounts where money is deposited. Thus, some treasure is laid up for a person to fall back upon while earning a living. This is not what Jesus was intending when He said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth..." Rather, He meant that a person's focus in life should not be upon laying up treasures upon earth. Such treasures are only temporary and have the possibility of being stolen or corrupted. But, laying up treasures in heaven can never be taken away from a person, nor are they diminished, and are eternal.

Let us look at some of the treasures that can be laid up in heaven for a person. Perhaps the most obvious one is having your name written in heaven's book of life. Though the follower of Jesus will not live in heaven after this life is over, still one must have his or her name written in heaven before eternal life can be granted to them. The Apostle Paul wrote: "And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life" (Philippians 4:3). Jesus Himself said to some of His disciples: "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:19-20).

Things done for, and in the name of, Christ will bring about treasures in heaven. A saying that I learned as a

boy went something like this: "When everything is over and past, only what's done for Christ will last." This even goes for something as small as a drink of water given to a person in the name of a disciple of Christ. Jesus said: "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward" (Matthew 10:41-42).

Laboring for the Lord will bring about treasures in heaven. Hebrews 6:10-12 informs us: "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

We know that rewards will be issued to those who have used what resources the Master has seen fit to give unto His servants. Matthew 25:14-30 makes this abundantly clear. "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents

more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Ministering unto others will bring with it a reward from the Lord. In Matthew 25:31-40 we find this situation recorded. Some believe that this is a special reward for ministering unto the Israelites, but even so, the principle is shown that ministering unto others will bring rewards. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When

saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Furthermore, we find in I John 3:17-18: "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." Part of having this world's good is having the gospel to share with others. In Romans 10:15 we find: "...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

When we pray, give alms, and fast for the glory of God, we will be laying up treasures in heaven. Matthew 6:1-4 reads: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."

Continuing on with these thoughts, Jesus taught in verses 5-6: "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

And in verses 16-18 we find: "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

Overcoming temptations in our life will also bring re-

wards from the Father in heaven. James 1:12 tells us: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." We can be sure that the Lord will keep all of His children through the temptation so that they will be victorious. I Corinthians 10:13 assures us of this: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

"Come Unto Me"

By David DeLong

The crowds were out hearing Jesus,
The words of life that He spoke;
"Come unto me," He said to all,
And take upon you my yoke.

"My yoke is easy, and my burden is light",
And you shall find rest for your souls;
Remember, the Lord will take care of you,
Like the birds have nests, and foxes have holes.

Be not anxious for what you shall eat,
Nor yet, what you shall wear;
The righteous have never been bereft,
You're never out of God's care.

Look at the flowers of the field,
And the birds which never reap;
The Father in heaven takes care of these,
And you are one of His sheep.

Don't be anxious of tomorrow,
Tomorrow takes care of its own;
Sufficient today is the evil thereof,
Said Christ, the Cornerstone.

Enduring being reviled and persecuted falsely for Jesus' sake will also bring great treasures in heaven. Our Lord taught: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12).

These are some of the ways in which we can lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven. The effort may, at times, seem considerable, but the results of the treasures will last for all eternity and we will be very glad then that we endured.

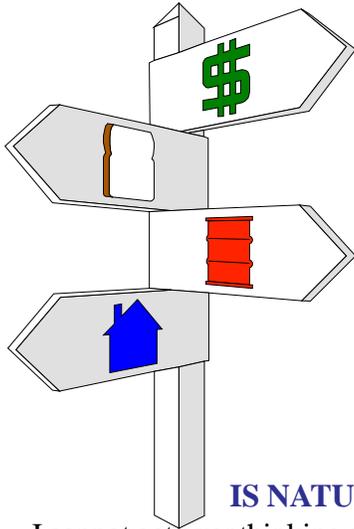
Small or Much Strength?

By David DeLong

In Proverbs 24:10 we find: "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." Looking at the example of Jesus, He faced tremendous adversity in His life, yet was victorious in every area. The writer of Hebrews, in chapter 12, verses 2-4 informs us: "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."

A lot is said in these verses. First, we are admonished to look unto Jesus, for He is the One who is the author and finisher of our faith. In other words, He is the One who helps give us the proper faith, and He will see us through to the end. We also need joy in our lives to help us conquer the trials which we face. Jesus had this joy which enabled Him to endure the cross. Also, we are instructed to resist sin, even unto the shedding of our blood, which Jesus did. Only by the Lord's strength can we do this.

Let us not faint in the day of adversity, but rather let us be like our Lord Jesus, who, with the Father's help, overcame every adversity and was victorious. We, too, can be victorious and enter into God's presence with joy.



IS NATURE CRAZY?

I cannot get over thinking about the signs in Matthew 24 that Jesus gave would transpire before His coming.

The following is an article by Seth Borenstein of the Associated Press which is taken from the **Houston Chronicle**. It is entitled 'Nature's gone crazy' with hurricanes, quakes and wildfires and is covering events which occurred at the same time around last October and September:

WASHINGTON – With four big hurricanes, a powerful earthquake and wildfires, it seems that nature recently has just gone nuts.

Some of these disasters like Friday's earthquake in Mexico, are natural. Others may end up having a mix of natural and man-made ingredients after scientists examine them. We always tend to look for patterns and order in chaos, even when they aren't there, psychologists say.

"Nature's gone crazy," said Jeff Masters, meteorology director at the private service Weather Underground. "Welcome to the future. Extreme weather like this is going to be occurring simultaneously more often because of global warming."

A look at a rough few weeks in North America:

Hurricane quartet

Hurricane Harvey hadn't even fizzled, and Houston hadn't even dried out from record flooding before Hurricane Irma formed and also grew into a powerful Category 5 storm. Right behind Irma, Jose has powered up to a Category 4 storm.

It is highly unusual, but not unprecedented to have back to back storms of that strength, Masters said. And then there is hurricane Katia, just a shade under major hurricane status, striking Mexico's Gulf coast.

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 last couple of years were quiet for Atlantic hurricanes, which makes this year seem even worse, said Colorado State University meteorology professor Phil Klotzbach, a hurricane expert.

He said calculations that measure strength and duration show the three current Atlantic storms set a one-day record for energy on Friday.

In just three days, Irma, Jose and Katia have produced as much energy as about half a normal six-month hurricane season.

Earthquake

As Mexico was bracing for Katia off the Gulf coast, one of the strongest earthquakes in the country's history hit last Thursday off the Pacific coast, near the Guatemala border. The magnitude 8.1 earthquake was felt for more than 650 miles (1,000 kilometers). The quake shook a depth of 43 miles (69 kilometers) and a quake hitting at that depth with that strength is unusual, according to Cornell University geophysics professor Geoff Abers. It was one of the five largest for that depth in the past 40 years, he said.

Wildfires

On Friday, 82 wildfires were burning in the United States involving nearly 1.5 million acres in nine states in the West. So far this year, more than 8 million acres have burned, only behind 2015 and 2012. One fire at the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon has burned more than 175,000 acres and is only 5 percent contained as of Friday, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Drought and a heat wave were contributed. On Sept. 1, in normally temperate San Francisco, the temperature hit 106 degrees and at least six deaths were reported from the heat wave.

What's going on here?

Sometimes there's a pattern in chaos. Sometimes there isn't. Looking for patterns gives us a sense of control, even if we don't really have it, said Scott Lilienfeld, a psychology professor at Emory University in Atlanta.

"The human mind is a pattern-seeking organ," he said. "That's how our minds work."

It can take weeks or months for scientists to determine whether an extreme weather event was worsened by man-made climate change.

But scientists have long predicted that the strongest hurricanes will get stronger and wetter, fueled by warmer ocean water. And some say the recent global increase in powerful hurricanes fits perfectly with global warming.

While warming may play a small role, so does Twitter and Facebook in making things appear worse, said Klotzbach. "It just feels like, you know, it's the apocalyptic end times," he said. "But a lot of this stuff is getting attention because of social media."

Comment

No doubt the hurricanes, wildfires and earthquakes will become more numerous and destructive as the time draws nearer to the time for our Lord's appearing to rapture His saints up to the Sea of Glass.

The human mind might be a pattern-seeking organ, but many times there is no pattern to be found because it is only God who knows what will occur because He knows the course that nature will take in this end time.

As has been stated before in this column, global warming and climate change may have much to do with hurricanes, wildfires and perhaps earthquakes. But to what extent global warming is caused by man's careless actions is really debatable.

Twitter and Facebook may make the situation appear worse by just featuring in print certain facts with a few still-life pictures, but social media such as TV can present the situation as it is with live reports featuring involved people and actual pictures.

HARVEY- -THE FIRST HURRICANE

I feature this item about hurricane Harvey because it is the area that affected the region in which I and my family, along with some other Brothers and Sisters, live.

There appeared an article in the **Chillicothe Gazette** entitled *An equal opportunity storm: 'Harvey didn't spare anyone'*. It read "Rich and poor, black and white, upscale and working class suffer in disaster. The following are the first four paragraphs:

HOUSTON – Harvey did not discriminate in its

destruction.

It raged through neighborhoods rich and poor, black and white, upscale and working class. Across Houston and surrounding communities, no group sidestepped its paralyzing deluges and apocalyptic floods.

"Harvey didn't spare anyone: The whole city is traumatized," said Lynette Borrel, whose backyard pool filled with murky water and schools of minnows from Brays Bayou on the city's southwest side not far from downtown.

Far to the northeast edge of the sprawling city, a flotilla of boats rescued affluent residents of the pine forest villages of charming Kingwood – psychologists, doctors, business owners. And on the far west side, the release of storm water from the Addicks and Barker reservoirs pushed a devastated tide into some of Houston's more wealthy neighborhoods. Across town to the southeast, low-slung brick and clapboard homes in the heavily African-American and Hispanic Lockwood area were swamped. Missouri City, home to Houston's largest population, endured more than 40 inches of rain.

Comment

Perhaps we all have heard the saying "We're all in this boat together." This is true whether we believe it or not! There is no guarantee that children of God will escape or not be harmed by the many disasters which occur in these last days.

God loves His children who keep His commandments and have the testimony of Jesus no matter what their experiences in life are. Let us remember the words of the Apostle Paul that he wrote, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

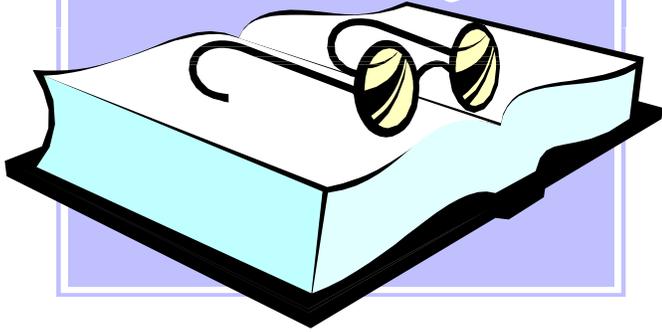
The Apostle Paul also wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (verse 18).

ARE YOUR TAXES TOO HIGH?

At the time of this writing, it is reported that a tax plan has been worked out with the blessing of President Trump and Congress. It has not been voted on yet. It is interesting to note who it will benefit most. Will it be the wealthy ones or the middle class? What about those whom they consider that live in poverty? It depends on to whom you talk!

BIBLE

Study



QUESTION: We understand that Jesus promised to send (shed forth) the Holy Spirit to His disciples. When did this happen, and will you comment briefly about it?

ANSWER: The promise to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples was fulfilled at Pentecost. On that day, there was a mighty demonstration of power. Peter said, **“Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost (Spirit), he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear”** (Acts 2:33). This reference proves that the Holy Spirit is not a third person in a trinity of gods. We cannot “shed forth” a person, but a power can be shed forth. It was this power, the “Holy Spirit of truth,” which came upon the disciples. The Spirit rested upon them, being visibly manifested by cloven tongues of fire. Now the written Word, Old Testament, along with the writings of the disciples, New Testament, after the Holy Spirit was “shed forth” upon them make up the complete revelation of God. There is no need for another outpouring of the Holy Spirit such as was at Pentecost.

Yes, the meaning of the Old Testament and the truths that Jesus had taught them, and they had forgotten, all took form in their minds. They understood their meaning. Let us consider a case in point. We know that the Apostle Peter had tried in different ways to prevent the death of Jesus. When Jesus told His disciples that He was going to Jerusalem where He would be arrested and put to

Questions and Answers

death, Peter tried to dissuade Him in this voluntarily surrender to His enemies. When they were at Jerusalem, the mob came to arrest Jesus. Peter then drew his sword in an attempt to prevent the arrest. Later Peter was assured that Jesus had been raised from the dead, but he still did not understand the meaning of His death. He had given up his hope in Jesus, and suggested to the others that they go back into the fishing business.

By contrast, we find Peter quoting prophecies from the Old Testament to show that God had foreknown the Savior’s death. To confirm this, read Acts 2:25-32. This could only happen after the Holy Spirit was “shed forth.”

Also Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be a “Comforter.” This proved to be true. When Jesus was taken from them and crucified, the disciples were sad of heart. This was much more than just the loss of a friend. The disciples had accepted Jesus as the foretold Messiah. Only the surface truths of the Old Testament were understood by the disciples. They read in the Old Testament that the God of Israel had promised to send a Messiah through the line of David to establish a kingdom or government which would exert worldwide influence and control. They believed Jesus to be this great king.

This great hope was shattered by Jesus’ death, but only until the Holy Spirit was shed forth. They may have realized that the kingdom spoken of in the Old Testament was to be more effective and more glorious than they had ever dreamed. Then they knew that it was necessary for Jesus to die to redeem the world of lost men. They now knew that after Jesus was resurrected He was exalted to a height of glory beyond the comprehension of their finite

minds! They were wonderfully comforted by the Holy Spirit!

Jesus had also told them that the Holy Spirit would show them “things to come.” And it did. Read John 16:13. We find Peter preaching another wonderful sermon shortly after Pentecost. This sermon was promoted by a miracle which was performed. This was the miracle of the healing of a man who had been lame from birth. Peter explained that this miracle was accomplished through the power of the resurrected Jesus. He then explained that this same Jesus was to come again, and that when He did return there would be “times of restitution, or restoration of all things.” He then added that this feature of God’s plan had been spoken “by the mouth of all his (God’s) holy prophets since the world began.” Read Acts 3:19-21. We can believe that Peter did not understand this great truth until the Holy Spirit was shed forth at Pentecost.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:16-17). The **“all scripture given by inspiration of God”** is what we now speak of as the Old and New Testaments. In these, God has recorded and revealed His thoughts. These thoughts will exert power over and in the lives of those who, during this age, are fully dedicated to Him. No other revelation is valid! The Holy Spirit of truth operates in the minds and hearts of those who surrender to its influence.

QUESTION: The following is a letter with a question which was sent to the Publishing House. “I read on the internet that some are saying now that New Jerusalem is actually going to be on Earth’s moon.

This speculation is based on the dimensions given in the book of Revelation.

This is entirely new to me, and I have been studying for many years.

Should Christians entertain this speculation?”

ANSWER: We have not seen on the internet or read in any reference that the New Jerusalem is actually going to be on Earth’s moon. It is only speculation which is not worthy to be entertained.

The internet is not a dependable source of truth, since anyone can post any weird idea on it. It does not stand to

reason that Jesus will rapture His saints up to Earth’s moon. They will possibly ascend up much higher!

QUESTION: What are some natures of the Scriptures?

ANSWER: The following are some of the natures of the Scriptures:

The Scriptures are settled forever. “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89).

The Scriptures stand forever. “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isaiah 40:8).

The Scriptures shall never pass away. “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

The Scriptures are living. “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (I Peter 1:23).

The Scriptures are refined. “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him” (Proverbs 30:5).

“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Psalm 12:6).

The Scriptures are powerful. “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29)

The Scriptures cannot be broken. “If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).

The Scriptures are true and righteous. “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether” (Psalm 19:9). “Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures” (James 1:18).

The Scriptures are wonderful. “Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them” (Psalm 119:129).

The Scriptures are perfect. “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7).



India

A group of our brothers and sisters in India, attending a baptismal service.





Baptisms being performed in India.



LESSON I

JACOB MEETS RACHEL

Scripture Reading: Genesis 29:1-20.

Golden Text: Genesis 29:18.

"And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter."

1. As Jacob continues on his journey, where does he arrive? Genesis 29:1-2.
2. While at the well, what did he ask of the men present, and what was their reply? Genesis 29:3-6.
3. Who arrived next at the well? Genesis 29:9.
4. What did Jacob do when he saw Rachel? Genesis 29:10-11.
5. What did Rachel's father, Laban, do when he heard of Jacob's presence? Genesis 29:12-14.
6. What did Laban offer Jacob? Genesis 29:15.
7. What was Jacob's request, and did he agree? Genesis 29:18-20.

LESSON II

JACOB RETURNS TO SEE ESAU

Scripture Reading: Genesis 32:1-8, 33:1-20.

Golden Text: Genesis 33:4.

"And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept."

NOTE: Laban wasn't honest with Jacob and tricked him by giving him the oldest daughter, Leah. Jacob continues to work hard and has much wealth. He decides it is time to return home to make peace with his brother, Esau.

1. Where does Jacob send his messengers, and what are

they to do and say? Genesis 32:3-5.

2. What did the messengers report back to Jacob? Genesis 32:6.
3. How did Jacob feel, and what did he then do? Genesis 32:7-8.
4. When Jacob first approached Esau, what does he do and why? Genesis 33:1-3.
5. When Esau sees Jacob, what does he do? Genesis 33:4.
6. After Esau meets Jacob's family, what do the two men discuss? Genesis 33:8-15.
7. Where did Esau return, and where did Jacob go? Genesis 33:16-20.
8. What name did God give to Jacob, and what did God promise him? Genesis 32:28; 35:10-12.

NOTE: This was a continuation of God's promise to Abraham as Jacob was Abraham's grandson. See Matthew 1:2.

LESSON III

JOSEPH THE DREAMER

Scripture Reading: Genesis 37:1-11.

Golden Text: Genesis 37:3.

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors."

1. Who were Jacob's twelve sons? I Chronicles 2:1-2.
2. Why did Joseph's father love him the most? Genesis 37:3 (first part).
3. What did he make for him? Genesis 37:3 (last part).

4. Why did his brothers hate him? Genesis 37:4.
5. What was the dream that made his brothers hate him even more? Genesis 37:5-7.

NOTE: The word "obeisance" means to bow down and pay respect to someone.

6. What else did Joseph dream in another dream? Genesis 37:9.
7. What did Joseph's father think the dream meant? Genesis 37:10.

LESSON IV

JOSEPH BEING SOLD

Scripture Reading: Genesis 37:12-28.

Golden Text: Genesis 37:19.

"And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh."

1. Where did Jacob send Joseph? Genesis 37:13-14.
2. Where did Joseph find his brothers? Genesis 37:17.
3. What did his brothers plan to do to him when they saw him coming? Genesis 37:18-20.
4. Who objected to this plan? Genesis 37:21.
5. When Joseph came, what did they do to him? Genesis 37:23-24.
6. What did they decide to do with Joseph when the Ishmaelites came by? Genesis 37:26-27.
7. How many pieces of silver did they get for Joseph? Genesis 37:28.



LITTLE THINGS

The importance of little things cannot be overrated. There are so many little physical and tangible things around us.

The air we breathe, the water we drink. A little worm in timber may eat away and sink a wooden ship.

A little bacteria may lay the foundation of a continued illness.

"A little drip" will do no harm, 'tis said, but the sea of trouble is made up of drops.

Duty properly performed is simply well-doing in little things. The acorn will result into a gigantic oak tree.

Jesus said the same of the mustard seed which is so much smaller than an acorn. "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed IS THE LEAST of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof" (Matthew 13:31-32).

Life is made up, not of the great deeds, duties, and sacrifices, but in little acts of daily duty.



BILLY AND THE THIRTEEN COOKIES

Dear Boys and Girls:

Have you ever done something you know you should not? Did you know that Jesus is looking and sees everything that you do? I want to tell you a story of Billy and the thirteen cookies.

Billy came into the kitchen as his mother was wiping her hands. "Oh, here you are Billy," she said. "Where were you? I was just about to call you."

"What smells so good Mother?" Billy asked. "Cookies," she told him. "You want me to taste them?" he asked. "No," she said, "what's in the oven will not be ready for another ten minutes. I want you to take these to the school fair for me before it is over. You have got here a baker's dozen. "What is a baker's dozen?" asked Billy.

"A dozen is twelve, right? And a baker's dozen is thirteen. So now hurry before it gets late," said Billy's mother. Billy took the cookies and started off. As he went on, the smell of the cookies tempted him, and he tried very hard to resist it. "Hmmm," he said. "I do wish these cookies did not smell so good; perhaps if I hurry I will not notice it much," he said as he walked. So he began to walk faster, but the smell of the cookies tempted him more.

"Boy!" said Billy. "Mom makes the best cookies. There are thirteen in here. If I take just one, no one will know; besides there will be twelve left," While saying this, he opened the bag.

On the way, he stopped to watch a group of boys play and farther along the road he stopped again.

As Billy climbed the school steps, he opened the bag and was astonished at what he saw. He cried, "Where are the cookies? I ate them! I did! I ate them! How can I tell this to Mother? Perhaps I should not tell her after all." It was a sulky Billy who turned and went back home.

At supper he did not eat very much! When it was time for bed, he hurried off without asking to stay up late as he always did. But something strange happened.

Sleep did not come easy for Billy that night; he tossed and turned for sometime. A man came with a large paper bag. "Ah, ha!" he said as he opened it. "I knew that one was missing and there he is!" Billy was frightened. "A-A big paper bag--like the one I had the cookies in!" he said.

Poor Billy, what could he do? The man kept on saying, "I had thirteen in here when I started, one's missing and there he is, there he is!"

"Wait a minute," cried Billy, "wait a minute, I am not a cookie, I am a boy! I am not a cookie, I am a boy, I am a boy!"

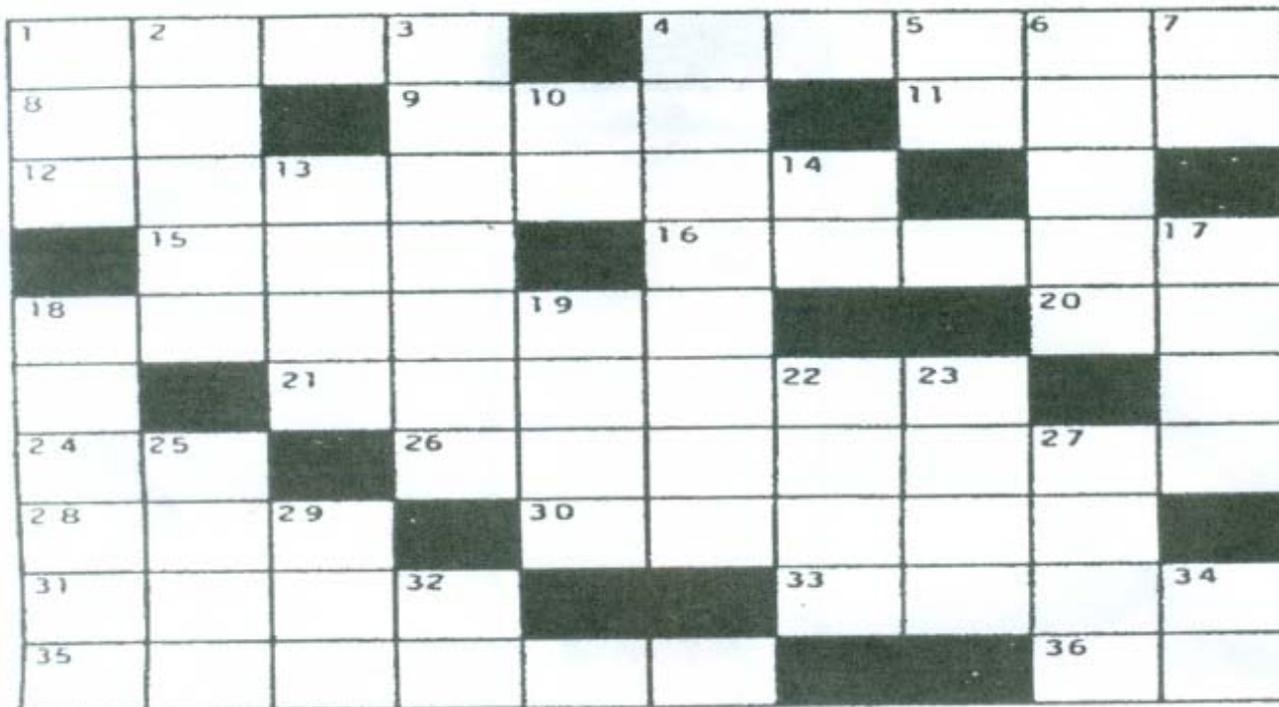
"Billy, Billy, wake up, wake up Billy," said his mother. She had heard his screams and ran to his room "you were having a terrible dream!" she said as he broke down in tears. "Oh Mom" he cried. He told her the whole story, cookies, dream and all. Then he asked, "Will you forgive me Mom?" "I forgive you," she told him, "but you have got to ask Jesus to forgive you. Come and I will pray with you!"

They knelt together and prayed and Billy got up refreshed and feeling himself again.

Now Boys and Girls, will you allow yourself to be tempted as Billy did? Whenever you are tempted, why not ask Jesus to help you, and you can always sing along, "Yield not to Temptation."



R I R I F C I T I E S



ACROSS

- 1. Where Paul lived two years in "his own hired house" (Acts 28)
- 4. Rabbit pen
- 8. Vertical direction
- 9. Lentil vegetable
- 11. Raw mineral
- 12. Home city of Mary and Martha (John 11)
- 15. Cereal grain
- 16. Town visited by Paul in Acts 14
- 18. Paul's home city (Acts 9)
- 20. Street (abbr.)
- 21. Place where Spain, France, etc. are
- 24. River of N. Italy
- 26. Simon Magnus was converted in this city (Acts 8)
- 28. Professional (slang)
- 30. Founder of Communist Russia
- 31. Spring bird
- 33. Mind, care for
- 35. Arm joints
- 36. Therefore

DOWN

- 1. Massage
- 2. Musical drama
- 3. Town where Demetrius caused an uproar (Acts 19)
- 4. Good looking, especially of a man
- 5. Toward
- 6. Baby beds
- 7. That man
- 10. Each (abbr.)
- 13. Home city of Hiram (I Kigs 9)
- 14. King James form of "you"
- 17. Active volcano of Sicily
- 18. Knock down, tip over
- 19. Sa bordering Russia
- 22. Gasp of breath
- 23. A Great Lake
- 25. Of the mouth
- 27. Type of hotels
- 29. Circular object
- 32. Boxing victory
- 34. Perform

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THE DAY IN THE MIDDLE

*Between yesterday and tomorrow
Lies a very short measure of time;
To do what needs to be done
And care for that which is mine.
Yesterday is only a shadow
Of a small bit of life passing by;
And tomorrow is still the unknown
On which we pin our hopes, with a sigh.
We can't live life over in yesterday
No matter how we wish that we could;
And tomorrow is filled with our hopes and plans
For doing the things that we should.
Today must be very important,
For tomorrow will soon become today;
And today will fade into yesterday,
And its memory will pass away.
God gave us today to be honest,
To treat others gentle and kind;
So thank Him today for the time that we have,
And cherish all the good that we find.*

--Betty Whetstone

