



The Advocate of Truth



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The Footwashing

By Moises Torres M.

1. Why is a footwashing service necessary before partaking of the holy Emblems?

NOTE: A footwashing is necessary to take part with the Lord at His table.

“Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me” (John 13:8).

2. What was Peter’s answer?

“Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.” John 13:9-10.

NOTE: We know that we have been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our Lord (I Corinthians 6:11; Revelation 1:5). Then we need only to wash each other's feet as a confirmation of a clean conscience. The expression “ye are clean, but not all” implies that someone was not clean at the moment.

3. Why was Judas Iscariot not clean?

Judas had an evil intention to betray his Lord and Master. “And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s *son*, to betray him” (John 13:2).

The footwashing is a complement of a physical cleanliness.

and even though the Lord washed Judas's feet he had a guilty conscience as it was emphasized by the Lord: “ye are clean, but not all.”

4. How was Judas pointed out as the betrayer?

“I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me” (John 13:18); “And he answered and said, He that dippeth *his* hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me” (Matthew 26:23).

NOTE: It is only a close friend who feels the confidence to place his hands in our dish at the table. The Lord knew the Scriptures on this situation. Psalm 41:9 reads: “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.” This last phrase means: “lifted up his heel against me to demolish me.” Sometimes we are betrayed by persons in whom we more often trust.

5. Did Abraham and Lot practice a footwashing service?

"And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in

thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree" (Genesis 18:1-4).

Abraham as well as Lot (see Genesis 19:1-2) practiced the footwashing. They washed the angels' feet. This was a service made by the servants of the house. Read I Samuel 25:40-41.

6. The Lord Jesus, as a Servant of mankind, also washed his disciples' feet:

"Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." (John 13:3-7).

7. Did the Lord command his disciples to do the same and wash one another's feet?

"So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:12-17).

8. How did the Lord summarize the Footwashing in John 13:34-35?

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; **as I have loved you**, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

NOTE: Even the commandment of loving one another was given in the Old Testament times as well as the footwashing. The Lord states this as a **new commandment** because it has to be done according to His example so that we can take part with Him in his kingdom. We need to wash one another and love one another all year and not only at the Lord's Supper evening. The Footwashing service reminds us of this purpose. We need to love one another as He loved us "unto the end" (see John 13:1).

9. Is this New Commandment the same given in the Old Testament?

"Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, **which thing is true in him and in you**: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth" (I John 2:7-8).

We conclude that is a New Commandment because we need to practice it according to the example of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

10. When is the proper time to observe the Footwashing, before or after partaking of the Emblems –The Bread and the Cup?

NOTE: This event registered in John 13 plainly states in a sequence that the footwashing was observed before the partaking of the Emblems. "... If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." (John 13:8).

a.) As the supper of the Lamb was being ended, "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded." (Verses 4-5). What happened next?

b.) "So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?" (Verse 12).

c.) Immediately after, and when they still were eating bread, He pointed out the betrayer (see Matthew 26:21). "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me...Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped *it*. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave *it* to Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly...He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night. Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him." (John 13:18, 26-27, 30-31).

d.) Matthew 26:20-30 also states the Lord first pointed out Judas Iscariot as the betrayer and then, "when Judas had gone out", He introduced His new covenant to his

disciples. Then they "sung an hymn" and went out into the mount of Olives.

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives" (vss. 26-30).

Immediately after the Lord established his new covenant using bread and fruit of the vine, they sung a hymn and went out into the mount of Olives. There was no more time for a footwashing after the emblems; the hymn sealed the ceremony.

Echoes From The Past

WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN?

The Bible defines sin as breaking the Ten Commandments: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). "...whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). "All unrighteousness is sin..." (I John 5:17).

The sixth commandment says: "**Thou shalt not kill.**" Obviously there must have been made a tacit exception for, as we read our newspapers and watch the media on TV, we find that it is alright to kill your enemy. Our men are in Saudi Arabia ready to kill those people that invaded Kuwait. We have been killing Indians, Chinese, Viet Cong,

Germans, Italians, Blacks, Japanese, Browns, etc.

Every slayer can find reasons for making his particular violation of God's Law, an exception, a non-crime if not a non-sin. Hitler had his reasons for killing the Jews. Custer had his reasons for killing the Sioux. Our country had reasons for killing the Vietnamese, and the Viet Cong had reasons for killing the Americans. All this is declared as purposive killing. This is not a crime. But is it ever a non-sin? Or maybe nothing now is a sin.

The word "Sin" seems to have disappeared. It was a proud word. It was once a strong word. It was an ominous and serious word. It was described as a central point in every individual's life-plan and life-style. It has

almost disappeared – the word along with the nation. WHY? Does not anyone sin anymore? Does not anyone believe in sin? How can there be any sin when people say "There is no devil?" Is not the devil the author of sin?

President Truman began the National Day of Prayer in 1952. At that time, President Truman used the word "SIN" for the last time in proclaiming the National Day of Prayer. President Eisenhower used the word "SIN" in his 1953 proclamation of the National Day of Prayer, but it was used by President Lincoln in one of his speeches. Lincoln has been labled as the most theological president, and his address went like this: "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope and genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord".

An article in "Theology Today" had this to say about President Eisenhower's use of the word sin. None of President Eisenhower's subsequent speeches use the word "SIN." It was a word that was not compatible any more with a proud and confident people. Since then no president has mentioned "sin" as a national failing, neither Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Carter. To be sure they all skirted away from the word. President Reagan used the word "Evil" a few times but not "SIN." In all of the laments and reproaches made by our philosophers, prophets and seers, one misses any mention of "sin." This word used to be a veritable watchword among our leaders and teachers. It was a word once on everyone's mind, but today now rarely if ever heard. Does that mean that no sin is committed anymore? That there is no sin in our problems and troubles certainly seems to hold true.

Is no one guilty anymore in our courts of sin and transgression? Guilt perhaps of a wrong-doing, or against the law? Is no one any longer guilty of anything? Guilty perhaps of a sin that could be repented and repaired or atoned for? Is it only that someone may be stupid or sick or criminal--or asleep? Wrong things are being done, we know. Tares are being sown in the wheat field at night. But no one is responsible, no one answerable for these acts? Anxiety and depression we all acknowledge and even vague guilt feelings. But has no one committed any sins? Where, indeed did sin go? What became of it?

Here is an illustration of what we mean how people act and behave today. It was an incident that came out of the Vietnam War. Lt. William Calley was portrayed to the world as a bloody villain, on both the English and American senses of that adjective. He slaughtered helpless women and babies and children with the hypocritical justification that they might be carrying concealed weapons. He was found guilty by his peers who had been engaged in the same business of war. A great cry went up from the people, many of whom angrily disputed the sentence that what Calley did could not be labled as a crime or a sin. They conceded that Calley made a mistake. He had only obeyed orders. Some of the wiser philosophers found Calley guilty of a crime, but what he did was alright. It was no sin. It was a patriotic deed.

The Republicans referred to the problem as "pride" and "self-righteousness." The Democrats referred to "short-comings." However, no one used the grand old sweeping concept that it was sin. I can not imagine a modern president beating on his breast and praying: "God be merciful to us sinners." Those experts who agree, this is one of the best ways to begin over again and set our country back on proper footing. So as a nation, we officially ceased sinning some 40 years ago.

Who is to Blame?

We turn angrily seeking someone to blame.

Who started the wretched, interminable wars? Who ruined our air and oceans? Who filled our beautiful rivers and lakes with garbage? Who beggared our paupers? Who crushed our Indians? Who alienated our youth? Who corrupted our business morals, our politics, our judicial system? Who allowed drugs and pornographic material to get such a strong hold in our land? NO ONE? Who is the evil designer against the welfare of man? Is no one to blame when so much is wrong?

There is a parable in Matthew about the enemy secretly sowing tares in the wheat fields while the Master and his servants slept. The servants were all for quickly cutting out the tares, but the Master said that at the harvest time one could more effectively separate the wheat from the tares. From here on, we are going to use a variance on this parable that Jesus told.

The servants counseled together saying: "Let us look about for the enemy who would do this evil thing to our master, who is kind to everyone and does not deserve this treatment." So they quickly inquired and made search

in all the region round about, but they could find no one.

One of the servants came privily to the chief steward at night saying “Sir, forgive me, but I can no longer bear to conceal my secret. I know the enemy who sowed the tares. I saw them do it.”

At this, the chief steward was astonished and full of anger. But before punishing him, he demanded of the servant, why he had not come forward sooner. “I dared not,” cried the servant. “I scarcely dared to come and tell you even now. I was in the weeds dumping some garbage from my home when I saw different men we know carrying and concealing the wastes from their businesses, and then I even saw you bring two black plastic bags full of refuse

and hide them among the wheat. I saw many of our brethren polluting the land. And I recognized them all. All of us are responsible for sin.” And the two agreed to say nothing of this to anyone.

There you have the answer to “What has become of SIN?” We have agreed not to say anything about it. We are continually trying to cover it up. When will we finally wake up and realize it is our own fault that there is so much sin in the world and quit trying to put it under the rug or hide it in other places?

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Silence

Daniel Cruz

Think of a time or place when you were able to hear your heart beat. This time or place is very rare in our day and age. We’ve become consumed with the things that entertain us, and in some instances, take us away from the Lord. When this happens, we often find our lives become more complicated and confusing. We take away the key element in our lives and place other insignificant pieces in God’s place. When this happens, our lives are void and without peace. Let us examine some verses that will help us to return to the joyous times that we can have with God.

David was very understanding of when he needed to listen and speak. He clearly understood the importance of God, and even in his darkness times, he felt that the Lord was not with him. “I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me. I was dumb

with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred” (Psalm 39:1-2). David clearly states the condition that he finds himself in troubled times, and yet he kept his tongue from saying things that would offend or hurt his brother. The key to his success was that he remained silent. He pleaded to God for understanding and to be able to sustain from becoming angered or frail. The qualities that David exhibited were parallel to those of Christ. Both remained still and listened for the Father’s words to comfort and restore.

Finding this peace requires us to listen for God to respond and direct us in His paths. Joshua was grieved over the death of Moses and found consolation from the words of the Lord. “Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest” (Joshua 1:9). When God

reminds man of His promises, we should listen and be silent knowing that God will attend to matters that are contrary to His children. This was proven as they overcame Jericho. They marched several days around Jericho in silence until "...it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city" (Joshua 6:16). What would become of this situation had the people not been obedient to the instructions given by Joshua from God?



In the moments of silence, we find comfort and tranquility. Our lives may contain trials and tribulations that consume us. It is in these times that we must call upon God and seek His guidance. Does God hear me? Was my prayer sincere enough that a response will be given? We can ask these questions, but we must confidently come before God without doubt. God knows our needs, and He requires that we acknowledge our faults and come to Him with all sincerity. Was Jesus required to call upon the Lord with the same awareness? "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm" (Mark 4:39). We can see clearly that this act performed by Jesus was for all to see that in the face of a storm we know that God will calm us if we have faith and remember His faithfulness toward us just as Joshua did.

So why do we call upon the Lord and not patiently wait upon His answer? This is the calm and silence that

He wants us to have. Asking God to help us and bringing our tribulations in prayer to Him helps us to grow. Our faith cannot cease after we pray. It must continue as we wait for the Lord to respond. "But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Peter 4:13). Proof is revealed that God gives His comfort to rejoice in. We must have hope and remember that our hope in Christ is for eternal life.

The idea that Jesus was pleading to the Father in His last hours may seem a bit harsh, or some would say cruel. "And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt" (Mark 14:36). He pleaded for His life on three different instances looking for an answer during this time of peril. The disciples were found sleeping instead of praying and watching with Jesus. Seeking an answer from God requires us to pay attention and wait for the Lord to reply. If we are not still, we may miss the answer from God. This requires the patience of a saint.



Finally, let us not seek for answers outside of the church. There are many diversions from the truth. They may take us out of the way and leave us seeking other doctrines. God will answer our prayers, and whether it be quickly or over a longer period of time, it is evident that God is working on our request to Him. Saul was seeking an answer from God (see I Samuel 28:15). Saul got his answer, and it was not pleasing to him (verse 20). In his haste to find God's favor, Saul used other resources to try to talk to Samuel, who had died, instead of seeking repentance. We must call upon the Lord in all instances, and if need be, wait in silence for God's righteous answer.

Be Careful And Watch Your Step

Bond Tennant



Several years ago, when I was a young boy, my mother and I went to the train depot in order to travel to the nearest big city which was about fourteen miles from our house.

After the train pulled into the depot, the conductor would put down a stool for the passengers to use as they exited the coach. He would cry out, “Be Careful, And Watch Your Step.”

In this twenty-first century of apostasy and iniquity, when a huge percentage of the population has departed from the “faith which was delivered to the saints,” the children of God must be extra careful about their spiritual well-being. They walk on slippery places. Satan is going about seeking whom he may devour. The devil’s desire is that God’s children should slip by the wayside. Therefore, they must not become overconfident. “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (I Corinthians 10:12). To reinforce the validity of our subject, let us consider two well-known personages--one mentioned in the Old Testament, and one mentioned in the New Testament. We remember that both were outstanding men of God. However, let us remember that both of them committed a sin that brought shame and reproach upon them.

Abraham

Abraham is known in the Old Testament as “The Friend of God”. He was the first-born son of his father, Terah. After Abraham entered manhood, God came to

him and made the well-known promise which is known as the Abrahamic Covenant.

In order to receive God’s manifold blessing, as stated in the covenant, Abraham took his family and earthly possessions, left Haran, and moved into the Promised Land--Canaan (see Genesis 12:5). After Abraham had been in the Promised Land a few years, God let a severe famine overtake it. Because of the famine, Abraham was forced, or so he thought, to go down into Egypt. The Egyptians were eating from the hand of plenty. As he and his party came near to Egypt, he said to his very attractive wife, Sarah, “. . .,when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive. Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee” (Genesis 12:12-13). In this carefully planned and deliberate lie, we see Abraham conniving to save his life. In so doing, Abraham sinned. He did not have his “. . .loins girt about with truth...” (Ephesians 6:14).

God could have handled the situation down in Egypt just as well if Abraham had told the truth. God is Truth! Therefore, He cannot have anything to do with a lie.

Because Abraham said that the beautiful woman with him was his sister, Sarah was taken into the house of Pharaoh. Because Sarah was favored by Pharaoh, Abraham received many expensive gifts.

After Abraham lied to Pharaoh, God sent plague after

plague upon Egypt. By doing this, God was able to reveal to Pharaoh the true state of affairs. We see him sending for Abraham and saying, "... , What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way" (Genesis 12:18-19).

"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12).

Peter

We find Peter named first in the list of the apostles. In the more intimate circle of the favored three disciples, Peter is likewise first choice. The big fisherman from the Sea of Galilee was the first of the apostles to openly confess Jesus as the Son of God. Peter had a way of winning the affections of Jesus unto himself, and he commanded the attention of the followers of Jesus. Peter was always eager, ardent and impulsive, and he was a man of action.

He walked on the waves of the Sea of Galilee. He cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. Peter proposed "three tabernacles" in the Mount of Transfiguration.

Now let us note the subtle workings of Satan even with this great man of God. On the night of His betrayal, Christ told His chosen twelve, "...All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered

abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee" (Matthew 26:31-32). After Christ said this, the booming voice of Peter said, "...Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended" (verse 33). However, Christ warned Peter, "... Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice" (verse 34). Christ was saying to Peter, "I tell you, tonight, before a cock crows, you (Peter) will disown me three times." Then Peter said to Christ, "...Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee..." (verse 35).

Later that night Christ was taken before Caiaphas the high priest. While He was being questioned, and a parade of coached witnesses was pitted against Him, Peter, that stalwart disciple who was ever so sure of himself, was given the opportunity of acknowledging or denying Christ.

As we know, Peter denied the Lord three times in the space of just a few hours. Peter said, "...I do not know this man" (verse 72; see vss. 69-75). Peter disowned the very Christ. He said "No", when he should have said a definite "Yes!"

By our actions, we acknowledge or deny Christ. Let us remember the words of the title of this short article, "Be Careful And Watch Your Step" because they caution all sincere children of God!



The Law of the Spirit of Life

By David DeLong

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the

righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can

be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness" (Romans 8:1-10).

It is the Holy Spirit living within an individual that brings new life to him or her. As long as the Spirit of life indwells a person, that person will have eternal life. If the Spirit leaves, or never was in a person's life, that person will not be in God's kingdom but will be placed in the lake of fire and destroyed. This may sound simple enough. However, it is the believer's job to faithfully live so that the Spirit is always residing in her or his life.

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit enters the believer's life after repentance from sin, baptism in Jesus' name, along with the laying on of hands for the reception of the Spirit. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:17).

The Holy Spirit will stay with the believer unless forced to leave because of his or her sin. No one wants to live in a filthy house, and the Lord is no exception. As we have seen, for one to receive the Spirit in the first place, he or she has to repent of sin. Sin is breaking God's holy Law, the Ten Commandments (see I John 3:4). The believer must not go back into a life of sin. II Peter 2:21 reads: "For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." To do this would be to quench the Spirit.

I Thessalonians 5:19 declares: "Quench not the Spirit." In the Old Testament, King Saul quenched the Spirit by disobedience. In one instance he offered a burnt-offering which he was strictly forbidden to do (see I Samuel 13:9). In another instance he was guilty of incomplete obedience by not destroying all that the Amalekites had (see I Samuel 15). Therefore, we read in I Samuel 16:14: "But the spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him."

In the New Testament, Jude wrote of those who were living in sin. He warned: "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit" (Jude 1:19).

So we see, then, that it is absolutely essential for one to have God's Spirit for salvation and to have the power to overcome sin. But, how do believers know that they have the Spirit in their lives? Some even try to prove that they have the Spirit by letting their bodies get out of control during worship time. (This, by the way, is a wrong spirit).

Let us go back to Romans, chapter 8. Verses 11-17 inform us: "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

This is the answer whereby a believer knows that he or she has the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is also known as "the Spirit of adoption" and allows the properly repented and baptized person to call upon God as "Abba, Father". The Spirit bears witness with our spirit, in a sense of peace and not fear, that we are in the family of God. The Spirit is also in the process of leading the child of God, directing one's conscience in the right way to go. Isaiah 30:21 says: "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Furthermore, Romans 8 instructs us that we must also suffer with Christ. It is God's Spirit that strengthens us to go through the trials of a godly life.

Faith in Christ must be the basis for the Christian to live the overcomer's life. Too many believers rely on their emotions, rather than upon Christ's power. Some days they feel closer to the Lord than on other days. Feelings, therefore, direct their lives instead of faith. I John 2:3-6 gives believers the assurance that they truly know the Lord and are living for Him. "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar,

and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."

According to Galatians 6:7-9 a person must sow to the Spirit. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." One way to sow to the Spirit, as we have just read, is to be involved in "well doing". Verse 10 tells us that as we have the opportunity we should do good to everyone, especially to the household of faith. In other words, let's especially make sure that our brothers and sisters in Christ are taken care of. We can't do good works to earn salvation, but doing good works will help ensure that the Spirit stays within the believer. This is sowing to the Spirit.

Doing good was one of the goals of our Lord Jesus. Acts 10:36-38 records this about Him: "The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Jesus went about doing good. This was especially to the children of Israel at that time, helping those who were afflicted. Jesus certainly sowed to the Spirit.



We need to also pray in the Spirit. Ephesians 6:18 reads: "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints". This doesn't mean, as some think, to pray in some unintelligible utterances. Praying in the Spirit involves being in tune with what the Lord wants us to pray for, especially other saints. As Paul wrote, "watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints".

The law of the Spirit of life is not just about new life now, but is also about the life to come in the first resurrection. As we have already read, if God's Spirit indwells a person, then that person will be raised to new life. The Apostle Paul had a good discussion with the Corinthians about the process of the resurrection. He wrote in I Corinthians 15:35-45: "But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."

"The law of the Spirit of life is not just about new life now, but is also about the life to come in the first resurrection."

What Are You Reading?

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy to concentrate upon his reading. I Timothy 4: 12-13 informs us: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

It is necessary for us to read. It gives us pleasure to read. It is a delight to do so and it also improves our mind, if we take advantage of the good literature that is available. It helps us gain perfection if we read the Word of God. A person who reads good books is never lonesome because a good book is one's friend.

Our best friend ought to be the Bible. In it we find everything that makes life pleasant. It contains the best stories or adventures that delight our hearts. In it we find music as early as in Adam's family, where they played the harp and organ (see Genesis 4:21). The best singers are mentioned in Chronicles and some of the finest songs are recorded in the book of Psalms. We also find how we should behave ourselves and how our conduct should be.

We find in our Bible a wealth of wisdom and reading it will make wise the simple. II Timothy 3:16 reads: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness".

The Scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man, and it fits him fully for all vocations and branches of his work. Reading the Bible not only brings us sustenance for our daily needs, it also leads us unto the way of salvation, and points the way to eternal life.

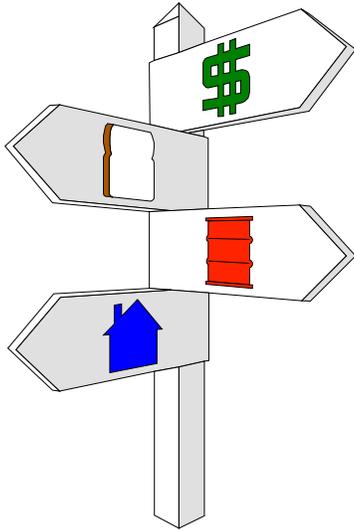
The Word of God (the Bible) reveals to us the future,

tells us of the past, and guides us in the present. It tells us of the wonderful love of God and of His Son, Jesus. The Apostle John wrote: "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen" (John 21:25).

The world is full of books and, sadly enough, there are many books written which are not fit to read and are of no edification to us. The news stands are full of trash and we cannot warn our young people enough to keep away from bad books and magazines. An evil written word, or evil pictures, can mar one's soul for ever. Let us be aware of the influence that reading brings. It either will be for the good or for the bad.

Jesus one time talked with a lawyer about eternal life. We find the story in Luke 10:25-28. "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live." In other words Jesus was telling the man that his eternal life was based upon his understanding of what he read in the Scriptures. So is ours.

Let us read only the things that teach us the way of eternal life. Let us be like Isaiah who wrote: "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read..." (Isaiah 34:16).



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.

Something About Which To Think

Have you been wondering why there has been no particular mention of the many problems in other countries in relationship to America. Each conflict within a country is a sign of the times as foretold by our Lord. It is most difficult now to surmise what part a country will play in human history. The world is most complicated now. From reading older literature, I noticed that some made statements about the movement of a country that did not take place when it was predicted.

In the many years of the cold war, America and the free western world really had only one confirmed enemy. That was communism in the east. Now, as the last days proceed, there are many more enemies with which to contend. They are much more scattered over the world. We have the terrorist groups as well as those radical religious groups, and each group only wants its way. It is not easy to be the leader of a nation such as the United States, no matter what party or philosophy the leader has. It is also not easy for one to be a member of the governing body of such a country.

After considering the state of the nations, to what other conclusion can we come except they all are in the grips of perplexity (no way out of circumstances) and perilous (dangerous) times?

Dire Facts About Climate Change

Climate change is on the minds of many. I have spoken to many people who think that, at the rate that climate change is progressing, mankind will only have so many years to exist on the earth. (The number of years depends

upon to whom one speaks).

Scientists and weather experts tend to agree that climate change is forcing many to change their lifestyle, and it will continue to force a change of lifestyle on into the future.

I would like to share with you some dire effects of climate change of which children of God do not have to worry. These facts are copied from an article which was published in the *Houston Chronicle* entitled **Climate change damages already felt here, beyond** by Carolyn Lockhead. The following is the article which has been condensed:

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration rolled out a detailed federal report Tuesday that set out specific ways climate change is damaging every region in the country – including far-reaching impacts on Texas.

According to the report, the state is particularly vulnerable to rising levels, worsening droughts and heat waves – all exacerbated by population growth, urbanization, and energy development. The report warned of more damage like that seen in 2011, when many locations in Texas and Oklahoma experienced more than 100 days over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, with both states noting new high temperature records. Rates of water loss were double the long-term average, depleting water resources and contributing to more than \$10 billion in direct losses to agriculture alone.

Temperatures Rising

Changes underway now, according to the report, include altered times of plant flowering, increasing

wildfires, shifts in species distributions, a drop in the abundance of native species, and the spread of invasive species.

“Climate change is no longer a future issue,” said Katherine Hayhoe, director of Texas Tech’s Climate Science center and one of the report’s leading authors. “We are experiencing its impacts today. In the Great Plains, rising temperatures are already increasing demand for water. For the United States as a whole, climate change will affect our lives through its impacts on our health, our water resources, our food, our natural environment and our economy.”

Agriculture Vulnerable

The impacts are also great elsewhere in the U.S.

California’s farm industry, which provides more than half the nation’s fruits, nuts, and vegetables, is particularly vulnerable, as are many cities along the California coast, including San Francisco, where flooding is already occurring at high tides as sea levels rise. Competition for scarce water as the Sierra snowpack dwindles is expected to intensify among cities, farmers and the environment, the report says.

California had its warmest January on record this year. Temperatures nationally are expected to rise another 2 to 4 degrees over the next few decades, on top of about 1.5-degree warming since the late 1800’s, most of it since 1970, drying soils in the South and fueling strong storms and flooding in the East.

The report sets the stage for President Barack Obama’s politically perilous end run around Congress, starting next month, with expected new plans to clamp down on greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Goaded by White House adviser and former UC Berkeley professor John Holden, along with White House special adviser John Podesta, Obama plans to make addressing climate change a major push of his remaining time in office, even as control of the Senate rests with vulnerable Democrats clinging to seats in the heart of the fossil fuel industry.

“The real bottom line of this report is that climate change is not a distant threat, but is already affecting every region of the country and key sectors of the economy.” Holden said. “This is the loudest and clearest alarm bell to date signaling the need to take urgent action.”

Competition For Water

Podesta acknowledged that climate change is low on

the list of voter concerns, saying most people “don’t feel that sense of urgency. This report can influence that.”

The National Climate Association said a warmer climate will have an especially harsh effect on the produce grown in California, almost all of which – such as grapes and tomatoes – has a high water content and relies on irrigation.

The combination of a longer frost-free season, less frequent cold-air outbreaks, and more frequent heat waves accelerates crop ripening, and maturity, reduces yields of corn, tree fruit, and wine grapes, stresses livestock and increases agricultural water consumption, the report says.

The Southwest as a whole, where the population is expected to increase 68 percent by mid-century to 94 million people, is already short of water, the report says (end of article).

Comment

We cannot deny that the climate change facts listed in this article are made-up or not happening. The problem seems to be that this issue is being kicked around like a political football. This makes the problem perplexing. Should more laws be enacted which could cause many, like coal miners, to suffer and lose their jobs? Are the habits of our population causing the problem?

There is no need for children of God to worry. No matter what happens, God has promised that the earth will always have a population. Only God can solve the climate change problem.

Veteran Troubles

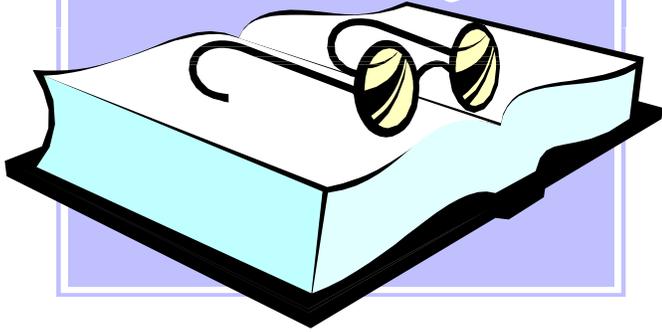
All of you have heard of the trouble in the Veterans Administration health care system. The head of the system has resigned. Was the backlog and dishonesty in the system really his fault. Besides dishonesty, another problem is the sheer number of veterans that must be served.

A leader of a huge organization cannot be in two places at once. He must have competent underlings. So is it fair to blame the Veterans Administration head for the problem? When something goes wrong, people always look for a scapegoat.

Jesus Christ is our leader, and He will never fail. He has not promised to deliver every one of His children from physical harm, but no blame can be put upon Him because He is the perfect leader and Head.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Sometimes I feel as though I am not doing the things in my witnessing and Christian life that may lead others to Christ. Can you give me any thoughts on this subject?

ANSWER: Let us start by admonishing you that it is "THE LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT--NOT SOME GREAT THING!"

Let us consider the story of Naaman. Naaman was the Syrian commander who was a great man and also a leper. On one of his raids, a little girl from Israel was captured and said that there was a prophet who could heal the Syrian leader. So Naaman came with his horses and chariots to Elisha and was told to go and wash in the Jordan seven times. This offended Naaman because he wanted something spectacular done, and this seemed so simple it appeared foolish. His servants, however, finally persuaded him to follow the instructions, and he was healed. II Kings 5:13 records, "And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?"

We are oftentimes very suspicious of simple things. The old laws of morality appear to us trite, for we have heard them discussed too long. We are always looking for some new philosophy or some new religion which can release to us a secret for successful living. The people of

the West are much intrigued by the idea that there is an Eastern religion that can do more for them than their own. The simple rules of life do not thrill us, and we hope against hope that there will come some special situation that will make us great overnight. The simple friendships and relationships with others are hardly ever properly appreciated until they are lost.

We are a people wanting the spectacular. The simple worship services of the village church are neglected, but we will flock to some tremendous revival meeting to hear a message that we have been hearing all our lives. Salesmanship has become the rule by which we impress people of the needs they never knew they had. Advertising makes promises of miracle products that are supposed to transform our whole lives. Every new campaign has to be a little larger with greater promises, and every new selling approach has to found something even more glittering. This generation can understand Naaman who did not believe that God could perform any kind of miracles without a spectacular setting. Churches must be impressive, and religious organizations are expected to be as colorful and worldly as any merchandising organization.

Let us learn the lesson that Naaman had to learn many, many centuries ago. Life is made up of simple things. So much of what we think is impressive is really cheap and vulgar. A simple and sincere word of encouragement and love means more than all the promises of our commercial

enterprises. The simple things of the home can determine the affairs of a man's life. The quiet evening with a friend does more to restore our wasted energy than a thousand dollar vacation at some spectacular resort. After a man or woman runs through so much of this tumult and shouting, they come at last to find that the elemental things of their lives are usually very quiet and simple.

We need to learn, as Naaman had to learn, that God's greatness is reflected in ordinary men and women. He meets us when we least expect Him, while we are doing our duty of fulfilling our obligations. All of life is a miracle, and all of our nature is a shining glory. And He finds us, usually not through some great one, but through some good, sincere, and humble man or woman.

The little things that you do in your witnessing and Christian life will point others to Christ more than any great thing you can do!

QUESTION: I feel that when I go into the forest and observe nature I am closer to God than at any other time. What do you think?

ANSWER: Let us consider your feeling. The question then arises, What can nature do to feed the body with spiritual food? Can nature bestow the spiritual stimulus and stability which church offers? Some, like you, assert that in "viewing the varied fields of nature, the delightful scenery, the mountains, and the resplendent rivers," the desire to worship is satisfied.

We believe that our love for nature is as deep and ardent as any man's. We delight to lift our eyes to the hills and to the far horizons of land and sea and sky. However, we cannot trace in nature "the unambiguous footsteps of God." Nature offers no evidence of a God who is adequate to the real, deep needs of man. It has no word of salvation or of a Saviour, no gospel of a redeeming love. It cannot forgive sins nor empower our will to goodness.

Yes, nature may compel belief in a Creator who is omniscient, filled with an amazingly artistic mind and a sublime love for details of the little things. It may lead one to ask the question put forth by Thoreau, "How did these beautiful rainbow tints get into the shell of a fresh-water clam, buried in the mud at the bottom of our river?" But nature is not universally beautiful, sweet, and gentle. Nor does it everywhere whisper, "The hand that made us is

divine." The newspapers tell of lightening, earthquakes, tidal waves striking men, women, and children. The sea, which is the children's paradise in summer, is to many a cold, callous, treacherous monster which has swallowed many beloved children.

There is no power in nature to compel the soul to virtue. If that were true, would it not follow that those who live in the heart of nature's loveliest gardens would be conspicuous for virtue, since nearest to God implies approximation to His nature? The inhabitants of many a Pacific island gorged themselves with human flesh and indulged in bestial excesses hardly to be conceived, while all around them was nature's exquisite beauty. To live in intimate association with nature is no guarantee of beauty, of holiness, of sweetness, and spiritual influence.

Nature cannot satisfy the desire of worship. What response can nature make to adoration? Worship is not the admiration of a Creator's craftsmanship. At its best, worship is fellowship with brethren alone with God who draws close to men as they sing, pray, and listen.

Can nature lead guilty men to a cleansing stream? Has it a voice to tell of love like that of Calvary? God who can meet the sovereign necessities of the human soul is revealed alone in Jesus Christ, His words, His life, His death. Can nature introduce us to Christ? It cannot!

Nature can never give the Creator to men. That is the peculiar office of the Son, the Bible, and the church of which the Son is the head. Jesus purchased the Church of God with His own blood. There in the assembly of the saints is the power of God and the will of God made manifest. If you neglect these, you deprive yourself of that which is essential to the upkeep of the spiritual body, and which is not in the power of nature to impart.

Please consider these things.

QUESTION: When was the first recognized Sunday Law enacted?

ANSWER: The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says this: "The earliest recognition of the observance of Sunday as a legal duty is a constitution of Constantine in 321 A.D. enacting that all courts of justice, inhabitants of towns, and workshops were to be at rest on Sunday (*venerabili die Solis*), with an exception in the favor of those engaged in agricultural labor."



Dallas, Texas

Part Two of the Ministers' Meeting in Dallas
(continued from the August "Advocate of Truth").





Gary Mills and David Royer (from the Board of 7). Brethren enjoying fellowship during the meeting.



A Youth group giving fine specials during the Sabbath service.



We were blessed with much talent, including this Youth group during the service.

LESSON I

LESSON II

GOD FEEDS ELIJAH

ELIJAH PERFORMS A MIRACLE

Scripture Reading: I Kings 17:1-16.

Golden Text: I Kings 17:6.

“And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.”

NOTE: We are going to learn about Elijah who was a prophet during the time of king Ahab who ruled over Israel and brought much wickedness and idol worship to the people. Elijah was completely devoted to the Lord and was given power to perform mighty deeds and wonders. Let us now learn more of Elijah.

1. What message did Elijah give to King Ahab? I Kings 17:1.
2. After Elijah prophesied against Ahab, where did the Lord send him? I Kings 17:2-3.
3. Did Elijah obey God's order? I Kings 17:5.
4. Who brought him bread and meat to eat? I Kings 17:6.
5. After the brook dried up, where was Elijah sent? I Kings 17:7-9.
6. Elijah goes to Zarephath as God had commanded, and he meets the widow woman. What does Elijah say to the woman? I Kings 17:10-11.
7. What was the woman's reply to Elijah? I Kings 17:12.
8. Did the Lord still feed and care for Elijah? I Kings 17:13-16.

Scripture Reading: I Kings 17:17-24.

Golden Text: I Kings 17:24.

“And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned how God fed Elijah during the drought. He also was sent to the widow's home where God provided meal and oil for them to eat. We will now study of a great miracle that Elijah performs with God's help.

1. What happened to the widow's son? I Kings 17:17.
2. What did the widow say to Elijah in I Kings 17:18?
3. Where did Elijah take the widow's son? I Kings 17:19.
4. What did Elijah say to God, and what did Elijah do to the son? I Kings 17:20-21.
5. Did the Lord listen to Elijah and heal the widow's son? I Kings 17:22.
6. What did Elijah do with the boy after God revived him? I Kings 17:23.
7. What did the widow woman say to Elijah after she saw her son alive again? I Kings 17:24.

LESSON III

ELIJAH AGAINST BAAL'S PROPHETS

Scripture Reading: I Kings 18:17-40.

Golden Text: I Kings 18:37.

“Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.”

NOTE: We have been studying about Elijah, and we will continue to learn about another miracle that is performed to show the children of Israel that God is the true God. Three years have passed since Elijah told Ahab there would be a drought. They will now meet each other again.

1. What did Ahab say to Elijah, and what did Elijah respond back to Ahab? I Kings 18:17-19.
2. What did Elijah tell the people that he would do as a prophet of the Lord against the 450 prophets of Baal? I Kings 18:21-24.
3. What did the prophets of Baal do with the bullock they received? I Kings 18:25-26.
4. What did Elijah do to the prophets of Baal, and what did he say? I Kings 18:27.
5. What did the prophets of Baal do to get their god to hear them? I Kings 18:28-29.
6. What did Elijah do to prepare his altar and the bullock? I Kings 18:30-35.
7. What did Elijah do at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice? I Kings 18:36-37.
8. Did God answer Elijah's prayer, and what did the people do? I Kings 18:38-40.

LESSON IV

ELIJAH ANOINTS ELISHA AS PROPHET

Scripture Reading: I Kings 19:1-21.

Golden Text: I Kings 19:19 (first part).

“So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned how Elijah showed the people that God was the true God and not Baal. Elijah's life is now threatened by the wicked queen, Jezebel, and

he escaped to the wilderness. God will then lead him to Elisha. Let us now study more about Elijah.

1. When Elijah goes to the wilderness to escape, what does he do and say? I Kings 19:4.
2. How was Elijah fed while in the wilderness? I Kings 19:5-7.
3. How long did Elijah stay on Mount Horeb, and what did he go into? I Kings 19:8-9.
4. How did the Lord appear to Elijah while on Horeb, and did God speak to him in any of these? I Kings 19:11-12.
5. Elijah hears God speak in a still small voice. What does God ask, and what did Elijah reply? I Kings 19:13-14.
6. What does God instruct Elijah to do in I Kings 19:15-16?
7. What was Elisha doing when Elijah found him, and did he follow Elijah? I Kings 19:19-21.



IF BIRDS COULD TALK

**Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so."
Said the sparrow to the robin,
"I am sure that it must be
That they have no heavenly Father,
Such as cares for you and me."**



MAKING MISTAKES

I am sure each boy and girl is busy at this time of the year. What a lot of things there are to learn about in this world. If we were to live for hundreds of years and study all that we could, we would still be learning and still making mistakes. Someone has said, "That is what erasers on pencils are for, to erase our mistakes." But the real mistakes we make cannot be erased with an eraser. When you are young is the best time to learn, and the best part of it is our mind is clear then, and we never forget the things we learned in our youth.

Now what does the Lord Jesus teach us? The way to eternal life, of course, because He wants us to have a home on this beautiful earth made new. It is a wonderful thing that the Lord Jesus offers to teach us Himself.

Sometimes teachers do make mistakes, and it's very awkward when they think you have been talking when you haven't. I remember the first day of school one year. I had used my own money to buy me a gingham dress and a new red sweater. I never did know just how it really happened but the first thing I knew the teacher was around the back of my seat and was shaking me up and down. I didn't mind the shaking as much as I did the stretching my new red sweater all out of shape.

Human teachers do make mistakes, but the Lord Jesus never makes mistakes, for He is the Son of God. We can safely follow Him all the way. He is ever ready to forgive our sins if we ask Him, and will never remind us of them again.

One day a little boy named Johnny was playing with his blocks under the table. In the same room his Mother was talking to his two older brothers, but as Johnny was only four years old, Mother did not think he was taking notice of what she was saying.

She spoke of the Lord Jesus dying on the cross for them, and told them that they must believe it for themselves, belong to God, and become His children. As she finished speaking she said, "Yes, and Jesus died for Johnny, too, little as he is."

It would seem that Johnny had taken no notice, but the words sank deep into this little heart, and when he knelt to say his evening prayer, he whispered, "Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me."

Johnny is now a grown man, and for years has been a faithful worker for Him. He says he knows without a doubt that he was converted at the age of four.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, "...Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Why not accept Him now and say to Him as Johnny did, "Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me."

TOOLS IN THE BIBLE

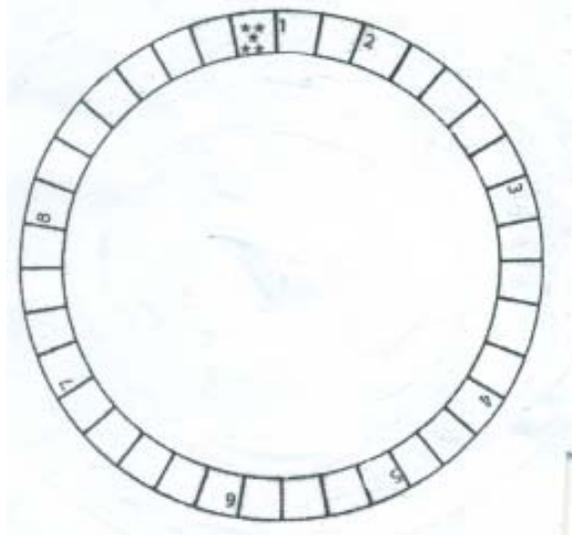
People who lived in Bible times didn't have electric lights or modern conveniences, but they did have certain tools. Some of their tools are listed below. The vowels have been removed. Can you fill in the missing letters? See how well you can complete them without looking up the text.

1. P - T T - R'S WH - - L Jeremiah 18:3
2. SL - NG I Samuel 17:40
3. SP - - R II Samuel 1:6
4. H - MM - RS Psalm 74:6
5. - XG - - D Judges 3:31
6. P - G Isaiah 22:25
7. THR - SH - NG SL - DG - Isaiah 28:27
8. S - WS I Kings 7:9
9. Y - K - Matthew 11:29

CIRCLE PUZZLE

Start with number 1 and go around the circle filling in the names of Bible women. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next one. Use the clues below to help you.

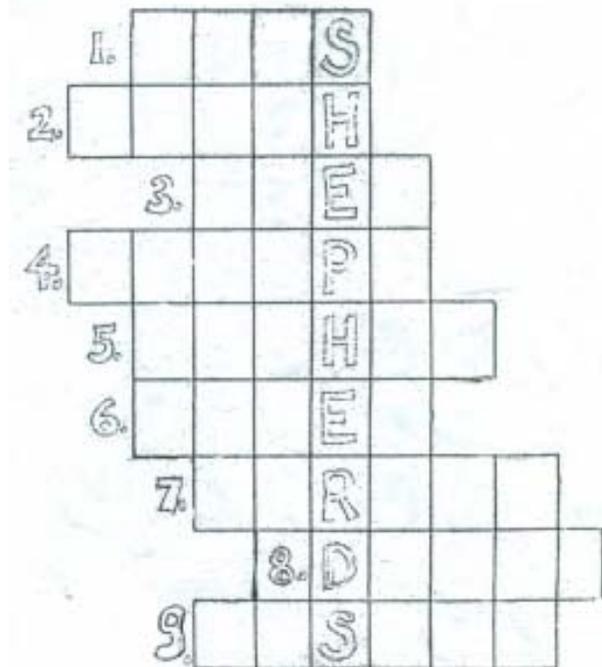
1. The first woman in the Bible and wife to Adam. Genesis 3:20.
2. A beautiful Jewish maiden that became queen and helped the people. Esther 5:3.
3. The wife of Jacob and the mother of Joseph and Benjamin. Genesis 29:18.
4. A woman of great faith and grandmother of Timothy. II Timothy 1:5.
5. The wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac. Genesis 21:2.
6. The wife of Elkanah and mother of Samuel. I Samuel 1:20.
7. A handmaid of Sarah and mother of Ishmael. Genesis 16:8.
8. The wife of Isaac and mother of Jacob and Esau. Genesis 24:67.



SHEPHERDS

Fill in the names of some shepherds from the Bible.

1. Who was a prophet, and one of the books of the Bible was named after him?
2. He is the 4th son of Jacob.
3. Who was the first shepherd recorded in the Bible?
4. Who had a coat of many colors?
5. She met Jacob at the well.
6. He saw a burning bush.
7. His name was Jacob, but God changed it to -?
8. Who said: "The Lord is my shepherd?"
9. He is the Good Shepherd.



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I'M THANKFUL

By Betty Whetstone

When my eyes behold a beautiful sunset,
Or a million stars on a clear summer night;
My mind turns to God in His heaven,
To His love, His mercy, and might.
“Thank you, God”.

When I'm watching two tiny sparrows
Working hard to feed their young in their nest;
I think of how God always feeds us,
His children, His chosen, His Blest.
“Thank you, Father”.

When I think of the many miracles
He performed to save Israel, long ago;
It's so plain how He has loved His people,
And it will always be so.
“Thank you, Lord”.

And when my mind shifts to dwell on His kingdom
That He's been preparing for all these long years;
My soul is longing to be there,
Where I'll be free from all these sorrows and tears.
“Thank you, my Almighty King!”

