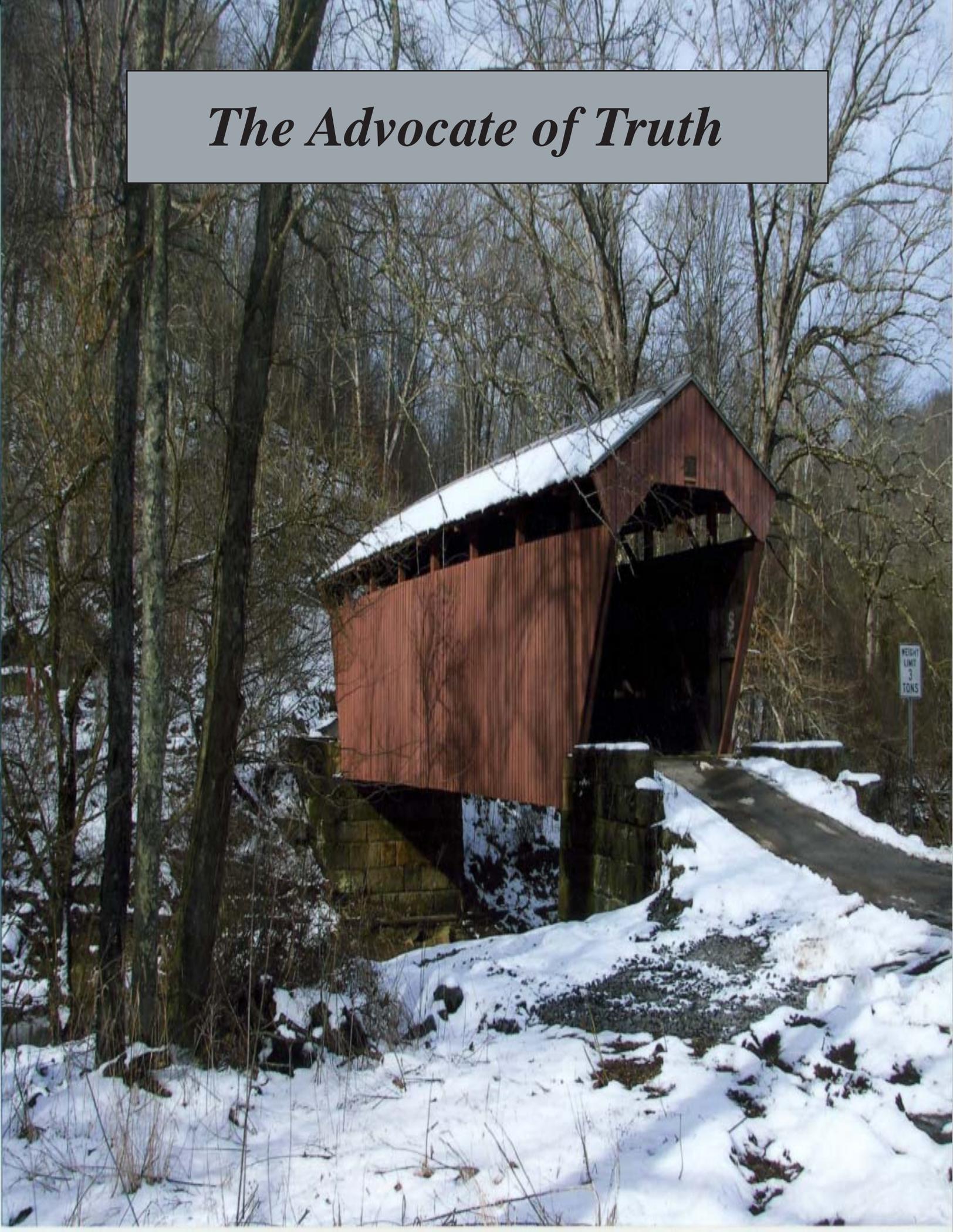


The Advocate of Truth



Should I Keep the Sabbath?

ARTICLE FROM THE HISTORY OF THE ADVOCATE



The Seventh day Sabbath is a part of the Creation and not a result of sin and therefore is in no way ceremonial. In Genesis 2:1-3; we read, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." So we see it is God's original rest day. Therefore, man does not keep his own day when he keeps the seventh day, but he keeps God's day which no other day of the week can claim. No other day can claim that it has been sanctified (set apart) and been blessed by God.

When God wrote the Ten Commandments on tables of stone, He commanded men to keep the seventh day and told the reason why. Remember that God placed no other Sabbath in the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments is His law and not Moses' law. Let us read the fourth commandment in Exodus 20:8-11: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: FOR (BECAUSE) IN SIX DAYS THE LORD MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH, THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IN THEM IS, AND RESTED THE SEVENTH DAY: WHEREFORE THE LORD BLESSED THE SABBATH DAY, AND HALLOWED IT." It should be

very plain to all that God said the reason to keep the Sabbath is because he made the seventh day the Sabbath at Creation and there He blessed and hallowed (sanctified) it. He calls it His day.

God tells us to call the Sabbath HIS HOLY DAY. Let us read, Isaiah 58:13-14: "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, THE HOLY OF THE LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." We could stay in the Old Testament and add text on text but about every religionist agrees that God's holy day was the seventh day in the Old Testament. It is claimed that Christ changed it in the New Testament. Let us now investigate this claim.

The Lord's Day in the New Testament

We ask this question, Of which day of the week did Jesus Himself claim to be the Lord? In Mark 2:27-28 we read, "And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath." Could there be any text plainer than this that Christ laid claim as the Lord of the Sabbath? Man was not made for the Sabbath; if he had been, God would have made him on the first day of Cre-

ation, so that when the Sabbath came in on the seventh day, man would have entered into his own rest day. Man was made as the last of God's creation. He was the crowning work of that creation. The day after he was created was the first Sabbath. Man could not share any claim to it. God alone had worked the six days in making the world. Man was a part of that creation and as the last of the creation had to enter that first Sabbath as the rest day of God. Therefore man was not made for the Sabbath, the Sabbath was made for man, and man must enter into the day God rested and not into his own. God gave man no choice in the matter, God made the Sabbath for man. The seventh day of the week receives the stamp of approval by Jesus Christ, the co-creator with the Father.

In Revelation 1:10; we read, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." If we were to apply the course open to us, the Scriptures of both Old and New Testaments allow only one interpretation here. The Lord's day is the seventh day Sabbath because it is the only day called the Lord's day in the Bible. The Lord's day is the seventh day Sabbath, and the seventh day Sabbath is the Lord's day.

Many preachers in order to bolster their contention that the first day of the week is the Lord's day in the New Testament make the assertion that there is no proof that the Christians met on the seventh day Sabbath after the resurrection. Their first claim is that when Jesus met with His disciples after His resurrection He always met with them on the first day of the week. We will investigate two texts and disprove this statement. The first is found in Luke 24:13: "And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs." We will now read the text that places this on the first day of the week. Let us read Luke 24:1: "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them." This is a poor text to prove that Jesus met with them to observe the first day of the week. But they continue with this by saying, But He met with them later in the day and held a service in the evening. We will go into this claim by reading John 20:19-20: "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut (locked) where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said,

he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord." It should be evident from the above that this meeting of the Lord with His disciples was not to observe the first day of the week as the new day of worship in the Christian dispensation. The disciples were assembled here at this time to hide from the Jews. Christ appeared only to assure them that he was alive. No formal meeting was held.

Let us now see when the next meeting occurred. Was it also on the first day of the week? John 20:26: "AND AFTER EIGHT DAYS again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut (locked), and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you." This meeting was after eight days from the meeting on the first day of the week. It was not seven days or eight days later, but after eight days or at the least nine days after the meeting on the first day of the week. Therefore it is easy to see that if the first meeting was on a Sunday this assembly would have been at the earliest on a Tuesday. The argument then that Christ always met with his disciples on Sunday after the resurrection has been proven false completely.

Did Christians assemble for worship on the Sabbath or on the first day of the week? We will quote from two sources although there are many more. 1.) Acts 16:12-13: "And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont (in the habit of being) to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither." The women that came together here every sabbath were not Jews. They were converted Christians. They would not be welcome at the Jewish synagogue and they had no church in which to assemble so they met each Sabbath by the riverside. When Paul, who was an Apostle of the church, came, he met with them and held his Sabbath service with them. On this particular Sabbath a woman that worshipped God in her heart assembled with them. She was also a Gentile as was the centurion Cornelius. Peter's message converted Cornelius to Christ, and Paul's message converted Lydia to Christ. Nowhere does it say that either Cornelius or Lydia was converted from the Sabbath and we challenge anyone to find a text of Scripture that says so. Let us read about her in verses 14-15: "And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of

the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us." A wonderful conversation, but not from the Sabbath, but rather to the Sabbath. Paul never told the women by the riverside to stop worshipping on the Sabbath.

Our next source is found in Acts 13:42-45; "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." This surely is a poor way for Paul to urge the Gentiles to keep the first day of the week. This text proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that Paul did not just speak or hold services for the Jews on the Sabbath but also for the Gentiles. Text after text proves this but the two we have quoted should prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that the early church, both Jew and Gentile observed the seventh day Sabbath.

Now we will investigate the texts used to prove that we should observe the first day of the week. The first assertion we will look into is, Christ rose on the first day of the week. Let us quote the texts in this regard. Matthew 28:1, 5-6: "In the end (or late on) the sabbath, as it began to dawn (or draw on) toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre....And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. **HE IS NOT HERE: FOR HE IS RISEN, AS HE SAID. COME, SEE THE PLACE WHERE THE LORD LAY.**" It should be very evident that Jesus was already alive when the woman arrived at the tomb late on the Sabbath.

Mark 16:2, 5-6: "And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun....And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: **HE IS RISEN; HE IS NOT HERE: BE-**

HOLD THE PLACE WHERE THEY LAID HIM." So here we find that Jesus was gone early in the morning the first day of the week."

Mark 16:9; "Now when Jesus was risen, early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils."

Let us now read about this visit to Mary, early the first day of the week. John 20:1, 11-13: "The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre....But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him." Here we find that Jesus was gone, early the first day of the week, when it was yet dark.

Luke 24:1, 5-6: "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them....And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, **WHY SEEK YE THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN:** remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee?" We have now investigated every text in connection with the Lord's resurrection and we have not found one place that says He rose on the first day of the week. What a frail straw which is to hang your faith on to observe the first day of the week.

A text that is used by many to keep the first day of the week is I Corinthians 16:1-2: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." There is no command here to go to church for anything, but just the opposite. They were ordered to lay by themselves or at home. This was a collection for the poor saints at Jerusalem and was a special collection and not a regular one. Paul wanted them to lay it by on the first day of the week so that they would not be busy gathering it when he came to collect it. So instead of telling the people here

to go to church on the first day of the week, he was admonishing them to do their business on the first day of the week.

We will now turn to a portion of Scripture which many believe was a first day of the week meeting to partake of the Lord's Supper. We will quote Acts 20:6-14: "And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days. And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft (story), and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted. And we went before (ahead) to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go afoot. And when he met with us at Assos, we took him in, and came to Mitylene."

Now let us break down what we have read in the above verses. Paul and his company stayed a week or seven days in Troas. After the Sabbath, when the sun went down or at the beginning of the first day of the week the church assembled together to give Paul and company a farewell meal. The expression that they came together to break bread means they came together to eat irrespective of the Lord's Supper. They were not coming together to eat the Lord's Supper, because the early church observed this occasion only once a year on the 14th day of the month Nisan. That occurred the day before the feast of unleavened bread. Since Paul came to Troas after the feast of unleavened bread he would not partake of the Lord's Supper at Troas. Furthermore in the day of Paul men counted a day from sunset to sunset. The counting of a day from midnight to midnight came in under Pope Gregory in the 12th century A.D. (check any good encyclopedia). As stated before when the Sabbath was past, sometime after sundown the beginning of the first day of

the week, the church came together to have a farewell meal for Paul. They asked Paul to preach. He continued his sermon to midnight. Then the miracle of reviving Eutychus took place. There were plenty of leftovers from the evening meal so they broke bread or ate again. Paul kept talking with them until sunrise and then set out on foot for Assos 17 miles away. When he met his company at Assos they spent the rest of the first day of the week traveling. These texts do not encourage anyone to go to church on the first day of the week as a day of worship or a day to take the Lord's Supper. To preach this is to be completely ignorant of the beginning and ending of days in the New Testament era, and of the time of the partaking of the Lord's Supper by the early church. In this account, all of Pauls' preaching was in the night time of the first day of the week, and he sailed in a boat during the daytime.

Most first day preachers love to repeat the false statement that Jesus nailed the Sabbath to the cross and that the fourth commandment is the only one of the ten not found in the New Testament. Nothing could be further from the truth. We will now read Hebrews 4:1-11: "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation (creation) of the world. FOR HE SPAKE IN A CERTAIN PLACE OF THE SEVENTH DAY ON THIS WISE (AS HIS DAY OF REST), AND GOD DID REST THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest (keeping of the seventh day). Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Please don't harden yours to the keeping of the Sabbath.) FOR IF JESUS HAD GIVEN THEM REST, THEN WOULD HE NOT AFTERWARD HAVE SPOKEN OF ANOTHER DAY. THERE REMAINETH THEREFORE A REST (KEEPING OF A SABBATH) TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD. For he that

is entered into his (God's) rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour (six days) therefore to enter into that rest (the seventh day), lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

There could be no greater expression for the keeping of the seventh day Sabbath in either Old or New Testament than the above. Lest someone object to the name of Jesus in verse 8 and say the name here should be Joshua, let us say that the King James version is just as correct with the name Jesus as any other version using Joshua. The name Joshua in Hebrews is the same as Jesus in the English. Since Hebrews four is speaking of the seventh day sabbath as proven in verse four, we ask the question, Where did Jesus speak of any other day, as the day to keep, aside from the day he claimed to be Lord of, namely The Seventh Day of the week?

Some Sunday preachers know they cannot prove first day keeping to the Bible only so they go to an invention and spurious document called, The Book of Barnabas. It is easy to prove how spurious it is by the very statement these men produce, "We keep the eighth day with gladness, the day of our Lord's resurrection." I am sure that no one will contend there are eight days in a week. There are only seven. Even the most rabid Sunday keeper will not agree with the above statement because he will assert Christ rose on the first day of the week. If we were to keep the eighth day, we would keep a different day each week, because as stated before there are only seven days to a week.

Some in their eagerness to have a text for first day keeping misquote Hebrews 10:25 which reads, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Those who misquote it, read it, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, (on the first day of the week), as the manner of some is..." The day spoken of here is the day of the coming of the Lord. We should be assembling together more and more, and we should be exhorting each other to do so, because the coming of the Lord is drawing near. Let us assemble together and keep holy God's Sabbath day.

In bringing this study to a close we will go to the texts which are used most often by Sabbath keeping opponents. We shall now read Colossians 2:14-17; "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us,

which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday (feast day), or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body (church) is of Christ."

We will now quote Hebrews 8:4-5: "For if he (Christ) were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

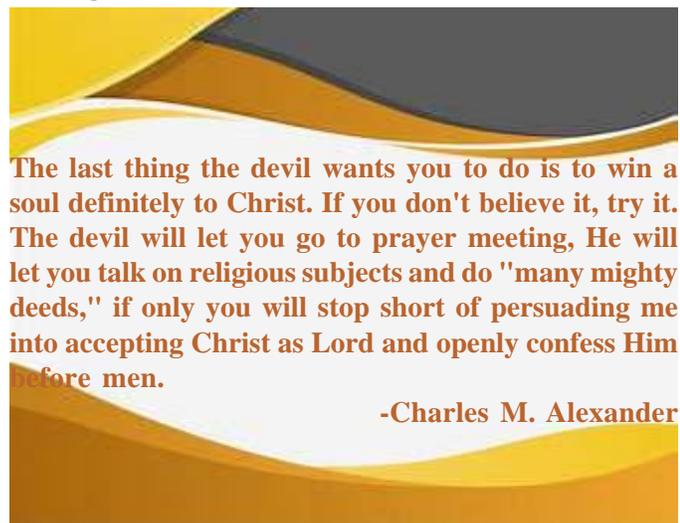
Let us also read Hebrews 10:1; "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."

Putting these three texts together we can see that God, by Jesus, did abolish and nail a law to the cross. This was a law of shadows. It was not the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments says nothing of meats, drink, new moons, feast days, holy days which are yearly Sabbaths. The law referred to here was what is called "The Law of Moses." Moses wrote in a book the sacrificial and ceremonial law. In this book were written down certain feasts connected with yearly Sabbaths. Some of these were, The feast of unleavened bread, The feast of tabernacles, The day of atonement, The day of Pentecost, etc. The feast of unleavened bread was in the Spring from the fifteenth to the twenty-first day of the first month of Abib which means spring. The fifteenth and twenty-first days were both kept as Sabbath days by Israel and are still considered as such by Israel. The feast of tabernacles was observed in the Fall from the fifteenth to twenty-first day of the seventh month of the year. The fifteenth and twenty-first day of this month was and still is observed as yearly Sabbaths by Israel. The day of atonement, which falls on the tenth day of the seventh month was and is celebrated as a yearly Sabbath by Israel. The day of Pentecost which falls fifty days after Passover in the Spring of the year was and is celebrated as a yearly Sabbath by Israel. It is these holy days and Sabbaths that were abolished at the cross by Jesus Christ, not the seventh day Sabbath of the Ten Commandments. As shown previ-

ously the seventh day Sabbath was not given as a result of sin but was made as part of Creation before sin ever entered.

The yearly Sabbaths of the Mosaic or Ceremonial law had to do with sacrifices which were a result of sin. When Christ died on Calvary and put an end to sacrifices He also abolished these yearly Sabbaths as stated in Colossians 2:16.

Let us now read a text that shows that the yearly Sabbaths were made solely for specific sacrifices. In Leviticus 23 after enumerating the yearly feasts and the sacrifices connected with them, this is how God puts it in verses 37-38: "These are the feasts of the LORD, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD, a burnt-offering, and a meat-offering, a sacrifice, and drink-offerings, EVERY THING UPON HIS DAY: Beside the Sabbaths of the LORD (The seventh day Sabbath), and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the LORD." These verses should prove conclusively that the yearly feast days and Sabbaths were added and were to be done, Beside the Sabbath of the Lord. As stated before the seventh day Sabbath was in force before sin, not as a result of sin. The seventh day Sabbath is part of the Ten Commandments which is the eternal law of God and therefore cannot be changed or abolished. The yearly Sabbaths which were a part of the ordinances of the handwriting of Moses could be and were abolished by Christ. Only one Sabbath remains to be kept by the Christian and that is the seventh day Sabbath which is the fourth commandment of the decalogue.



DUTY AND REWARD

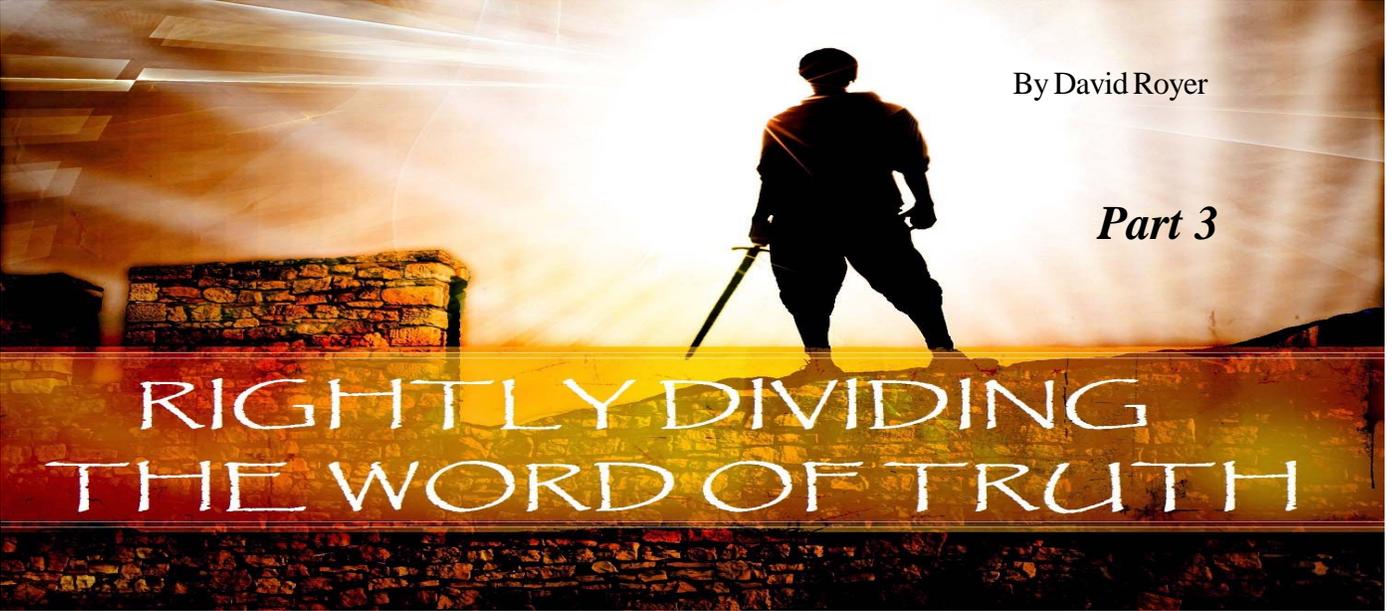
BY O.D. GRIMM

The church is a body composed of many members. We read, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (I Corinthians 12:12). Verse 27 reads: "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

That the Church is the body of Christ we read in Ephesians 1:22-23. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

The charge to the overseers was to feed the "Church of God" which he hath purchased with His own blood (See Acts 20:28). "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:25)-26). It took more than silver and gold to redeem the "Church of God." God could easily have given that, but it took the precious blood of Jesus. See I Peter 1:18-19. In this was God's love manifested. Jesus willingly shed His blood for the Church, thus showing His great love for it. We, therefore, should show the same love for the Church that was purchased with the blood of the Son of God. Hence, the Church is something that was purchased, and each member being a part of the Church should be active in service for the Lord.

There are many perishing for the want of the bread of life. To not do our duty in giving this will class us as unprofitable servants. If there was not a reward awaiting everyone that is striving to save souls, there would be nothing to prompt us, but there is a great reward. "...in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." We can be assured that our "labor is not in vain in the Lord." When all is done that can be done on this earth by the faithful laboring of God's servants in His vineyard, then "The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father..." (Daniel 12:3).



By David Royer

Part 3

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

II Timothy 2:15: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

This is my third article on how we should go about “Rightly Dividing” God’s Scriptures and how we should read the Bible for a complete understanding. A few critical components are used to understand and comprehend any document we read: Purpose, Context, and Substantiation. Part 1. discussed applying the correct PURPOSE. Part 2. discussed applying CONTEXT as we read. Today’s article looks at SUBSTANTIATION.

Substantiation means that as we read the Bible, understanding comes from validating or testing the truth and the reliability of what is being said. The best starting source is cross-referencing. Some refer to this as “using Scripture to prove itself.” A cross-reference is a marker (The tiny letters and numbers in the margin of your Bible.) They direct the reader to another location in the Bible where you can find the same related words and themes. It gives the book, chapter, and verse without any comment.

When it comes to the value of cross-references, the New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (a Bible reference library) says the following:
“... *this is the way which the Savior Himself studied and discussed Scripture (Luke 24:27,44; John 1:45;*

5:39). It is the way which the Apostle Paul used to expound and explain the Bible (Acts 17:2,3). Reflections of this method of studying Scripture can be seen in the way the Apostle Paul quotes a series of texts of Scripture in his epistles (see especially Romans 3:9-18). So, while there are many other valuable methods of Bible study, the method of comparing Scripture with Scripture ... is certainly a valid, if not the best, method of Bible study. Cross-references should always be the first tool you consult when studying Scripture. When you let Scripture speak for itself, it does a remarkable job.”

Note: Unlike the text of the Bible, cross-references are not perfect and not without error. These were put in place by publishers and accurate so far as the publisher could check them. Some cross-references may lean one way or another on doctrinal/theological issues. As with any biblical tool, be aware of its limitations.

PROPHECY FULFILLED AS VALIDATION

The fulfillment of biblical prophecy is another evidence of the Bible’s reliability. According to a recent article by Wayne Jackson: “How Many Prophecies Are in the Bible?” Source: ChristianCourier.com. Access date: April 22, 2021. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/318-how-many-prophecies-are-in-the-bible>

“Various books cite different figures, depending upon the manner in which one counts the prophecies. For example, one writer may count a single verse as a prophecy, while another may see three or four prophetic elements within the same passage. J. Barton Payne’s Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy lists 1,239 prophecies in the Old Testament and 578 prophecies in the New Testament, for a total of 1,817.”

Here are just a few fulfilled prophecies:

- * Destruction of the cities of Tyre, Sidon, Babylon, Nineveh, Memphis, and Thebes
- * Israel’s long-awaited Messiah would begin His public ministry 483 years after the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem
- * Bethlehem would be the birthplace of our Messiah, and He would be from the tribe of Judah; The Messiah would be called Immanuel, meaning “God with us”; Judas’s betrayal money would be used in Potters’ field.
- * Jesus predicted that His words would be everlasting
- * Jesus predicted that He would be betrayed by one of His own disciples

MULTIPLE SOURCES AS VALIDATION

Archaeology, geography, and science provide information that confirms various Bible statements. The excavation of Jericho revealed that the walls of this city did fall, as described in the book of Joshua. Skeptics once dismissed the Hittite nation as being a myth made up by Hebrew authors. This myth has been turned into fact. Other biblical historical claims have been verified. Sciences, with their biases and uncertainties, are helpful for validation but fallible.

Historians and at least 35 identified authors validate the Bible. Non-Bible believers will tell you that you cannot assume the accuracy of our Bible by using itself as proof.

They believe that this creates illogic circular reasoning. I would ONLY agree if there were one author.

You see, the Bible should be thought of as 66 ancient documents, all of which stand or fall on their own. To assess them as one document, one must assume a single author. But this is not the case. There are a least 35 individual authors that wrote the 66 books of the Bible.

Just the New Testament alone has 27 documented stories and narratives of Jesus. When you examine the writings of other ancient historical events and personalities, you will find that they have nowhere near the number of documented writings and authors discussing the same episodes, all within 60-70 years after the events.

Evidence by outside sources is helpful but not necessary. They could never conclusively prove that God inspired the Bible. We must have faith and belief. Romans 10:17: “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Therefore, we must accept the Bible itself as all the evidence we need for SUBSTANTIATION and confirmation of our faith.

GIVE YOUR BEST

I have the best intentions
 As I greet the dawn of each day;
 Giving God all the glory and honor
 For what I might do on the way.
 But do I live up to each moment
 Of guarding each thing that I do?
 I have to keep asking the question:
 God, is this pleasing to You?
 Can I honestly say to a brother
 I love and forgive you, my friend?
 For so in my judging of others
 Is how I'll be judged in the end.
 Have I left some kind word unspoken?
 Or withheld the touch of a hand?
 At the end of the day, can I honestly say
 I've done the best that I can?
 And when the day is over,
 And I am seeking my rest;
 Can I honestly say, as down me I lay
 This is one day I've given my best?
 Betty Whetstone



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

By Sister Nesta John
GRENADA WEST INDIES

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night" (Psalm 92:1-2). Let us give the Lord thanks for He is good and His mercy endureth forever. The greatest thanks that anyone can give to God is for His Son JESUS, the only begotten Son He gave to the world whereby He died in our place. The Lord has done so much for us and there is so much more that He will do for us. Thanksgiving should flow from the heart of every Christian. We must always give thanks, when things are good and when things are bad.

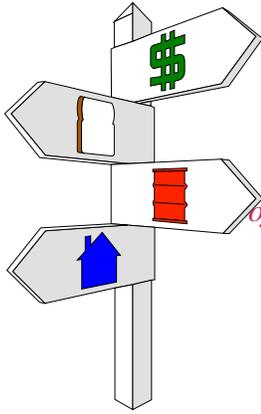
Whenever we get on our knees we must always thank the Lord for all the teachings He has done for us; this should be the first in our prayers. The breath that we breathe, He has control over it; there are times we forget that. We must always give Him thanks for having us to see another day upon the face of the earth. We don't show forth our thanks by the prayers only, but by also singing melody to the Lord: "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory" (Psalms 98:1).

The comfort of food, clothing and shelter that we do have is given by the Lord and once again we have to give thanks. He strengthens our mortal bodies so we can continue to give thanks and praise unto His holy name. The mercies of God brought us out from the world of darkness to his marvelous light. That light that we do possess should be able to shine out into the world of darkness and be able to guide and carry people to the light. "O give

thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all this wondrous works" (Psalm 105:1-2).

The Lord laid the foundation of the earth, that it shouldn't be removed forever. "Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains" (Psalms 104:5-6). We thank you Lord for the trees that sway, the birds that sing, the fishes that swim, rivers that peacefully flow between the banks and so much more. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The earth is wonderfully made so we can dwell therein. How sweet is the sight of nature. Let us give Him thanks and praise.

Jesus as our example gave God His Father thanks over the fishes and the loaves of bread. "And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude" (Matthew 15:36). We as Christians should be like Christ at all times. Paul and Silas were beaten and placed into prison, but with all that at midnight, they prayed and sang praises to the Lord. Jonah in the fish belly still gave God thanks. "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9). We now as Christians must give Him thanks for the gospel because He has chosen us to spread the gospel. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).



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 7th Day
PO Box 328,
Salem, WV 26426-0328.*

As a boy I heard the saying, Red sky at night, sailors' delight. Red sky at morning, sailors take warning. Now when I see a red sky at night, I anticipate a nice evening and conversely if I see a red sky in the morning I look for an approaching storm. The same was true in Jesus' time. In Matthew 16:2 and 3 we read, "...When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring..." Sailors would take these warnings seriously as they sailed the high seas. They would prepare for upcoming storms that they suspected lay ahead. They took heed of these signs. Throughout time people have looked for a sign to discern one matter or another to help them on their journey of life. Can we discern the signs of the times and be prepared? The last part of Matthew 16:3 reads, "O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE

One of the signs of the end times given in the Bible was revealed in a vision to Daniel in Daniel 12:4 "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." We need to be watching for an increase in man's knowledge to recognize that the end times of Christ's return is almost here.

R. Buckminster Fuller, an American architect, systems theorist, author, designer, inventor, and futurist, created the 'knowledge doubling curve'. He noticed that until 1900 human knowledge doubled approximately every century and by the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Only decades later, IBM predicted that knowledge would double once every 12 hours by 2020.

Different types of knowledge have different rates of growth, but it is generally acknowledged that human knowledge is increasing at an extraordinary rate.

We may have reached a point where relevant knowledge is increasing faster and in greater quantities than we can absorb. If knowledge were increasing at the same rate over time, handling it all would still be challenging, but the exponential growth of knowledge makes it all much harder. However, while knowledge is increasing, the useful lifespan of knowledge is decreasing. We need to be constantly replacing out-of-date knowledge with new knowledge in a continuous process of unlearning and learning.

The accelerating growth of knowledge is not all we have to contend with. We are now challenged with how long that knowledge remains accurate and useful. Alvin Toffler, futurist and author of the book *Future Shock* (1970), suggested that "the illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." We must realize what knowledge is relevant and which is outdated. Thus, an even bigger issue is how long it takes for knowledge to become outdated, incorrect, or irrelevant. Information that 10 years ago was useful for 12 months might only be valuable for 6 months today.

When knowledge is doubling exponentially, yet the useful lifespan of that knowledge is decreasing significantly, you must declutter yourself of useless knowledge.

TAKING A LOOK BACK

- 1945 The idea of the communications satellite, a space-based signal mirror" that can bounce radio waves from one side of Earth to the other.
 - 1947 The invention of the transistor, which allows electronic equipment to be made much smaller and leads to the modern computer revolution.
 - 1950 The maser (microwave laser). The word "laser" is coined and the first optical laser is built in 1958.
- Stanford Ovshinsky develops various technologies that make renewable energy more practical,

	including practical solar cells and improved rechargeable batteries.	1969	Before computers become portable, building an electronic book, nicknamed the Dynabook.
	Percy Spencer accidentally discovers how to cook with microwaves, inadvertently inventing the microwave oven.	1969	Invention of the CCD (charge-coupled device): the light-sensitive chip used in digital cameras, webcams, and other modern optical equipment.
1952	American John W. Hetrick and German Walter Linderer independently invent the automobile airbag.	1969	Astronauts walk on the Moon.
		1960s	Development of the computer mouse.
1954	Indian physicists pioneer fiber optics.	1960s	Inventing compact discs.
1955	US electrical engineer invents the TV remote control.	1971	Electronic ink is pioneered at Xerox PARC.
1956	First commercial nuclear power is produced at Calder Hall, Cumbria, England.	1971	First single-chip computer or microprocessor built.
1957	Soviet Union (Russia and her allies) launch the Sputnik space satellite.	1973	Martin Cooper develops the first handheld cellphone (mobile phone).
1958	Jack Kilby and Robert Noyce, working independently, develop the integrated circuit.	1973	A simple way of linking computers together named Ethernet.
1959	The first computer-aided design (CAD) system is developed.	1975	Invention of public-key cryptography.
1962	Invention of the LED (light-emitting diode).	1976	Apple I is launched: one of the world's first personal home computers.
1963	Sketchpad invented, one of the first computer-aided design programs.	1970s– 1980s	
			James Dyson invents the bagless, cyclonic vacuum cleaner.
1964	IBM helps to pioneer e-commerce with an airline ticket reservation system called SABRE.		Scientists sketch out how quantum computers might work.
1965	Development of the portable defibrillator for treating cardiac arrest patients.	1980s	Development of the Sony Walkman, the first truly portable player for recorded music.
1966	Invention of dynamic random access memory (DRAM).	1981	IBM releases its own affordable personal computer (PC).
1968	Inventing of a precise way of making single crystals called molecular beam epitaxy (MBE).	1981	The Space Shuttle makes its maiden voyage.
1969	World's first solar power station opened in France.	1981	Laser eye surgery for removing cataracts developed.

- 1981 Patent filed for flash memory—a type of reusable computer memory that can store information even when the power is off.
- 1983 Compact discs (CDs) are launched as a new way to store music.
- 1987 Development of DLP® projection—now used in many projection TV systems.
- 1989 Invention of the World Wide Web.
- 1990 Introduction of the MEGA 1, possibly the world’s first radio-controlled wristwatch.
- 1991 Creation of the first version of Linux, a collaboratively written computer operating system.
- 1994 Perfection of the mathematics that make iris scanning systems possible.
- 1994 Invention of VoIP for sending telephone calls over the Internet.
- 1995 Broadcast.com becomes one of the world’s first online radio stations.
- 1996 WRAL-HD broadcasts the first high-definition television (HDTV) signal in the U.S.
- 1997 Electronics companies agree to make Wi-Fi a worldwide standard for wireless Internet.
- 2001 Apple revolutionizes music listening by unveiling its iPod MP3 music player.
- 2002 iRobot Corporation releases the first version of its Roomba® vacuum cleaning robot.
- 2005 A pioneering low-cost laptop for developing countries called OLPC is announced by MIT.
- 2007 Amazon.com launches its Kindle electronic book (e-book) reader.
- 2007 Apple introduces a touchscreen cellphone called the iPhone.
- 2010 Apple releases its touchscreen tablet computer, the iPad.
- 3D TV starts to become more widely available.
- 2013 Elon Musk announces “hyperloop”—a giant, pneumatic tube transport system.
- 2015 Supercomputers (the world’s fastest computers) are now a mere 30 times less powerful than human brains.
- 2016 Three nanotechnologists win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for building miniature machines out of molecules.
- 2019 Google claims to have achieved “quantum supremacy”—with a quantum computer that calculates faster than a conventional one.
- 2020 DeepMind, Google/Alphabet’s artificial intelligence computer program, cracks the classic problem of protein folding.

COMMENT - Is there anything on the above timeline that you remember or that you do not understand? What was popular when you were younger? Perhaps it was a record player or home projector. Is there something that is now outdated or forgotten? Was a television or a telephone new to your generation? Perhaps it was a word processor or basic computer. To those of us who are older, the new “gadgets” of this era can be overwhelming. Just when we think we have one mastered, another takes its place. It is quite evident that knowledge is increasing at an unexpected rate. Increase in knowledge is now reflected in artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans and mimic their actions. The term may also be applied to any machine that exhibits traits associated with a human mind such as learning and problem-solving.

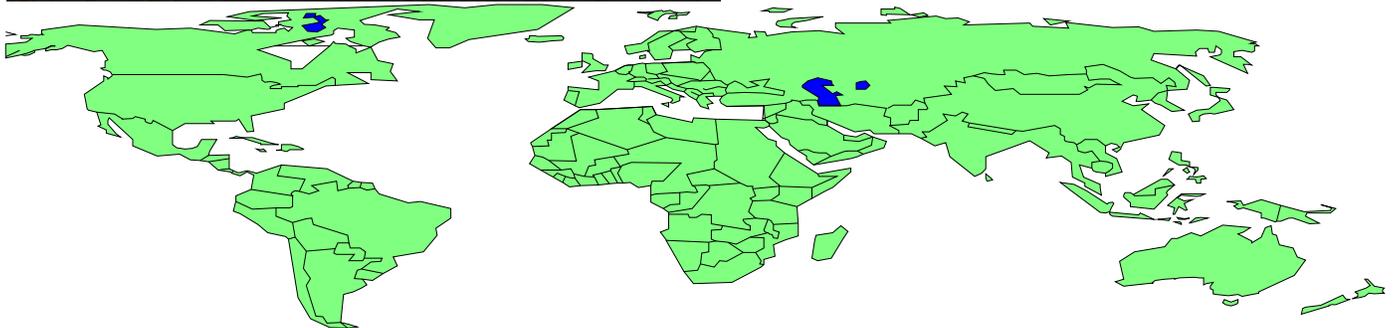
As man's knowledge continues to increase let us remember God’s knowledge is timeless and never changes and is ever relevant and current for all ages.

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

As Signs of the Times contained "Take a Look Back" this picture to the left is from six years ago at a Church Council Meeting.

Top rows left to right: Apostle Warren Randall Jr. (Florida), Apostle Errol Noel (Grenada West Indies), Apostle Jerry Womble (Texas), Apostle Pascacion Tavizon (Mexico)

Bottom row left to right: Apostle Ricky Herrera Sr. (Texas), Apostle Delwin DeLong (deceased West Virginia), Paul Herrera Sr. (Texas), Apostle Septimus John (deceased Grenada West Indies)



This past Council Meeting in Dallas, Texas as Apostle Warren Randall (front right) lays hands on newly ordained minister Brother Richard Santiesteban (center left and Brother Ben DeLong to his left). Other Apostles around the circle starting front left going counter clockwise are Apostle Paul Herrera Sr., Apostle Ricky Herrera Sr., Apostle Errol Noel, and hidden in the back are Apostle Jerry Womble and Apostle Moises Torres (Mexico).





Questions and Answers

Taken from **The Home Instructor Part I** - If you'd like to receive a hard copy of this book, send request to The Church of God Publishing House P.O. Box 328 Salem, WV 26426 or call 1-304-782-1411.

Part 2 - The Sure Word of Prophecy

QUESTION: By what means is all Scripture given?

Answer: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" II Timothy 3:16.

QUESTION: For what purpose?

Answer: "That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" Verse 17.

QUESTION: To whom do the things revealed belong?

Answer: "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever..." Deuteronomy 29:29 That is, they belong to the human family.

QUESTION: What is the last book of the Bible called?

Answer: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him..." Revelation 1:1.

QUESTION: What is said of those who read or study this book?

Answer: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear

the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein..." Verse 3.

NOTE: The book of Revelation, then, is not only designed to be understood, but a blessing is pronounced upon those who read or study it. No one would expect to obtain a blessing by reading a book he could not understand; hence the implication is that he who studies this book understands it.

QUESTION: How were the Old Testament prophecies given?

Answer: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" II Peter 1:21.

QUESTION: What is said of the interpretation of these prophecies?

Answer: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation" Verse 20.

QUESTION: In giving their prophetic utterances, what did the prophets seek?

Answer: "Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you" I Peter 1:9-10.

QUESTION: By whose Spirit were they actuated?

Answer: "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it

testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" Verse 11.

QUESTION: How did Peter confirm his former preaching on the coming of Christ?

Answer: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty" II Peter 1:16.

QUESTION: When did the apostle see the majesty (kingship) of Christ, and hear the approbative words of God?

Answer: "And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount" Verse 18.

QUESTION: What other and more certain evidence did he have of the power and coming of Christ?

Answer: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" Verse 19.

QUESTION: When were all the prophecies in the book of Daniel to be understood?

Answer: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" Daniel 12:4.



THE GOSPEL Psalm 78

*Be not stubborn like your fathers,
A rebellious lot were they;
They even stood there in His presence,
And heard Jesus Christ say His say.*

*A generation that set not their heart aright,
In His covenant they were not steadfast;
Many times their actions provoked Him,
And they continually stirred up His wrath.*

*But He, being full of compassion,
Remembered they were still only men;
Just like the wind that passes by quickly,
Or a wisp of vapor, never being seen again.*

*He taught us the gospel in parables,
And he uttered dark sayings of old;
We are to cherish His truth and His wisdom,
More valuable than silver or gold.*

*For the law of the Lord is perfect,
And his statutes are right and pure;
Converting souls and making wise the simple,
The testimony of the Lord is sure.*

*We should teach these truths to our children,
And keep sharing with generations to come,
About the signs, and wonders, and miracles,
And all the great things that Jesus has done.*

*More desirable than jewels or treasure,
We should study to show ourselves approved;
We shall not want if the Lord is our shepherd,
And we are those on whom His Spirit has moved.*

Pat Evans

THE FOOD CORNER



Throughout the Bible, small fruits like figs, grapes, and pomegranates were used widely in beverages, cakes, or eaten as fresh fruit themselves. When the spies scoured out the land of Canaan before crossing over to the land God had promised the Israelites, they returned with clusters of grapes so large, they had to use a pole to carry them.

"When they came to the Valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large that it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them. They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and figs" Numbers 13:23.

Grapes contain resveratrol, a powerful antioxidant known for guarding against colon and prostate cancer as well as reducing stroke risk. They are also rich in vitamins and minerals and make great fresh or dried snacks.

Here is a simple great tasting **GRAPE SALAD** recipe that you can make for your family tonight - enjoy.

Ingredients

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

1 cup sour cream

1/3 cup sugar

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

2 pounds seedless red grapes

2 pounds seedless green grapes

3 tablespoons brown sugar

3 tablespoons chopped pecans

Directions

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, sour cream, sugar and vanilla until blended.

Add grapes and toss to coat.

Transfer to a serving bowl. Cover and refrigerate until serving. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans just before serving.



If you'd like to contribute a kosher receipt to The Food Corner please send to Church of God 7th Day P.O. Box 328 Salem, West Virginia 26426 or email christylgiggles@aol.com

Objections to the Law of the Clean and Unclean

By David DeLong

The Bible makes it very plain that we are not to eat of unclean meats. Even so, there are still objections, by many, against this belief. Let us look at some of the objections. Genesis 9:3 states: "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." Someone might say, *see, the Lord has given to us every moving thing to eat*. But did He really? The Bible clarifies this by saying, "even as the green herb have I given you all things." The Lord did not give all green herbs to man to eat. Let us go back to the beginning of Creation to see what the Lord gave to mankind to eat.

Genesis 1:29-30 reads: "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so." God gave to mankind "every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed." That does not include every green herb. Mankind could eat, therefore, grains, vegetables and fruits, and a few other plants. Actually, the Lord divided the plants up between what mankind could eat and what the animals could eat. The animals were to eat "every green herb for meat." Therefore, animals could eat grains, fruits and vegetables, grasses, leaves off of trees, etc.

The Lord said in Genesis 9:3, "even as the green herb have I given you all things." There was a division between what mankind could eat and what the animals could eat. Therefore, we would expect a similar division between what meats mankind could eat and what the animals could eat. Mankind could eat only clean meats and the animals could eat all meats.

Someone might object that the lists of clean and unclean meats are found in Leviticus chapter 11 and

Deuteronomy chapter 14 making the lists to be under the law of Moses which has been done away. However, the Lord distinguished between the clean and unclean centuries before the law of Moses, even at the time of Noah (see Genesis 7:1-8 and 8:20). Furthermore, we read about a time when the Lord will return to the earth and how He will feel about unclean meats at that time. We go to the book of Isaiah chapter 66, verses 15-17: "For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD." The Lord, at that time, will "plead with all flesh." That includes all of mankind, not just the Jews.

It also is objected that Jesus cleansed all meats in Matthew 15:1-11. But Jesus came under the law (Galatians 4:4) and therefore He had to fulfill the law and couldn't just change it. Many years later Peter said that "I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean" (Acts 10:14) showing that Jesus had not cleansed unclean meats.

Let us turn to Romans, chapter 14. Verses 1 and 2 read: "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs." It is commonly thought that he who believes he may eat all things is including unclean meats, as well. The big issue in Paul's day was not about eating unclean meats but about eating meats that were sacrificed to idols (see I Corinthians 8 and 10). Some believed that they could eat meats which were sacrificed to idols. Other brethren ate only herbs.

It is a most serious mistake to think that the Lord has cleansed unclean meats, and He even warns us not to consume them lest we fall under His judgment.

LESSON I

JOSIAH IS SLAIN AT MEGIDDO

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 35:1-27.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 35:23.

"And the archers shot at king Josiah: and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore wounded."

NOTE: Josiah began his reign when he was eight, and at the age of twelve began to form the kingdom. In our last lesson, we learned about finding of the book by Hilkiyah. Then he began a thorough reform in Judah. Let us see now why Josiah was killed.

1. What were they observing in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 35:1-2.
2. Where were the Levites to place the holy ark? II Chronicles 35:3.
3. For what were the people instructed to make preparation? II Chronicles 35:4-6.
4. What did Josiah give to the people? II Chronicles 35:7-8.
5. Read II Chronicles 35:9-14, and then describe the service in your own words.
6. What else did they keep besides the Passover? II Chronicles 35:15-17.
7. After the keeping of the Passover, who came up to fight against Josiah, and what message was given to him? II Chronicles 35:20-21.
8. Did Josiah hearken unto Necho? What happened to him? II Chronicles 35:22-23.
9. Did Josiah die as a result of his wounds? II Chronicles 35:24.

LESSON II

JERUSALEM WHOLLY DESTROYED

Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 36:1-21.

Golden Text: II Chronicles 36:16.

"But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy."

NOTE: We have just finished studying about Josiah, king of Judah, who was a righteous ruler. The people were idolaters, and for the 57 years of the wicked preceding reigns, Jehovah had almost been removed from the people's thinking. Josiah's reign delayed, but could not avert, the fast approaching end of the kingdom. We are going to study now briefly about the reign of the last kings of Judah before the destruction of Jerusalem.

1. Who was made king upon the death of Josiah? How old was he, and how long did he reign? II Chronicles 36:1-2.
2. What happened to Jehoahaz, and who then was made king over Judah and Jerusalem? II Chronicles 36:3-4.
3. How old was Jehoiakim, and how long did he reign? II Chronicles 36:5.
4. Who came up against Jehoiakim? What happened to him, and who reigned in his stead? II Chronicles 36:6-8.
5. How old was Jehoiachin when he began to reign? Who was made king in his place? II Chronicles 36:9-10.
6. How old was Zedekiah, and how long did he reign? II Chronicles 36:11.
7. The Lord sent messengers to His people. Did they hearken unto them? II Chronicles 36:14-16.
8. Who did the Lord cause to come upon the people?

What did they do to the house of God? II Chronicles 36:17-20.

LESSON III

CAN WE HIDE OUR SINS FROM GOD?

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:1-14.

Golden Text: Proverbs 15:3.

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

NOTE: We have finished our study of the book of II Chronicles and the destruction of Jerusalem. We will now study to learn if God sees our actions and if we can hide our sins.

1. Does the Lord see all that we do? Job 34:21-22; Proverbs 15:3.
2. Can our sins be hidden from God? Jeremiah 16:17.
3. According to David's testimony, is there any place where we can hide from the Lord? Psalm 139:23-24.
4. What is said of those who try to hide their sins from God? Numbers 32:23 (last part); I Corinthians 4:5.
5. Can we hide anything that shall not be known? Matthew 10:26; Luke 12:2.
6. What is the day of judgment called, and what great event will take place? Romans 14:1-12; Ecclesiastes 12:14; II Corinthians 5:10.

NOTE: Someone may wish to tell the story of Ananias and Sapphira and what happened to them. Another may tell how Achan's theft was revealed and how he was punished. It will be the same way as the day of judgment when every sin that was not confessed will be revealed.

Answers to Bible Story Acrostic -R. Abram; I. kindred; G. give; H. South; T. altar; E. seed; O. Lot; U. mountain; S. Sarai; N. Haran; E. tent; S. blessing; S. curse.

LESSON IV

PRAISING THE LORD

Scripture Reading: Psalm 9:1-10.

Golden Text: Psalm 106:1.

"Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

NOTE: We should praise the Lord daily. When you say your daily prayer, do not forget to first praise the Lord before you ask blessings from Him. Prayer and praise go together.

1. How often did David praise the Lord? Psalm 34:1; 145:2.
2. How are we to serve the Lord? Psalm 100:2.
3. How are we to come into His courts? Psalm 100:4.
4. Why should we praise the Lord? Psalm 100:5.
5. How often should we praise the Lord? Ephesians 5:20; I Thessalonians 5:16.
6. When we offer praise unto God, whom do we glorify? Psalm 50:14-15.
7. Should the poor praise the Lord also? Psalm 74:21.
8. After God revealed the king's dream to Daniel, how did he praise Him for this? Daniel 2:23.

Answers to Greatest In The Kingdom-When asked, "who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus called a little child unto him. He set the child in the middle of them and said, "whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Answer to Bible Riddle on page twenty-two:
Noah - Genesis 6:8-13

HOW WILLIAM WON

Just as the clock struck two, the door opened, and William Radcliff hurried through the hall carrying his violin.

At the age of seven, William had shown such a marked taste for music that his parents had sacrificed to give him lessons on his violin. Now, at the age of twelve, he was earning money to pay for them himself.

A few months before the story opens, a great violinist, Mr. Frederick Van Fossen, had made a wonderful offer to the boys under thirteen. A valuable Stradivarius was to be given to one who, on the first day of January, played the most skillfully and pleasingly for him.

Knowing the old musician's odd ways, William was working hard on an especially difficult piece, hoping that he would be the fortunate boy to win the violin.

William belonged to a Sabbath school class which had for its motto "Win One." He had never tried to do this, for he himself had not yet been won for Jesus. But on this day, as he listened to the earnest words of his teacher, a new light entered his soul, and he resolved that not only would he take Jesus as his Saviour, but that he would try to "Win One" for Him.

The next afternoon he was to play before Mr. Van Fossen. As he was walking toward the studio, a great conflict was raging in his soul. Knowing the old gentleman to be satisfied, William felt that here was his opportunity to 'Win One' for Jesus. But what could he do or say? If he asked Mr. Van Fossen to take Jesus as his Saviour, the old man might become angry and refuse to listen to his playing.

Then suddenly, as he stood in the presence of the noted musician, a great resolve formed in his mind.

Quickly, lest he should become fainthearted, he drew his bow across the strings. Then softly and tenderly he played the strains of the old familiar hymn, "Jesus, I My Cross have Taken."

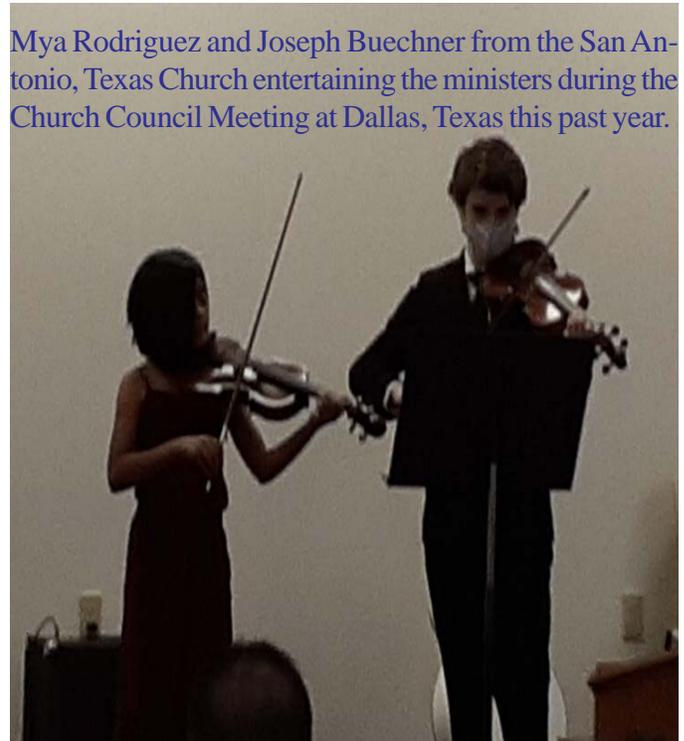
As he finished playing, Mr. Van Fossen arose and led him to the door. "My chance to win the violin is gone, Mother," said William a little later, as he told her the story. "I did not play the piece on which I had practiced, for I

wanted to win him for Jesus, and now I have lost everything."

But just as the sun was touching with golden fingers the peaks of the distant hills, and painting the sky with myriads of wonderful colors, a note was delivered to William. The words of the message were, "Come and see me at once - Frederick Van Fossen." Breathlessly, William entered for the second time the beautiful studio of the noted individual. Would he be angry with him?

"My boy," said the old gentleman, "Why did you play that hymn for me today?" As William told his accepting Jesus as his Saviour, and explaining his desire to 'Win One' For Him, the tears trickled down the man's chest.

"That was my mother's favorite hymn," he said. "When you played it this afternoon, I fancied I heard her voice calling me to take Jesus as my Saviour. My boy, your Captain is my Captain. This day begins a new life for me. Here is the violin. You have not only won it, but you have 'Won One' for the Lord Jesus."



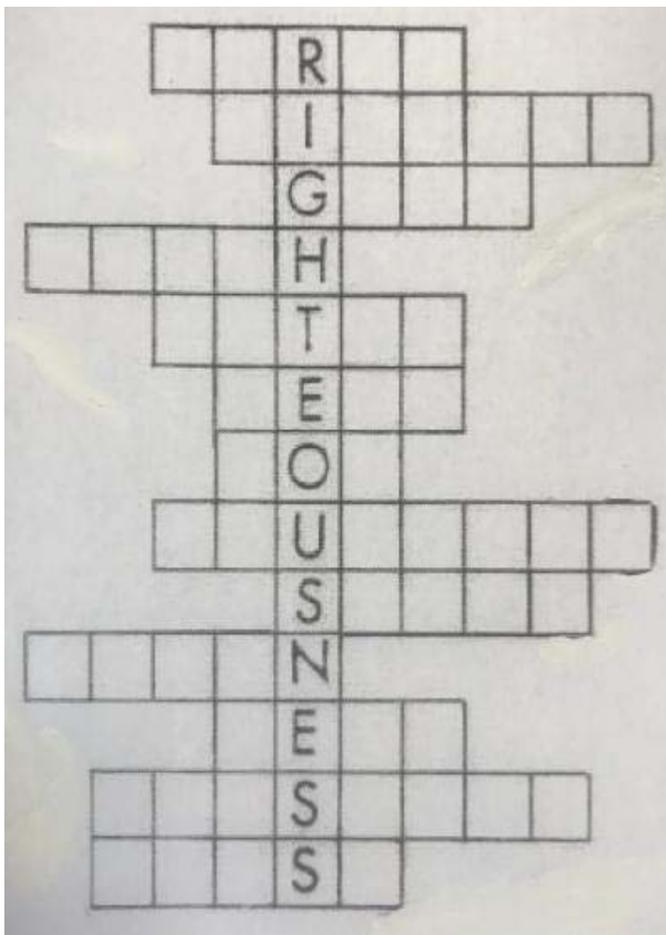
Mya Rodriguez and Joseph Buechner from the San Antonio, Texas Church entertaining the ministers during the Church Council Meeting at Dallas, Texas this past year.

*Bible Riddle - I was born the son of Lamach
I found grace in the eyes of the Lord
I built an Ark - Eight of us were saved from the flood.
Who are we?*

BIBLE STORY ACROSTIC

GENESIS 12:1-9

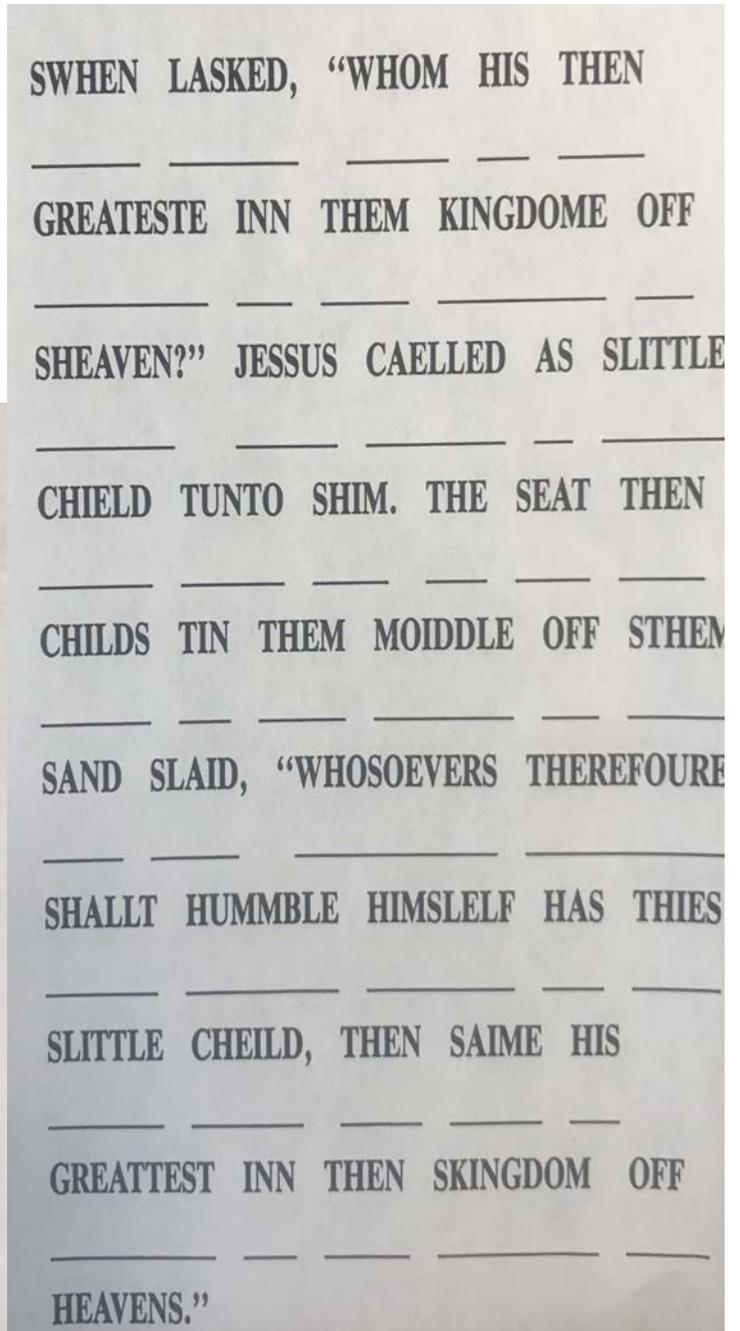
- R. God asked _____ to move to a new land (v.1).
- I. Another name for relatives (v.1).
- G. Opposite of receive (v.7).
- H. Direction opposite of north (v.9).
- T. Place where sacrifices are offered in worship (v.8).
- E. "unto thy _____ will I give this land" (v.7).
- O. Abraham's brother's son (v.5).
- U. Higher than a hill (v.5).
- S. Wife of Abram (v.5).
- N. Abraham was 75 years old when he left this place (v.4).
- E. Abraham lived in a _____ (v.8).
- S. "thou shalt be a _____" (v.2).
- S. Opposite of bless (v.3).



GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM

Matthew 18:1-10; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48

Cross out one letter in each word below to spell a new word and discover the answer to this puzzle. Then write your own message and put one extra letter in each word. Ask a friend to solve your puzzle.



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COME TO HIM TODAY

By Del DeLong

*Our Lord reflects upon the day,
In Olive's path, He kneels to pray,
As others sleep on down the way,
The tears, they fall as if to say,
Come help the Master through this day,
But all alone, He must stay -
Until the bitter end, He'll pay,
For each and every sin today.*

*'Tis now our sins have gone away,
If we will take the time to pray,
And accept Him in our heart today,
And ask forgiveness, He will say,
Your sin's forgiven, and washed away.
Stay true to God until that day,
When Jesus catches His saints away,
To be with Him on earth for aye.*

WEIGHT
LIMIT
3
TONS

