

The Advocate of Truth





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THANKSGIVING, THIS YEAR

Bond Tennant

This year, the people in the United States of America will celebrate the national Thanksgiving Day holiday on Thursday, November 26th. It has been set aside by presidential proclamation for most workers. Special services of Thanksgiving will be held in many churches across the country to celebrate the occasion. The true spirit of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for their many blessings will be observed by some. Many will take the opportunity to gather with family and friends with little thought given to the Lord, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

The little flock of Christian people, and those who truly love and desire to serve our Lord, count every day as one of thanksgiving for the many blessings they receive from Him. They have been specially called by our Heavenly Father during this age to become members of the Body of Christ. In II Thessalonians 2:14, the Apostle Paul addressed this special relationship when he wrote, "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." The High Calling in Christ Jesus, which has been extended during this gospel age, is one of the greatest gifts ever offered to anyone since the creation of the world. Those who respond to this calling are richly blessed, and they are truly thankful for this. It is essential that we express our thanks to God every day of the year!

OUR PRICELESS TREASURE-- THE BIBLE

Echoes From The Past

The following article appeared in the May 20, 1957 edition of The Advocate of Truth.

It is a strange fact that many of us rarely use our most priceless possession. We own Bibles but all too often neglect to use them. The Bible is not merely the Book of the Month, or the Book of the Year, but rather the Book of the Ages.

It is a best seller every year. During the past 140 years, the American Bible Society alone has sold approximately half a billion copies. Exact figures are not available, but it is estimated that, all told, a billion copies have been sold during the past century. That would be an average of ten million copies annually, and the number is increasing.

The Bible has been translated in full into 207 languages and in substantial part into 855 additional languages. It is widely dispersed throughout the world more than any other book.

The Bible is incomparably the greatest book of history, both secular and religious, that has ever been written. It is the most important record that has ever been compiled of man's relationship to God and his developing spiritual understanding. It contains some of the world's finest poetry, its wisest proverbs, its most interesting and appealing stories and a philosophy to guide us all on the road to successful, happy living.

If one would succeed in business, let him first master the rules of conduct taught in the Bible – trustfulness, honesty, self-reliance, thrift and industry.

If one would succeed in the adjudication and administration of justice, he must know the Bible for in it is the basis of distinguishing between right and wrong. Law is an effort to establish justice among men. The basis for justice is the moral law that we find in the Holy

Scriptures. Superimposed upon this code is the love and good will taught by Jesus Christ which raises the law above the level of penalty and coercion and writes into the human heart the desire to be just, kind and merciful.

We are just beginning to understand how mental attitudes are the basis of health. The physician will be wiser and more successful if he knows the wisdom of the Book of books in his personal life and embodies it in his practice. Serenity and faith are certainly among the most powerful factors for the maintenance of good health. If one has placed his trust in God, he has removed much of the fear, worry and disturbing emotions that tend to destroy his physical well-being. Anger, hatred, malice and ill will will produce powerful chemicals in the bloodstream that over a period of time tend to destroy us. The helpful emotions of sympathy, generosity, kindness, goodwill and love produce in us the tranquility, even temper, and contentment which avoid these perils.

Above all, the Bible tells us how we obtain forgiveness for sin and achieve everlasting life. It tells us how to solve our most serious problems in this world and how to approach the future with confidence and joy. It is a summary of the wisdom gathered by men throughout the ages, incomparably enriched by revelations from God Himself.

The most helpful and useful practice any of us can develop is to read a portion of the Bible every day of our lives. It will do more to make us happy, useful, and successful in our family and business relationships than any other habit we can form. It makes available to us, as an asset for everyday living, the wisdom of man and the Word of God. Few homes will be broken where there is daily reading of the Scriptures. Fewer delinquencies and mental breakdowns will occur in such homes. Crime and vulgarity will be reduced to a minimum while constructive, helpful attitudes will be greatly invigorated.

How fortunate that so much improvement and salvation itself is so readily available to us all.

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him” (Hebrews 2:3).

Now read what a few great men of our country have said of the Sacred Word of God:

I speak as a man of the world to men of the world: and I

say to you; “Search the Scriptures!” The Bible is the book of all others, to be read at all ages, and in all conditions of human life; not to be read once or twice or thrice through, and then laid aside, but to be read in small portions of one or two chapters every day, and never to be intermitted, unless by some overruling necessity.

--John Quincy Adams

The Word of God will stand a thousand readings; and he who has gone over it most frequently is the surest of finding new wonders.

--John Hamilton

The Bible is the only cement of nations, and the only cement that can bind religious hearts together.

--Thomas Bunsen

After all, the Bible must be its own argument and defense. The power of it can never be proved unless it is felt. The authority of it can never be supported unless it is manifest. The light of it can never be demonstrated unless it shines.

--Henry J. Van Dyke





HOW TO BE SAVED AND CONTINUE TO LIVE FOR GOD

An incident in the life of Jesus confronts us right now. A rich young man, greatly disturbed, came to Jesus and asked Him a question. This question is still disturbing people. This man was a devout Israelite. He took his religion seriously. He desired to do what is right, for he was worried about his status for eternity. He was anxious to inherit eternal life and wanted to do what was right because in his heart he did not feel that he had eternal life.

The gospel of Mark tells us that "...Jesus beholding him LOVED HIM..." (Mark 10:21). The question is the same question that you have asked yourself, What must I do to inherit eternal life? (see Matthew 19:16) It is a proper question. We know that if we sin there is no life in us. We are admonished not to continue in sin (Romans 6:1-2). Sin is the breaking of God's laws (I John 3:4,10; I Corinthians 15:34). All unrighteousness is sin. Jesus is saying to the rich young man, "...if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).

Because there are numerous commandments mentioned in the Bible, the young man asked another question. This one is also valid for us to ask for the standard of salvation has never changed in the Word of God. Jesus said, "...Thou shalt do no murder,...Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness," etc. In other words, Jesus spoke out the Ten Commandments, the moral law of God, to the young man. The young man answered the Lord, "...ALL these things have I kept from my youth up; what lack I yet?" He lacked one thing yet.

It had been bothering the young man. Deep down in his heart he knew that he was still far away from the Lord.

We know that keeping the Commandments of God is necessary for us to receive eternal life (Revelation 22:14). But keeping the Commandments will not give us eternal life. We must all work the works of God as He wants us to work to bring about our salvation. Jesus did not demand of His disciples that they give up "ALL" and follow Him. Jesus did not say to the young man to sell all that he had. But He asked him to sell what he had and give to the poor. If anything stands between you and serving the Lord, get rid of it. This is the first step in beginning to serve the Lord and living for God the Father.

HOW DO YOU GET FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS?

First, The Spirit of God comes to you through a tract, or Bible reading, or the spoken Word. The Spirit of God bears witness with your spirit that you can receive eternal life and pass from the death sentence that is on you unto the receiving of the gift of eternal life (Romans 8:16, 20-21; 6:22-23).

When you realize that you are a sinner and what sin really is, you want to turn over a new leaf, and ask the same question that the rich young ruler asked, "What must I do...?" (see Acts 2:37) Jesus said, "...Ye must be born again" (John 3:7). The disciples said, "...Repent, and be

baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). The Apostle Paul said: "...Shall we continue in sin? ... God forbid ... Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, EVEN SO WE ALSO should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:1-4). Notice that you are not baptized into God the Father. He did not die for us, and He was not resurrected for us. It was not the Holy Spirit, only Jesus Christ our Lord. "For if we have been Planted (Baptized) together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Romans 6:5).

BE SURE OF YOUR SALVATION

If you have become a new Creature in Christ, (Galatians 6:15; II Corinthians 5:17-18) then you receive the desire to live for God. Out of your great love for Him, you will keep the Commandments. You will make your calling and election sure. The first thing that you do is to insure yourself that Christ will live in you (Colossians 1:26-27). "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake ..." (Acts 8:5-6). The people here had asked the same question of the apostles, "What must we do to be saved?" Philip was sent to Samaria to hold a revival. We read further: "Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John; Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:14-17).

Your body cannot remain empty. Therefore the Lord has made provision for every person striving to live properly and keep the Commandments of God to have a "comforter." This is the power of God that comes into your life and fills you. It is "One called alongside to help" you and other individual souls. He helps us in our infirmities and ignorance. He helps to make intercession for us. He is "Christ in you!" Jesus told the story of a man who was baptized and cleansed from his sins. He did not receive

the indwelling of the Power of God. And the unclean spirit coming by saw that his old house was "...swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:24-26). That is why we must be sure of our salvation and keep it. Here are a few things that the Word of God asks you to do:

HOW CAN YOU KNOW YOU ARE SAVED?

How can you know you are saved? By the Word of God – The Scriptures (John 5:39). The Blood of Christ makes you pure and holy. By His death we are washed. By being buried with Christ in baptism, we become new and holy. The Word of God tells this so plainly and makes this so sure. "These things have I written unto you ... that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life ..." (I John 5:13). It does not say "That you may think, or that you may guess," but "THAT YE MAY KNOW." It does not say, "These happy feelings have I given you." NO! But it says, "These things have I written." Now do you believe what is written? "...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Have you come? Then, where are you? Are you either in or out? Are you either saved or lost? You either have eternal life or you have nothing but damnation and death.

Again it is written, "...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God..." (John 1:12). Did you receive Him? Then what are you? You are either His child or you are nobody's child. You either belong to the Family of God or to the family of the devil. You cannot serve two masters. You either love one or hate the other. Do you see that it all depends on the Word of God. If you are not in the family of God, your feelings will change every day. Today you may feel like you belong to Jesus, and tomorrow you might feel that you are lost. DO NOT go by your feelings. Go by the Word of God. Believe what it says and what is written for you. God's Word never changes. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). It is when you dare to believe that the Power of God bears witness with your spirit that you are a Child of God. Thus is your salvation assured, and you will know that you will inherit eternal life.

TAKE A STAND FOR TRUTH

By this we mean for every Child of God to take a public stand for truth. You must let your light shine. Jesus came as a light for this dark world, and everyone belonging to the Family of God must let his light also shine in every place he goes. It is impossible to be a secret believer. Unfurl your flag and come out into the open. Confess Jesus Christ at every popular opportunity, but do not cast your pearls before swine is also our admonition from the Scriptures. Tell others what the Bible teaches. Do not hide under a bushel. “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words . . . of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed...” (Mark 8:38; Matthew 7:6; John 9:5; Matthew 5:14-15). If you want Him to acknowledge you, then you must acknowledge Jesus. If you want to grow rapidly, confess Him openly. Do it now. Do not wait. There is no feeling like it, and you will be full of joy unspeakable and full of glory.

SPEND MUCH TIME IN READING THE BIBLE

The more you read the Bible the more you will want to read it. It is an uncanny thing. Sinners have no desire to even own a Bible, lest they should pick it up and read it. But once you come to Christ, you have a longing to read about Him and His works and of His Father the Creator. As you read the Holy Book, you come face to face with the Father through the Holy Spirit. Make time each day to have a period of prayer and Bible reading. Never let a day pass without spending time alone with the Lord Jesus and His Father. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:2). “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word” (Psalm 119:9). Neglecting the Word of God will cause a person to backslide.

WORK AND GIVE FOR THE SERVICE OF GOD

Jesus declares how much the attachment to the treasures of this world possesses men and prevents them from giving themselves completely. How many people

have renounced the joys of a life consecrated to the service of the Lord because of anxiety over material security? How many refuse to give to the Lord His tithe and an offering? Does not the Lord give you the knowledge and power to work? Does He not help you at your profession to earn? If we are retired from manual labor, we can still be busy in giving out tracts. If we are idle, we are in danger of getting into mischief. There are so many things that Children of God must do to help the Body of Christ to grow.

Earlier in this article, we have read of the great importance for keeping the Ten Commandments of the Father in Heaven. We must keep them in order to have eternal life. But of ourselves we cannot keep them. It is impossible to keep them unless you have the Power of God to help you in this manner. The Father and the Son, Jesus, understand this great demand of God’s Law, and many people who have tried to keep it on their own power have been driven into a corner of the impossible. It is a matter of being “converted,” of the conversion of the heart which God alone can effect in us. And it is precisely to bring this about that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. The new “Righteousness” which Jesus revealed and conferred goes beyond that of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 5:30). The kingdom which Jesus announces is for those who have nothing and know that they must survive through Jesus and the grace of the Father. So it is with you. “...without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). So strive to become part of the Family of God and receive that wonderful “Gift” – eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



REPENTANCE

Reprinted

I have a pocket dictionary published by *Merriam Webster* which defines **repent**, “to turn from sin and resolve to reform one’s life—or—to feel sorry for something done” (regret).

There is a description of turning to the Lord given in the Book of Acts, Chapter 9, verse 35, “*And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.*” Some who read this could well wonder what the verses preceding this 35th verse were about. They dealt with the healing of Aeneas.

“And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately” (Verses 32-34).

Repentance comes about through the preaching of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Another description of this is “turning to the Lord.” We can find it in the 11th chapter of the Book of Acts, verses 19, 20, and 21.

“Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.”

Both sets of verses which I have used here, as an illustration, are descriptive of repentance and how it is

achieved. True repentance comes only when we acknowledge the sin in our lives and that we are sinners and need the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives. I hope that perhaps some who read this will feel the need of the Lord in their lives, and that others might feel a renewal or revival in their lives.

Do not be ashamed of your repentance experience, but use it to give others the gospel of Christ.

--Wayne J Currens

MATTHEW 10:8

We should never make change for the Gospel,

For every word in it is true;

We are to give freely to others

As it was freely given to you.

The things we are given are endless,

When we pause to consider each one;

For even the food on your table

Is a gift from the Father and Son.

God set this law into existence

In the week He created all things;

And this law will always be with us

With all the blessings it brings.

The sun, moon and stars in the heavens,

Smiling down on us from above

Is one more gift, freely given

From God to show us His love.

From the tall, mighty oak in the mountain,

To the small things we forget to ask;

And the wonders we see in a feather,

Each flower and each blade of grass.

As we accept all the good things He gives us,

And enjoy the life that we live;

He asks only that we think of others,

And to practice His good way to give.

Betty Whetstone



“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish” (Psalm 1).

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart” (Psalm 119:33-34).

God spake in Exodus 20:3-17:

1. Thou shalt have not other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh

his name in vain.

4. 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 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.

5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

6. Thou shalt not kill.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8. Thou shalt not steal.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s”.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

“Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:35-40).

THE GREAT TRANSGRESSION

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Romans 3:19).

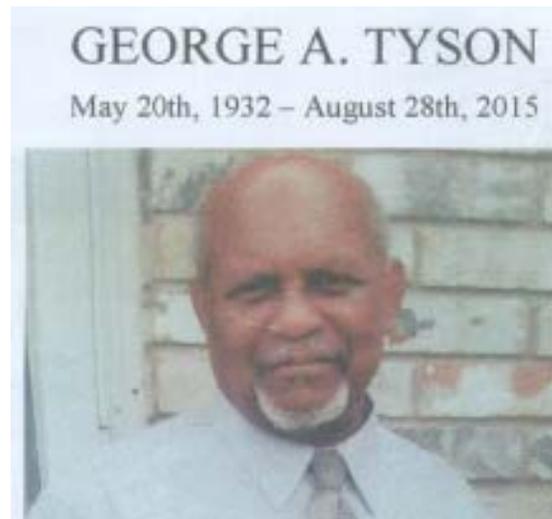
SO GREAT SALVATION

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:23-26).

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).



Brother George A. Tyson was born on the 20th day of May in the year 1932, to his wonderful parents Gloster and Catherine Tyson on the island of Grenada. He lived a simple life. He was one of the supervisors at Hess Oil refinery on St Croix for many years. He pastored the Church of God 7th day on St Croix for numerous years. He had 12 children, and one deceased, with his late wife Victoria Celina Lee Tyson. One fond memory of him is when he would sit in the living room and sing all the old time hymns. George was God-fearing with great faith. He had a friendly and joyful personality that would make everybody laugh. He was a quiet giant of a man who was always at peace. In 2001 he moved to California, and in 2002 he met Beverly Nelson, his current wife. He lived his life in the Spirit of God. On August 28th, 2015 he rested from his labors after years of illness. There is now no more pain or suffering for him. George leaves, to cherish his memory, his wife Beverly Nelson Tyson, his children Mansfield, Gosnel (Annette), George Jr., Sam, Errol, Esther, Valarie, Gloria (Jerome Sr.), Christerlyn, Sharon, Marion, and Joan. He also leaves behind 56 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren who are too numerous to name, his brothers Peter and John Tyson, a step-son Keith (Alicia), and extended family Harry (Searina Saunders), Paige Bivins, Tameka (Ron), Tammy Holmes, Vera (Eddie), William Ayala, and Marva Croom-Potts.

George is now resting in the grave, waiting for the resurrection when the Lord Jesus Christ will call him forth from his sleep. We will miss him, but let us ever be ready to be in the first resurrection to live with the Lord for eternity.



In Everything Give Thanks

By David DeLong

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Let's be honest. Do we actually practice this passage of Scripture? Do we thank the Lord for **everything** that takes place in our lives, whether those things are positive or negative? There are at least 7 categories of blessings that involve us, for which we should give God thanks.

Unexpected Blessings

For Mary and Joseph the birth of Jesus was truly an unexpected blessing. We read in Matthew 1:18-21: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." For Mary's response of thanksgiving of this unexpected blessing, please read Luke 1:26-56.

Many times we receive unexpected blessings in our lives for which we should be truly grateful. Sometimes God gives us such blessings so that we can share them with others. Unexpected blessings may seem small or trivial to others, but to us they are great. Recently, my wife and I moved to another home. We were able to get most of our cats into cat carriers and move them to the

new location. One timid kitty, however, ran in back of an unfinished wall and wouldn't come out to us for three days. At one point we thought that we might have to cut into the wall to get him out. After a lot of prayer, the Lord graciously brought the kitty out from the wall when I called to him. My wife was able to pick him up and put him into a cat carrier, and we were able to move him to our new home. This may seem silly to some, but to us it was one of the greatest of unexpected blessings we have received. We continue to thank the Lord for the return of our "little guy". I now understand a little better the parable of the lost sheep that Jesus told in Matthew 18:12-14: "How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

Unknown Blessings

Unknown blessings are those which we don't even realize have been given to us. They may include protection from harmful situations in our lives that we didn't know existed. One such situation happened to the willful prophet Balaam. This story is a long one, and yet very beneficial for us to consider. We read of it in Numbers 22:15-34. "And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they. And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I

pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me: For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people. And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more. Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more. And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do. And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again. And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: And

the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again." The mercy of the Lord is so great that He brings deliverance to us at times in situations which we don't even know exist. What is truly astounding in the story of Balaam is that the Lord brought him deliverance from the death angel, through his donkey, and in Balaam's rebellion against the Lord.

Promised Blessings

The Lord promises blessings upon His children if they will be obedient to Him. Thus, we find in Deuteronomy 28:1-14, the Lord's promised blessings upon the children of Israel for their obedience. "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all

the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them."

Past Blessings

All of us can testify to past blessings. Not only have we been blessed richly with material goods, but the Lord has given to us freely of His spiritual blessings as well. Forgiveness of sins, protection from the enemy, peace, love, and joy are only some of these wonderful gifts from the Lord. These blessings past are the ones for which we usually give thanks. David gave thanks to the Lord for blessings in his life. He wrote: "Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Psalm 103:1-5).

Current Blessings

These blessings are continuations of past blessings and are now operating in our lives. David could testify of the Lord's current blessings because he had experienced these blessings in his past. The Preacher counselled us men in Ecclesiastes 9:9: "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun." However, to all of us he counselled: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

"Negative" Blessings

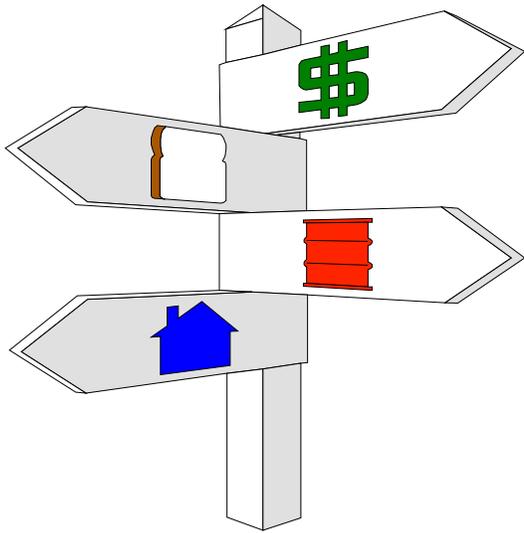
I call these blessings "negative" because, at the time, they don't feel like blessings at all. However, the Lord uses them in our lives to bring about positive blessings.

One such "negative" blessing is chastisement from the Lord. We learn from the book of Hebrews, chapter 12, verses 3-13. "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. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye (illegitimate), and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."

Unusual Blessings

Unusual blessings could be considered as such, either because we haven't experienced them before, or because they are not as yet recognized as being blessings. Think, for instance, of the unusual blessings upon the prophet Elijah. He was fed by ravens (I Kings 17:2-7); he outran Ahab's horses (18:46); and he heard the Lord speak to him in a still small voice (19:12). The Lord still blesses his people today with unusual blessings.

We need to thank the Lord for all His blessings upon us, and "in every thing give thanks". In closing this article, let us remember the words of blessing from Romans 8:38-39: "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."



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.

CHILD HOMELESSNESS PROBLEM

The following article on child homelessness in the U.S. is by David Crary and Lisa Leff of the Associated Press.

Report: Child homelessness on rise in U. S.

SAN FRANCISCO – The number of homeless children in the U.S. has surged in recent years to an all-time high, amounting to one child in every 30, according to a comprehensive state-by-state report that blames the nation's high poverty rate, the lack of affordable housing and the impact of pervasive domestic violence.

Titled "America's Youngest Outcasts," the report being issued Monday by the National Center on Family Homelessness calculates that nearly 2.5 million American Children were homeless at some point in 2013. The number is based on the Department of Education's latest count of 1.3 million homeless children in public schools, supplemented by estimates of homeless pre-school children not counted by the DOE.

The problem is particularly severe in California which has one-eighth of the U.S. population but accounts for more than one-fifth of the homeless children with a tally of nearly 527,000

Carmela DeCandia, director of the national center and a co-author of the report, noted that the federal government has made progress in reducing homelessness among veterans and chronically homeless adults. "The same level of attention and resources has not been targeted to help families and children," she said. "As a society, we're going to pay a high price in human and economic terms."

Child homelessness increased 8 percent nationally from

2012 to 2013, according to the report, which warned of potentially devastating effects on children's educational, emotional and social development, as well as on their parent's health, employment prospects and parenting abilities.

The report included a complete index ranking the states on the extent of child homelessness, efforts to combat it, and the overall level of child well-being. States with the best scores were Minnesota, Nebraska and Massachusetts. At the bottom were Alabama, Mississippi and California.

California's poor ranking did not surprise Shahera Hyatt, director of the California Homeless Youth Project.

The crux of the problem, she said, is the state's high cost of living, coupled with insufficient affordable housing.

"People think, 'Of course we are not letting children and families be homeless,' so there's a lot of disbelief," Hyatt said. "California has not invested in this issue."

Comment

How do you think that you would feel if you were homeless? At this moment, I know of not one in the Church of God who is homeless. I speak of those saints in America. Perhaps there are some in what is called third-world countries. The church, I am sure, is taking care of the needs of these unfortunate ones. God's Word tells us to do good unto all men, especially to those of the household of faith. See Galatians 6:10. One of the many old sayings of my mother was, "Charity begins at home."

Homelessness reaches a peak when there is a recession going on. I remember attending a meeting on what we could do for the homeless back in the 80's when

there was a recession not nearly as crippling as the great recession of a few years ago. I was surprised to find the number of homeless people who came out during the night to sort through the garbage containers to salvage any food and clothing that they could use.

Let us continually pray for the establishment of the Kingdom of God when there will be no homelessness on the earth!

AUTO DEATHS **2015 sees rise in auto deaths**

WASHINGTON

Traffic deaths were up 14 percent nationally in the first six months of this year, and injuries were up by a third, according to data gathered by the National Safety Council.

An improved economy and low gas prices have encouraged Americans to put a record number of miles on the road, said Deborah A.P. Hersman, president of the council. But she said that's not the whole explanation for the increase in deaths and injuries.

All told, nearly 19,000 people across the country lost their lives in traffic accidents through June, and the tally doesn't include two of the historically highest months for traffic deaths, July and August, said the council, a non-profit organization created by Congress to promote safety.

If the trend continues, traffic deaths this year could exceed 40,000 for the first time since 2007, when there were nearly 44,000 deaths, Hersman said in an interview. The increase began in the last quarter of 2014 and have been recorded consistently through each month of this year, Hersman said.

The cumulative increase in vehicle mileage this year through May is 3.4 percent, far less than the 14 percent increase in deaths, Hersman noted.

Also, the estimated annual mileage death rate so far this year is 1.3 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, up from the preliminary 2014 rate of 1.2 deaths.

--Associated Press

Comment

Could it possibly be that many traffic accidents and deaths this year are also caused by the increase in the use of drugs and alcohol?

THOSE DRONES

We have mentioned the drones in passing before in this column. These are unmanned aircraft which are operated by automatic or remote control. They are growing more popular every day, and they seem to be

more than just a passing fad. They are used in war to spy on countries and take out the enemies, and they are used as a means of recreation. I was reading that the Pentagon was to increase drone use by 50 percent because of the escalating aggression from Russia and China.

The following article, which comes from The Los Angeles Times, tells of the use of drones purposed by Amazon:

Amazon gets go-ahead from FAA to test drones for delivery

Amazon.com is inching closer to a future where packages will be delivered by drone.

The online retail giant, which has been aggressively opening new distribution centers to shorten delivery times, was granted permission Thursday by the Federal Aviation Administration to test an unmanned aircraft design.

The "experimental airworthiness certificate" comes with several restrictions: Drones must be flown during the day and at 400 feet or lower; the aircraft must stay within sight of the pilot and observer; and the pilot must have, at minimum, a private pilot's license and current medical certificate (end of article).

This article raises a question of the distance a package may be delivered since the aircraft must stay within sight of the pilot and observer.

Just imagine getting a package delivered by a drone!

ATHEISTS ON TV

The following is from *Does God Exist?*

ATHEISTS INITIATE TV CHANNEL. There is now a TV channel that features programming created by and for atheists. It is Atheist TV and is available on the Roku steaming network as well as the American Atheists website. Its goal is "to give a yet-unavailable broadcast voice to an already strong but growing atheist community." Its slogan is "Atheism Everywhere." As more and more atheist arguments are available to the public, it will become increasingly important for us to "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..." (I Peter 3:15).

OIL LAYOFF

At the time of this writing, the price of oil is very low. This is causing havoc in the industry, and many people, both drillers and others in the industry, are losing their work, and some corporations have had to cancel the plans they made to expand. One can only speculate when the price of oil will return to a sustainable level. (See pg. 18).

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: What is the distinction between those with whom we fellowship and those whom we select as our teachers and elders?

ANSWER: In considering fellowship and eldership, we conclude that there must be a distinction made between those with whom we fellowship and those whom we chose to serve as our teachers and elders. There are some whom we cannot conscientiously consider to be elders, with whom we fellowship. Our principles and actions in such a situation must be based upon the sure Word of God.

Matthew 12:46-50 mentions a good illustration of the true basis for fellowship. Please read it. This time Jesus was speaking to a large group in a crowded room. His mother and brethren have arrived for Him, but because of the crowd they could not reach Jesus. Someone near the window or door quickly noticed the situation. They called to the Master, “**...Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.**” Our Lord’s reply might seem strange to us. He answered with the questions, “**...Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?**”

Most or all in attendance were aware of the identity of our Lord’s mother. Therefore, this reply must have been confusing to them. Jesus wished for them to learn a great truth, so He desired to take advantage of the situation. He stretched forth His hands toward the disciples and said, “**...Behold my mother and my brethren!**” This

statement would not have clarified any confused thoughts to a great degree. However, His next words did. They are a particular comfort to all with whom the Lord deals today. He said, “**...Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.**”

The circle of fellowship is composed of those who have become a part of the family of God. They have been called and consecrated. They have been justified and Spirit-begotten. Therefore, they can sing: “Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love; thy fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.”

Kindred means those who have a family relationship. In our case, it is a spiritual family since we have been begotten by the Holy Spirit to be the Sons of God, and brethren of our Lord Jesus. Also we can welcome any into our services whether or not they have taken the full step of discipleship.

But in the selection of our teachers and elders, we must set requirements which go beyond being members of the family of God. These requirements are outlined in Titus 1:5-11 and I Timothy 3:1-7. Four main points are suggested by the combined testimony of these texts.

1. Consecration: It is obvious that all elders and teachers in the church be consecrated.

2. Blameless: “For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre” (Titus 1:7). Those who would be elders must live so as to demonstrate an appreciation of the principles of righteousness.

3. Apt to teach: “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour,

given to hospitality, apt to teach” (I Timothy 3:2). Because one of the functions of an elder is to impart knowledge to others, this is really understandable.

4. Holding fast the faithful Word: “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” (Titus 1:9). An elder must have a clear concept of the Word of truth.

It is easy to describe the first three points of the previous list. In regard to the fourth point, the Apostle Paul often demonstrated in his writings the firm belief that elders should see truths of God’s Word clearly.

Let us consider an example. What about the doctrine of the return of our Lord and the resurrection? In Paul’s day, some taught that the resurrection had already pasted. Referring to those who followed after this doctrine, he wrote, **“Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some”** (II Timothy 2:18). From the advice of this verse, it is implied that he believed that a correct understanding of our Lord’s return and the resurrection was indeed important.

In II Timothy 2:15-16, Paul urged Timothy to learn well the skill of rightly dividing the truth. **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”**

High standards for our elders and teachers will do much to keep the church free from error.

QUESTION: In I Thessalonians 4:16, we read, “...the dead in Christ shall rise first.” Does this imply that those who are not in Christ will be raised later?

ANSWER: No! The Apostle Paul did not suggest a resurrection of another class. The context gives this meaning: “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [or go before] them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (verses 15-17).

The dead in Christ shall rise “first,” before the living are caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Then both living and resurrected dead will make the ascent together, to meet the Lord in the air.

A RETRACTION WITH CORRECTION

(Another view of Jephthah's vow)

In the August 24, 2015 issue of The Advocate of Truth, on page sixteen, a question was asked about how, when considering Jephthah’s vow, one can reconcile a God of love with the acceptance of human sacrifice.

The answer, when all Scripture is considered, puts the true light on just what Jephthah’s vow really was. The answer was wrong in the Advocate in that it assumed that Jephthah’s vow had to do with his daughter becoming a burnt offering. The following is the true meaning of Judges 11:30-40 where Jephthah’s vow is found:

The translation of the word “sacrifice” is “dedicated.” This tells us that Jephthah was dedicating someone to the Lord for continuing service to the Lord, not as a burnt offering. In verses 1-28, he declares himself to be a man of God and wants to hold to the land given Israel by God.

We therefore see that his vow was not of animals as he said what comes from my door, so he thought of a person being dedicated to God for continued service. Leviticus 27:1-5 allows a person to be redeemed if there was a vow of death to them. In this case, her value would be 30 shekels. Surely he would have given 30 shekels and redeemed her from death, but the spiritual dedication would be permanent.

It follows, as a matter of course, that henceforth she belonged entirely to the Lord. Therefore, she was to remain a virgin for the rest of her days. We can see by this definition that she was dedicated to live at the temple and serve the Lord all her life such as was Dorcas and other women of New Testament times. Her father was brought very low because he knew that she being his only child he would have no one to carry on his lineage. We see in verse 39 that this was the case as it says that she did according to Jephthah’s vow, and she knew no man which shows that his vow was dedicating her to God’s service and not a death sacrifice. Verse 40 shows her living for some time after that as her friends, that lamented with her in verse 38, now go to where she is and meet with her every year.

(Continued from page 15).

This is a sign of the times!

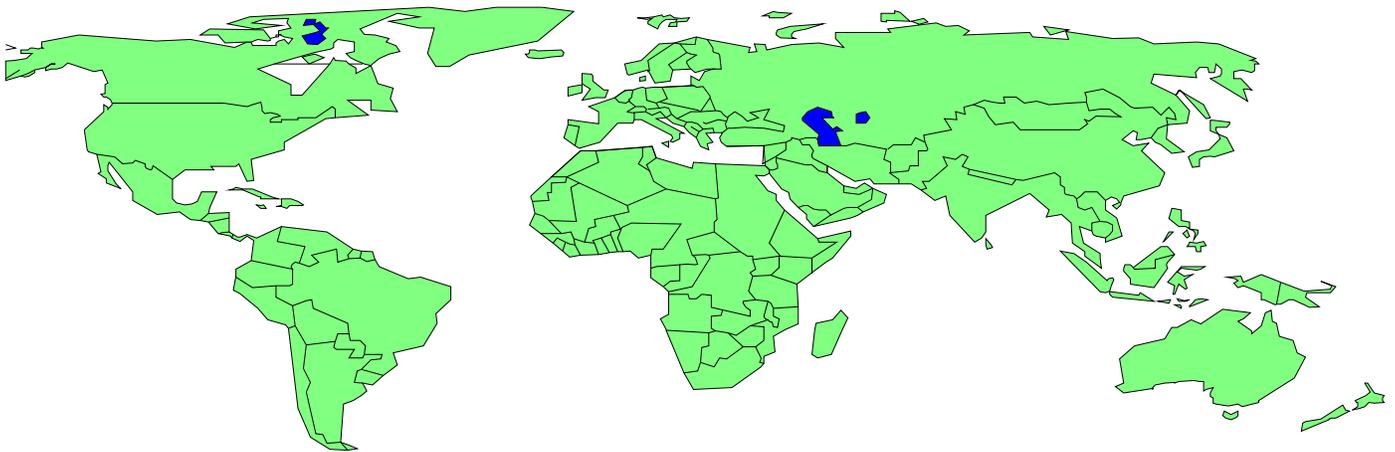
NEPAL ANGER

You may remember that the country of Nepal suffered an earthquake several months ago. Anger arose because of the slow distribution of quake relief. We know that

earthquakes in different places are a sign of the times. People need speedy relief when there is a disaster such as an earthquake.

In the Kingdom of God, there will be no disasters such as earthquakes!

THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD



Kenya, Part II

Apostle Henry Miroro (front row, blue suit) meeting with the Board of Seven.





Church choirs which will bring glory to God.



LESSON I

SHEEP AND GOATS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46.

Golden Text: Matthew 25:33.

“And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.”

1. Who is the Son of man that will come in His glory? Matthew 25:31.
2. Who will be gathered before Him, and what will He do then? Matthew 25:32-33.
3. Who are the sheep that the shepherd divides from the goats? Matthew 25:34. These are the children of God.
4. Did the sheep share their food and clothing with those who were in need? Matthew 25:35-36.
5. Did they visit those in prison and try to help them? Matthew 25:36.
6. Who are the goats that are separated from the sheep? Matthew 25:41. These are the unrighteous.
7. What did the ones on the left hand not do? Matthew 25:42-43.
8. Are all people sinners before they ask God for forgiveness? Romans 3:23.
9. If we refuse and rebel against the Lord and His ways, are we classified with the goats? Isaiah 1:20.

NOTE: We should all work to try to be like sheep. We want to be chosen for our good works.

LESSON II

THE WOMAN WITH THE ALABASTER BOX

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:1-9.

Golden Text: Mark 14:7.

“For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.”

1. When did this event take place? Mark 14:1 (first part).
2. What was uppermost in the chief priests’ minds? Mark 14:1 (last part) and verse 2.
3. Where did this event take place, and what happened? Mark 14:3.
4. What did this cause some people to do? Mark 14:4-5.
5. How did Christ answer their complaining? Mark 14:6.
6. Whom did He tell them that they always had with them? Mark 14:7.
7. What did Jesus say this woman had done? Mark 14:8.
8. What did He say to be her memorial? Mark 14:9.

NOTE: It is not always the big deeds that make us great before God. It is the little things which may mean a great reward. You may want to read Matthew 26:6-13 for this same story.

LESSON III

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:17-30; I Corinthians 11:26-30.

Golden Text: I Corinthians 11:28.

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.”

1. What did the disciples ask Jesus in Matthew 26:17?
2. What was Jesus’ answer to the disciples, and did they do as He said? Matthew 26:18-19.

3. At what time of day was the Lord's Supper Service observed? Matthew 26:20.
4. Did Jesus know that one of the apostles would betray Him that night? Which apostle betrayed Jesus? Matthew 26:21, 25.
5. What did Jesus do with the bread after He blessed it? Matthew 26:26.
6. What did Jesus do with the cup after He gave thanks over it? Matthew 26:27-28.
7. What do we remember or show when we eat of the "bread" and drink of the "cup"? I Corinthians 11:26.
8. What must we do before we partake of the Lord's Supper Service? I Corinthians 11:28.
9. What happens if we partake of the Lord's Supper Service unworthily? I Corinthians 11:29.

NOTE: Before we partake of the Lord's Supper Service, we must accept Jesus as our Savior and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of you boys and girls have not taken that step, but it is our prayer that someday you will become a "child of God." For additional information on this, read Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-20; John 13:1-17.

LESSON IV

IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:36-46.

Golden Text: Matthew 26:38.

"Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me."

1. Where does Jesus now go, and who is with Him? Matthew 26:36-37.
2. What did Jesus say to His disciples in Matthew 26:38?

3. What was Jesus' prayer in the garden? Matthew 26:39.
4. What did Jesus discover when He went back to the disciples? Matthew 26:40.
5. What did Jesus tell His disciples? Matthew 26:41.
6. What did Jesus pray the second time, and what did the disciples continue to do? Matthew 26:42-43.
7. What was the last prayer in Gethsemane? Matthew 26:44.
8. What did Jesus say just before Judas came to betray Him? Matthew 26:46.

NOTE: For this same lesson, you can also read Mark 14:32-42 and Luke 22:40-46.



A LESSON EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW

How many people would change their acts,
If they were aware of these true facts?

That:

The eyes of the Lord are in every place,
Beholding the evil and the good (Proverbs 15:3).

Wherever you go, wherever you be,
Whether in city, country, or on the sea,
Whether riding a train or up into skies.

Remember the all-seeing eyes!
He sees every deed both good and bad,
He sees many deeds that make Him sad,
Oh, we must be careful, you and I,
And remember the all-seeing eye!

His eye sees all of what we do,
And we will get paid when our life is through.
Our works are known beyond the skies,
So remember the all-seeing eyes.

THE TALE OF A BLESSING

TODAY'S MENU

LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING,
GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH,
MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE

The sun was hiding that Thursday as the wind and leaves danced their last fling before winter, whirling around the snug little homes on Mulberry Street.

Tilda Hawkins stood squinting at the television set as the picture stopped rolling and the clowns and huge balloon figures came into focus. She smiled, "Well, " she said briskly, "it is going to be a different Thanksgiving for us but a nice one."

Her eyes went to the framed photos on the piano. Her own dear Bill was gone now, and the children were married and scattered across the country. "NO, it won't be a big celebration, but it will still be Thanksgiving!"

Her remarks were directed to the only other occupant of the room, a large gray-and-white cat dozing contently in a chair. "I bought," Tilda continued, "a deluxe TV turkey dinner for myself, and for you, King Rupert, a can of turkey and liver. Rather expensive, but this is Thanksgiving."

She beamed at the cat. "Smell that bread, h-m-m?" She hurried to the kitchen just as the timer buzzed. Humming a favorite old church song, Tilda put on ovenmits and lifted out the large pan of light brown rolls. She sniffed and smiled. Still humming, she turned out the steeping rolls and piled them in a large bowl. Leaving two for herself, she spread a napkin over the heated rolls and taking a breath, began to speak.

"Dear Father, thank you for allowing me to continue our custom of giving. Bless this food and bless the ones who receive it. Fill their home and their lives with love so you have filled mine. Bless everyone, everywhere, on this day." Tilda pushed, trembling a bit. "Thank you, Father. In Jesus' name, Amen."

For a moment she stood there, held by emotional pull of her concern for others. Then she pulled on a sweater, picked up the bowl and called "I will be right back, Rupert."

She darted out her back door and crossed to her

neighbor's back door. As she knocked, she heard children's voices, the TV, a dog, and a man's voice. The door was opened by little Nancy Freeman, and Tilda wondered how such a tiny woman could have six husky children.

"Mrs. Hawkins!" The little woman cried. "How nice!" "I cannot come in dear. Just like to share on Thanksgiving." She gave her the rolls. "I hope you enjoy them." With a wave she said, "Happy Thanksgiving: and left.

Nancy pushed the door shut with her foot as she lifted the napkin. "H-m-m, homemade bread."

Dick Freeman walked in, "What did you say?"

"Homemade bread. Mrs. Hawkins brought us some fresh baked, homemade rolls. Take a whiff."

"That was nice of her. Maybe you should have asked her to eat with us." Then he frowned. "NO, on second thought, she would probably rather be alone."

Nancy was not listening. "Trouble is," she muttered, "the kids will not eat brown bread. Why not take out enough for us and your folks, and you take the rest to the Millers? I could save them but somehow, I would rather share."

Dick nodding, leaned forward to peck his wife on the cheek.

"That is because you are a very nice person."

A moment later, Dick Freeman was crossing the street to the little brick house. Lettie Miller answered the door, but Mel was right behind her. Two white-haired persons peered through two pairs of round glasses. "Why, hello, Dick! Do come in," Lettie spoke happily.

"No, thanks. I just brought you something to go with your dinner." Dick handed her the bowl and stepped back. "Happy Thanksgiving...from all of us." He turned to jog home.

"Oh Mel, look here! Yeast rolls." She held the bowl. Mel nodded, "Delicious!"

She frowned, so he frowned. "But I made bread pudding, and that is too much bread for us," she said. Then she brightened. "But, we will share, too! We will take our pudding to the Sedbrooks!"

Together they marched to the closet, helped each other with wraps, and walked rapidly next door.

Freckle-faced Jimmy answered the door, followed by Janie, Joel, Junie, Judy, and Irving. Irving was the dog.

Judy was Mrs. Sedbrook. "Why, hello," she called, "come in!"

The Millers stepped inside. Lettie began, "The Freemans were nice enough to give us some homemade bread. I had made a bread pudding and thought..."

Mel picked up the story. "And that is too much bread for us so we want to give you our pudding."

A deep, male voice said, "Did someone say, bread pudding?" Jim Sedbrook appeared. Judy laughed. "That is his favorite."

Lettie's eyes twinkled. "Do you like it with raisin and some chocolate syrup dribbled through it, and then the egg and milk, mixture to pour over it?" She held out a pitcher.

Jim sighed, "Oh boy, do I!"

The Millers both nodded, said "Good," and turned to leave adding quickly, "Happy Thanksgiving."

"That was nice of them." Judy paused. "You know sometimes you begin to wonder." She did not finish the sentence but just looked at her husband.

He nodded. "You wonder if there are any nice people left in the world."

"Yes, people seem so wrapped up in themselves." She took a breath and chewed her lip. "You know actually I have an extra pie." Her eyes were questioning.

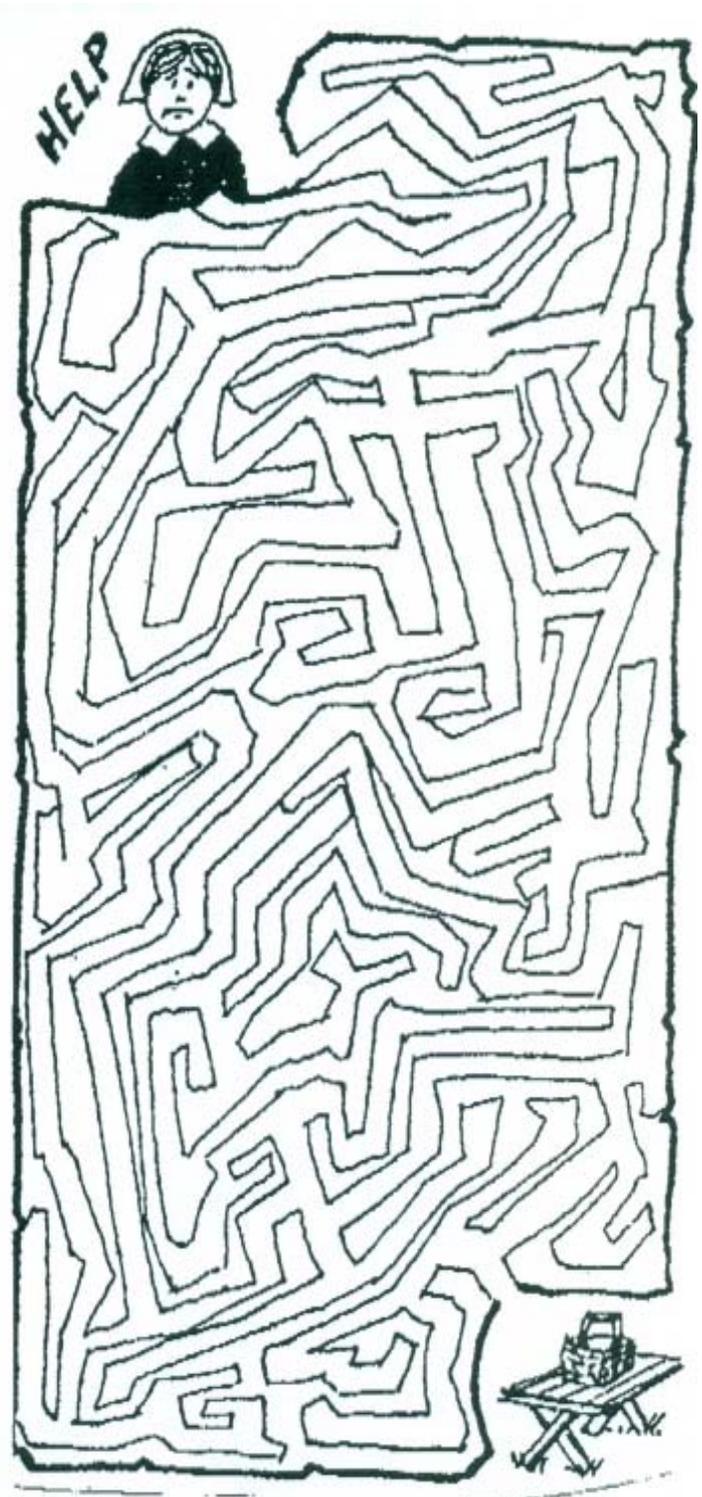
A moment later, young Jimmy was on his way to the old, two story house on the corner where the Rodgers sisters lived. The night was not long until Lucinda Rodgers was going around the corner with a covered dish in her hands while her sister Lucinda was going the other way with a pot of bright yellow mums.

It kept spreading. Each show of kindness produced more kindness. In the 1400 block of Mulberry Street, a certain landlady who had just acquired a pot of yellow mums, invited all of her renters to bring the new renters and share her dining room.

Over on 21st Street, a retired teacher was so inspired by the gift of a fruit salad that she took her special cranberry nut salad to the newlyweds who had just moved next door from another state.

That is not the end of the tale, of course. An end can never be written because a blessing once shared never stops.

Mini-Maze
Please help the Pilgrim get to the
Thanksgiving Day picnic.



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Here All Steadfast Hope Is Anchored

By Anna Davis

Here upon the work of Jesus, there is ground enough to stand,
On this expanse of solid bedrock, nothing can my claim remand--
No fault descended of the Garden, nor the guilt my hands have sown,
The blood upon my spirit's doorpost brands me ever His own.

To the cleansing, carmine waters daily shall my soul return,
Casting off all weights that hinder for a yoke that's lightly borne;
And when the voice of condemnation rises, bitter, from the grave,
How every charge is rendered groundless, swept beneath Jordan's waves.

Oh, to imitate the faithful, fearless host of vagabonds,
They who sought a better homeland while they wept their Zion songs;
So, God of mercy, call me onward with a faith that long endures,
For great and precious is the promise kept in heaven, secure.

Here all steadfast hope is anchored, both in life and at the close,
For I was buried in His death and raised alive when He arose;
Hallelujah, it is finished! Christ has won the victory!
Ever shall His be the Kingdom, the power, and the glory!

