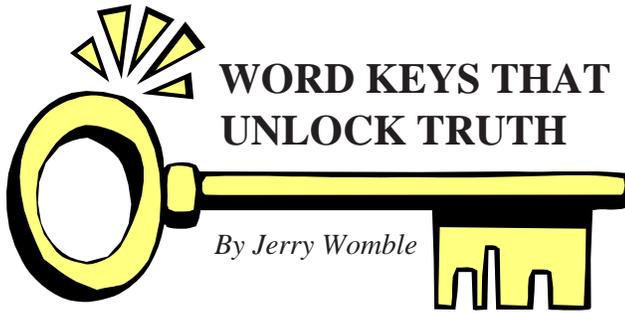




Advocate of Truth



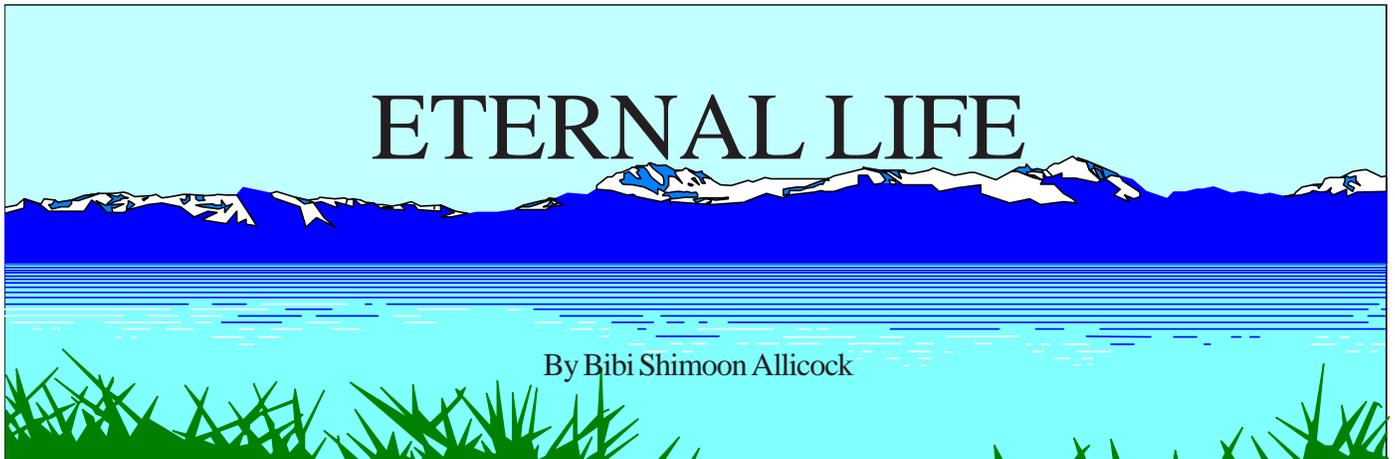
MILK AND MEAT

I first was going to define milk and latter define meat, but they both fit together in one thought. Milk is the beginning food for the physical body, and meat is the food that we take as the body grows and strengthens. Spiritually speaking, the milk of the word is the basic teachings that nourish our spiritual nature while we grow as a Christian (teachings like God is creator of heaven and earth, Jesus is the Son of God and our need for baptisms), and then we will need the meat of the word, the more ad-

vanced doctrines, to develop into a full grown child of God.

God's word is not given to us at full strength when we first began to learn of Him nor is it in a form that is impossible to understand; but, God gave the milk so that even the young convert could understand His truths, and He gave the meat of His word to us so that, in learning it, it sets us apart from the world and the false teachings in it.

Peter is referring to this same thing in I Peter 2:2 when he states "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby". Peter wants us to start out on the beginning principles and then continue to grow in our Christian life. The writer of Hebrews admonishes those he is writing to telling them that they should be teachers and leaders in the cause of Christ, but that they are not growing and really are still in need of some one to teach them the beginning principles all over again. As we go through our Christian life, let us be determined that we will not stand still, but that we will study to show ourselves approved to God and thereby teach both the milk and the meat to others.



There are many spiritual mediums in the world today. They lead many people astray into believing that there is immediate life after death. They give people the impression that they can communicate with the dead and predict one's future. These are only deceptions and false claims. "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there

is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:19-20). People must be more realistic and seek God rather than put their confidence in man. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6). "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man" (Psalm 118:8).

The word of God clearly states than when a person dies his soul perishes. "For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.

All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean; and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath. This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead. For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they anymore a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun" (Ecclesiastics 9:1-6).

The only life after death is eternal life, and it is only for those who die in Christ. Eternal life can be obtained by belief and baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus explained to a ruler of the Jews about being born again, or baptized. "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:1-6). "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:9-13).

"This same Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God

exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, the Lord saith unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 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 2:32-38).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3:16-21).

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3).

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

ARE YOU BAPTIZED?

LEARN WHAT YOUR OBLIGATIONS ARE



- BAPTISM -

By Moises Torres Martinez



The Holy Scriptures say that we need to be baptized in order to enter into eternal life. This was a commandment given by our Lord Jesus after his resurrection: "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16).

These words from our Lord Jesus clearly state that it is necessary to believe in a way to be baptized. So, it takes two steps to be saved, BELIEVE and BE BAPTIZED. Believe means to accept and have the complete assurance that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God. Baptism is the action of being immersed in water in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as a confirmation of our faith. But we must know that water baptism is only the beginning in the process of a baptism which will continue during all the believer's life.

The following lines will give support to this thought. Our Lord Jesus had already been baptized by His cousin John in the Jordan river, but sometime later, He states that He had to be baptized again! We read in Luke 12:50: "But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!" Here the Lord was speaking of His death, which was the end in the process of His baptisms which started in the Jordan river.

Baptism does not only take just one day, it takes all the days of our life. Through His time of preaching and many sufferings, our Lord Jesus showed that He was living under that process of baptism, and it continued until His death on the cross. This is why He said that He still had to be baptized even when He had already been baptized by His cousin in the Jordan river.

When we are baptized in water, we make a covenant of repentance and obedience to God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and we need to continue living under that process of baptism. We need to keep firm our vows once made in water baptism.

Let us see another example. The sons of Zebedee made once a request to the Lord: "Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory." The answer of the Lord was: "Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? and they said unto him, We can. And Jesus said unto them, Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of, and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized." Read Mark 10:35-39. This tells us that his apostles and disciples will follow the same process until death.

Like them, we also have to give testimony that we are baptized, and that we are passing through the same process of baptism that the children of God of all ages went over.

WHO REALLY BAPTIZES US?

John the Baptist said in a certain day: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire**" (Matthew 3:11).

It is the Lord Jesus who really baptizes us! It is not the minister or the elder, it is the Lord Jesus Himself! This takes a process of time. The Lord Jesus baptizes us

with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The Holy Spirit is power, knowledge, wisdom, energy, light, divine nature. The fire is the process of probation to which is exposed every person baptized in His name. Let us remember that the Lord is the refiner.

Job says: "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.": (Job 23:10). We, as children of God, must go through the fire to be

tried, and have, as Job, the assurance that we are walking in the path of the Lord. We are tried by the Lord when we permit Him to rule our lives.

May God our confidence be as Job's, and may the children of God show their baptism until the end. "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich..." Revelation 3:18.

IF YOU ARE BAPTIZED? Learn that one of your obligations is to live as a baptized member of the church.

DOES GOD HEAR ALL PRAYERS?

By Siegfried Maywald



In our society of affluence and self reliance, we see prayers said usually when people find themselves in some kind of distress or urgency. Many will call on God for help, comfort, relief and assurance. However, as long as things are going well, they hardly acknowledge that there is a God, and there is someone who sustains all that is contained within our universe. They neglect to recognize that there is someone who gives and maintains all life. Some people may even pray in expectancy to fulfill their earthly desires and then wonder why their prayers are not answered. They do not realize that their materialistic requests are not according to God's will and therefore not fulfilled. In the eyes of God, their prayers have no spiritual value because they are not obedient and faithful in seeking to please God. The conclusion is that prayer becomes a matter of intellect, as well as a matter of the heart. Therefore, people who do not believe that there is a God and that He is a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him should not be surprised when their prayers are not answered. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" (Matthew 15:8). "Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the under-

standing of their prudent men shall be hid. Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?" (Isaiah 29:14-15)

Every person creates within himself, within his own body through the mental, emotional and spiritual condition developed in the mind, either good or bad spiritual results. That means we do create our own health, happiness or sickness ourselves. It all depends whether we rely on guidance that is God given or on our own worldly wisdom and strength. We must understand that God cares for the welfare of every single human being. He does not want to harm any of us, but calls us into a relationship with Him. He wants people to trust Him, to obey Him not only in word, but in deed as well. If people will not confess their sins, the Lord will not hear them. Read Psalm 66:18. "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me" (Proverbs 1:28). "And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood" (Isaiah 1:15). "**Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth**" (John 9:31).

There are no answers to prayers because of:

Sin: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Psalm 66:18).

Selfishness: "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3). If we want to fulfill only our own desires, our prayers are not heard.

Doubt: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord" (James 1:5-7) We must believe!

Disobedience: "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard" (Proverbs 21:13). We must act in obedience to God's word. We must help where help is needed. We should be kind hearted and really care for the welfare of others as well as for our own. In other words, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Pride: When one acts as the Pharisee did as he stood and prayed with himself, "..., God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to this house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 18:11-14). We must be able to humble ourselves and have the courage to admit when we make a mistake or treated someone unfairly. Let us be honest! We all make mistakes.

Unforgiving: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15). We have to show mercy just as God shows mercy towards us!

We have to recognize that God is in charge, and He justifies. "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us" (Roman 8:33-34). People have to have the desire to believe and please God in faith and trust with an

open heart. Prayer may begin as a necessity at first in time of distress or calamity, but later it should become a desire to do so from the heart. In order to reach this goal, the following essentials become necessary:

- a. The heart must be filled and guided by the word of God, for only then can we abide in faith and obedience.
- b. We have to show real affection from the heart.
- c. We have to put thought into prayer so it has real meaning.
- d. We have to present our prayers in intensity, with energy, not with other thoughts in mind.
- e. We have to believe in faith, unwavering, completely trusting in God.

How can we expect our prayer to be heard when we are only halfhearted in mind and spirit? Think about that! Prayers are not heard when people say, "..., Behold, what a weariness it is! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand?... " (Malachi 1:13). If to make time to pray becomes a weary matter, it reveals that mark of degeneration. Are there not Christians who do find themselves in situations like that at times? The form of prayer and its appearance may remain the same, but its virtue is gone, without the power of the Spirit of God. Everything that opposes the life of the Spirit of God within us works unto death. "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). Therefore, let us beware of this kind of weariness which may lead us to meaningless, even dead, prayers.

When we pray, we should not act as the hypocrites. "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him" (Matthew 6:5-8).

"Ask, and it shall be given you, seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew

7:7). This is a threefold encouragement to people:

1. We are told to knock at the door, and it will be opened. This allows us to enter.

2. We are to seek the Lord and are guaranteed that we will find him. We are accepted.

3. We are to ask what we desire, and God will listen and answer.



"And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep" (Acts 7:60). Read Acts 7:2,44-53,58.

The above passage of scripture was spoken by Stephen at the time of his death by stoning. He had been unjustly brought before the Sanhedrin and wrongly accused by witnesses who were paid to make false accusations to discredit his character and faithfulness to God.

Stephen was a devout young man who was full of courage and zeal for the Lord. His defence before his accusers reflected this spirit of heart that had so motivated him. He did not attempt to defend himself. He chose rather to defend the truth by tracing the history of God's dealing with the nation of Israel from the time of Abraham on down to Moses, and even unto his own day. He also showed his faith in connection with the holy places of Israel and the promises of God, which were among the things of which he was being accused.

The specific charges against Stephen were that he had blasphemed against the holy place of God that is Jerusalem, and particularly its holy temple, which sanctified it and against the Law of Moses. The witnesses were able to make him appear guilty concerning the very things he defended with his life by taking out of context certain words that he may have said.

His discourse shows the degree of insight and appreciation of God that he possessed. By tracing the thread of history relative to God's dealings with the children of Is-

In conclusion, let us remember the seven things that God hates and which are a hindrance to answered prayer. "These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imagination, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren" (Proverbs 6:16-19).

A STUDY LESSON - THE COST OF CONVICTION

rael, Stephen proceeded to emphasize that the Jewish people especially those who sat in the Sanhedrin and were representative of Jewish law were responsible for the death of Jesus. He rose eloquently to the occasion and addressed them saying, "Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it" (Acts 7:51-53).

Upon hearing these words, his accusers were "...cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth" (vs. 54). They became infuriated by the manner in which they had been exposed for the murder of Jesus, the Messiah, even as their forefathers had been responsible for the deaths of those who were used of God to prophesy about His coming.

However, Stephen's climactic declaration was yet to be uttered as he turned his gaze and attention heavenward, in the direction of his risen Lord, who had only recently been brought to trial himself and crucified as a blasphemer. "But he, being full of the holy Ghost, looked steadfastly in heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (verses 55-56).

Unmoved by their manifestations of anger, Stephen continued his humble testimony to the greatness of God and the faithfulness of Christ, who had been resurrected and was now seated at the right hand of His Father.

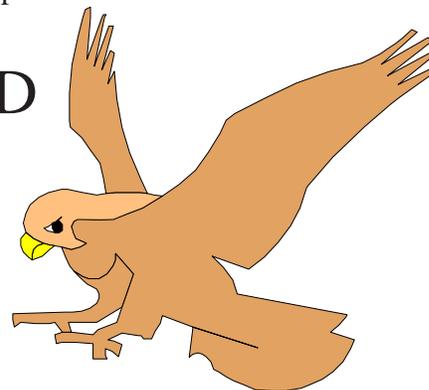
These words may have been the expression of his mental appreciation of the glory of God and the position that the risen Lord now occupied on the right hand of the Heavenly father. Or he may have been given a brief vision of heavenly glory to sustain him in his hour of trial. Though we are not told the details of this experience, we do know the impact that these words had upon those who were striving for his death. "Then they cried out with a loud

voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord. And cast him out of the city, and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul" (vss. 57-58).

Continuing his testimony of love and obedience to the principles of truth and righteousness to his last moment, Stephen became the first Christian martyr, and he has served as an example of faithfulness throughout the ages. Even while being stoned, he rendered up his voice in prayer to God that his spirit might be preserved and that the sin of his murderers might not be laid to their charge. And then he fell asleep in death.

"CALLING A RAVENOUS BIRD FROM THE EAST"

By Daniel Sanchez



"Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel, from a FAR COUNTRY: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it" (Isaiah 46:11).

There is one group who claims to be Christians. Their sect follows one man. By preaching and saying that they are commissioned by God, through Christ according to the dispensation of grace, this group has active ministers who convince many people that they fulfill the above prophecy.

Their beginnings can be traced back to the Philippine Islands as early as 1914 A.D. Some of them are now working in the United States of America, and some are found in Hawaii, as well as in many other parts of the world.

These people claim that the man in Isaiah 46:11 is Mr. Felix Manalo, a native of the island of the Philippines, from the province of Luzon.

Let us compare their predictions to the Holy word of God in the Bible to see if their testimonies are true. They Claim and I quote:

(1) The ravenous bird represents a man. And that

man is Mr. Felix Manalo.

(2) "and that man executeth God's counsels, from the East. And the East is the Philippines. (According to a quote taken from General Douglas MacArthur when He stated; "The Philippines is the Far East".)

(3) And that man came from a far country, and that country is the Philippine Islands.

The Scripture does say "My counsel will stand, and I will do my pleasure" (verse 10, last part). So it is God's good pleasure to bring it to pass. "I have purposed it" (last stanza, of verse 11).

We see that there is something wrong with their conjecture, and we conclude that it is not sound doctrine, neither is it scriptural. Isaiah 28:10 states, "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

It is dangerous to privately interpret God's Word. Read II Peter 3:16. God tells us that the Scriptures were written aforetime for our learning, and that through patience and the comfort of the scriptures, we might have hope. See Romans 15:4. Let the Bible speak for itself. We cannot add or privately interpret the Holy Word of God. If this is done, it will cause dire circumstances and

will defile the individual. See Revelation 22:18-19.

The question arises in our minds, who is the ravenous bird that came from the east? The answer is quite simple: It is not Mr. Felix Manalo, as many have already been deceived into believing. We can tell from The Holy Word of God that this bird is our Lord Jesus Christ. To explore God's word, Christ did not say literally that I am a bird. But the prophecy of Isaiah 46:11 shows what Christ did say in conjunction with Matthew 23:37. Jesus said, "O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chicks under her wings, and ye would not!"

Jesus compares Himself to a hen. A chicken is a bird. And that bird came from the East. Of course the word "east" did not refer to The Philippines. The Philippines is not found in Bible.

We know that the East is where the sun rises, and west is where the sun sets. The east was where Christ's star was found when He was born. In Numbers 24:17, we read, "I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him, but not nigh; there shall come a star out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel." Matthew 2:2 states, "...where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the East and are come to worship him." Verse 9 says, "When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star which they saw in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was". Now let us carefully take notice, in the preceding verse 10, of Matthew chapter 2, "WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR THEY REJOICE WITH EXCEEDING GREAT JOY."

Questions arise again in our minds, who did that star from the East represent? We find the answer in John 5:39. Christ said "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me." The Apostle John was inspired by Christ to write down all his testimony in the book of Revelation. That book has a promise which says "blessed" are those who read it. This is found in Revelation 1:1-3. In Revelation 22:16 Jesus tells us, "I Jesus have sent mind angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star." Here we have another testimony that states He is the star that came from the East (and not from the Philippines)..

In the first part of Isaiah 46:11, we see the statement

"the MAN that executeth my counsel from a far COUNTRY." Where is this FAR COUNTRY? Is it the Philippines as some believe? Abraham the patriarch, as well as Isaac and Jacob, looked for that far country.

We must heed God's Word, or we will surely be misled and thus fall away from the truth. We have an assurance from God which says, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (II Peter 1:19) .

In Hebrew 11:9 we read, "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise." Verse 16 states, "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly." We can conclude that Jesus represents that ravenous bird from the East and that "far country" is not the Philippines, but it is found in heaven.

Is it true that our beloved Lord Jesus said that the far country is in heaven, and not the Philippines as some men say? The Apostle Peter writes in I Peter 2:21-22, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in mouth." We know that Christ does not lie! Where does He explain about that far country? In Luke chapter 19:12, Jesus said, "He said therefore, a certain nobleman went into a FAR country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return." The Scripture tells us the truth and it shows us the will of God, so we should never be swayed by the traditions of men.

The above text is enough to show you that that far country is the heavenly where the Savior of the world is sitting at the right hand of God.

We know Jesus will return and set up His kingdom here on the earth. The New Jerusalem, the heavenly city, will be positioned over the old city of Jerusalem. We read in Jeremiah 23,5 that "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous BRANCH, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth." Let us not put our faith in man, but rather in the Lord and His promises.

He who hath an ear, let them hear, saith the Lord of Hosts.



Instructions For God's Children In 2003

By Bond Tennant

As they enter the secular year of 2003, children of God can find some sound instructions in II Timothy. Children of God must have their eyes wide open every day to observe the people around them. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts. Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their's also was" (II Timothy 3:1-9). Let all children of God beware of this sign of the last days! God's children must have a keen sensitivity to the capacity of evil and deceit that lies in the human heart. Just because a person has a religious vocabulary, does not mean that he has a true love for God and a genuine thirst for righteousness.

God's children must not be ignorant about the way Satan works nor about the deceptions that he is able to produce through man. Sin is sin! Therefore, people who sin are sinners!

God's children must stick to His word. "But thou

hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:10-17). How can children of God evaluate the theories, trends, movements, popular beliefs, and events in 2003? What can the child of God do to keep from going off track while staying in touch with the generation which he has the responsibility to reach? How can one avoid being caught up in the maze of new ideas, powerful emotions and exciting temptations?

The Bible must be the standard by which everything is measured - especially those things that have a religious ring to them.

One of the major areas of conflict is doctrine. Some far-out concepts that can instantly be recognized as error will be heard just as they have been in the past. However, God's children will also be confronted with ideas that can

scarcely be discerned from the truth as they have been in the past. These philosophies and views must be evaluated by the Bible. Have nothing to do with them if they don't fit, even though their proponents may claim they got them from God.

In 2003, God's children must continue to fulfill the command of Jesus to proclaim the love of God and the truth of His word. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, re-

buke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Timothy 4:2).

More is involved in proclaiming the gospel than just telling the world about the love of Jesus. This is important also. But proclaiming the gospel also means that the child of God will make known what he believes about the doctrines and features put forth in God's word. The loyalty and faith of God's children must be deeper than the surface in 2003!

7 Things You May Or May Not Know About THE MOON

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. It was created on the fourth day.

"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so" (Genesis 1:14-15).

2. It was not to be worshipped.

"And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven. But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day" (Deuteronomy 4:19-20).

3. David meditated about the creation which included the moon.

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8:3-4).

4. A trumpet was blown on the new moon.

"Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day" (Psalm 81:3).

5. There will be a time when the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

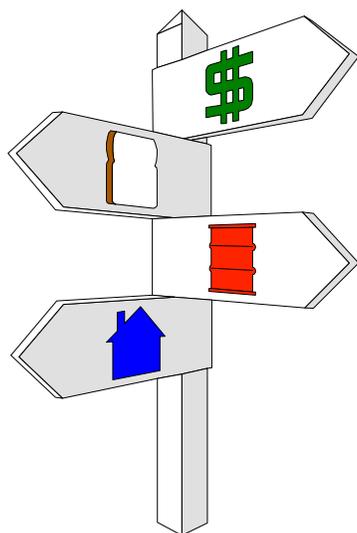
"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon

shall not cause her light to shine" (Isaiah 13:9-10).

6. There is a future period when the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun.

"Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound" (Isaiah 30:26).

7. In Revelation, we are told that during the plagues a third part of the moon will be smitten and not give its light. "And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise" (Revelation 8:12).



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.

The following article appeared in **The Report**.

A net for fishers of men A new Canadian Web site hopes to draw Christians together

by Carla Smithson

My goal, says Robbie Davidson, "is to break down the walls of denominationalism." He is scarcely the first Christian to shoot for this goal, and probably will not be the last, but Mr. Davidson is right to call his new Web portal "a bold approach for Canadians." On July 15, www.Christiancanada.com went on-line to advance the cause of ecumenism by "getting pastors interacting, then just allowing unity to happen." More specifically, the for-profit site seeks to catalogue over 60,000 Christian Web

sites, offer free Web space to churches, and compile its own archive of unique resources. Visitors can choose from discussion forums and articles geared to such groups as women, men, youth and even non-Christians wanting to learn more about the faith.

"Right now, we're changing the articles every two weeks," says the entrepreneur.

"When we get going, they will change every week and then every day." Mr. Davidson, who is based in Edmonton, has been working 14 hours a day since Christmas to move Christian Canada from idea to reality. "Canadians have been going to the United States to connect to sites like Cross Walk, but when they know a good-quality Canadian site is available, they will migrate," he says. He is putting his hopes for Christian unity into practice by working together with the Cross Canada Search Web page. "We're sending each other traffic," he says.

"Cross Canada Search is basically a search engine. Christian Canada is more membership-and community-based."

There are certain key factors that Mr. Davidson must incorporate successfully into Christian Canada if he wants to build a sense of community, says Mark Halvorson, Web editor for Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C. The Web is particularly useful in knitting together groups with specific interests, such as critical analysis of popular culture, the specialty of the six-million-hit-a-year site www.hollywoodjesus.com. "Cross Walk has been the leader in this, with the resources necessary to create Christian equivalents to Netscape's kind of communities," he says.

The Web is just the beginning, he notes. It is the other components of the Net, like e-mails, chat rooms, message boards and new groups, which really bring people together in cyberspace. "The Web is primarily a point of access, and space for connecting to someone else through the various channels," Mr. Halvorson points out. "For example, a friend of mine is a youth pastor who keeps in contact with church young people by chatting with them using ICQ (instant-messaging software) each night. That's where sites have been successful, when they use the Web as a dynamic bridge."

Christian Web sites seeking a loyal clientele face an additional challenge, says Broderick Wood, director of Information Technology Services for the Kings' University College in Edmonton.

"The biggest problem in terms of Christianity is that there is a lot of old-school thinking. If people hear anything bad about the Web-and there are a lot of bad stories-immediately the whole Web is evil," he explains.

A Christian portal needs to go to great lengths to prove itself diligent and trustworthy in what it allows in content and links. "There's no such thing as making a place safe enough, because you can't guarantee what's on other people's pages. People need to look out for themselves, just like in everything else in life," says Mr. Wood. "But they also want to know who the Web site designers are responsible to, and what their criteria are for allowing sites in the community."

"We are checking sites to make sure they match the right description and are not vulgar," says Mr. Davidson. Generally speaking, Christian Canada accepts any Catholic or Protestant Web site regardless of denomination or location (with some exceptions when it comes to fringe

groups), as well as Canadian sites in general that meet Christian standards of decency. He adds, "So far, the e-mails and reviews we've gotten are very good. People are happy with it, and they like the setup."

Comment

The above article tells us of a clever way in which one is attempting to advance ecumenism among Christian denominations. Getting together and talking with people of different denominations can produce a highly emotional feeling within us. However, we must remember that our emotions have nothing to do with gaining eternal life. We must follow the Word of God and do what it commands to have eternal life!

In ecumenism, there is a mixed bag of many false teachers and even a few out-and-out con men. We must be like the Bereans. A fellowship in a synagogue in the Grecia city of Berea were visited by the Apostle Paul, who tried to convince them that Jesus was the Messiah proclaimed in the Scriptures. The Bible gives them a terrific commendation. It says that they were willing to listen to what Paul had to say. Yes, they were open-minded. But more important, they checked out whether what he had to say was consistent with what the Scriptures actually taught. Read Acts 17:10-11.

The only way a Christian portal can prove itself diligent and trustworthy in what it allows in content and links is to concentrate upon the true teaching of the Word of God!

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

The following article appeared in **The Facts**.

America's wealthy lose billions

NEW YORK (AP) - The rich are getting less rich in America.

For the second straight year, but only the fourth time in 20 years of rankings, the combined net worth of Forbes magazines' 400 wealthiest Americans declined this year, reflecting the economy's continuing troubles.

Their total net worth of \$872 billion was down from \$946 billion in 2001 and \$1.2 trillion in 2000.

Even the benchmark for being ranked dropped.

The 2002 survey included individuals with a minimum net worth of \$550 million - down from the required \$600 million in 2001.

The top 10 remain the same, with some reshuffling of the order.

The biggest loser on the list, released Friday, was also the richest person: Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates.

Gates lost \$11 billion, for a net worth of \$43 billion. He now has lost \$20 billion - mostly because of the drop in value of his Microsoft stock - since the tech meltdown began in 2000.

The biggest winner was investor Warren Buffett, who remained No. 2 on the list. His net worth increased to \$36 billion from \$33.2 billion.

Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen also maintained his ranking - third - but saw his net worth fall to \$21 billion from \$28.2 billion.

Five relatives of the late Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart Stores, retained five of the top 10 spots. Their net worth increased to \$18.8 billion each from \$17.5 billion in 2001., thanks to strong consumer spending.

Oracle chief executive Larry Ellison, who fell from second in 2000 to fourth in 2001, dropped to ninth this year. He is now worth \$15.2 billion, down from \$21.9 billion last year.

Rounding out the top 10, Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer suffered a \$3.2 billion loss, for a net worth of \$11.9 billion.

Neither AOL Time Warner's Steven Case nor Sun Micro systems' Scott McNeally made the cut this year, casualties of the Internet implosion.

Martha Stewart was also among 35 people burned, largely because her company's stock drastically declined in value following her legal troubles.

Forty-six women made the list, including the three granddaughters of oilman J. Paul Getty. They each inherited \$400 million in 1986.

Comment

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye

have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in the day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you" (James 5:1-6).

Could this be the beginning of the weeping and howling of the rich men over the world? We can be assured that many rich men in other countries have lost money in the past year. Of course, not all rich men are as James 5:1-6 describes. Let us remember Proverbs 11:4, "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death."

FOR YOU, AND HOPEFULLY BACK TO ME

"I wish for you...

Comfort on difficult days,
Rainbows to follow the clouds,
Laughter to kiss your lips,
Sunsets to warm your heart
Gentle hugs when spirits sag,
Friendships to brighten your being,
Beauty for your eyes to see,
Confidence for when you doubt,
Faith so that you can believe,
Courage to know yourself,
Patience to accept the truth,
And love to complete your life.

God Bless you!

I asked the Lord to bless you
To guide you and protect you
As you go along your way....
His love is always with you
His promises are true
No matter what the tribulation
You know He will see us through
So when the road you're traveling on
Seems difficult at best
Give your problems to the Lord
And God will do the rest.

-From the Internet



Questions and Answers

Question: Who are the people on earth today who change the truth of God into a lie?

Answer: First, let us quote the verse to which you refer. "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever" (Romans 1:25).

This is a strong indictment against those that say they are atheists. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (vs. 22). The next group that is doing this are those who are homosexuals and lesbians. "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves" (vs. 24). They deny God and His creation by worshipping created things and the bodies of people.

The same radical error, which underlies all the pollutions and vices (drugs), is at the basis of rationalism, evolution, self righteousness, praying to saints, substituting ceremonies for the unadulterated truth. Read Psalm 57:17 and Matthew 7:20. End this study with reading Romans 1:19-28. "Ye shall know them by their fruits."

Question: Will you please explain to me what seems to be two contradictory statements of Deuteronomy 14:1-20 which lists foods that God says we may eat and those

foods which He forbids, and that are unclean for us to eat; and I Timothy 4:4-5 where we are told, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

Answer: It is a biblical fact that God has made a difference between the creatures in His creation as they relate to human consumption. In Deuteronomy 14:3-21 and Leviticus 11:1-30, we read of the differences between the clean and unclean. God instructed Noah, "..., Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of the beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female" (Genesis 7:1-2).

The Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthian church, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Corinthians 6:17-18).

Are we to consider that the Apostle Paul would make statements in favor of eating the unclean meats? We know that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. In

Timothy 4:1-5, Paul is actually confirming God's dietary laws (the clean and unclean). Paul writes, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that into the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." **WHAT MEATS HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED BY THE WORD OF GOD? ONLY THE CLEAN MEATS HAVE BEEN SANCTIFIED BY THE WORD OF GOD!**

In Romans 14:14, we read that nothing is unclean of itself. God created clean and unclean, but nothing is unclean of itself. As we can understand then, the Apostle Paul is only upholding those things of God which have been set forth even before Israel was a nation. We read earlier that Noah knew of the clean and unclean meats. Today, God's people continue to only eat of those meats which God has sanctified in his Word. This is part of the faith and testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17).

We also read of Isaiah's prophecy concerning those who eat the unclean, which is an abomination in God's sight, and are found doing so when Jesus returns. "For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many. They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 66:16-17). These verses inform us of the punishment from God upon all who eat the unclean and feel it is acceptable in the sight of God.

Question: What did Job mean when he said, "Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:6-7).

Answer: The Book of Job is a drama of man's struggle with suffering. Suffering and going through a time of trouble is one of the most confusing and most profound problems of the ages. It offers no easy solution. It points out that man must cultivate patience, courage and faith. This statement of Job expresses, in dramatic terms, the realistic fact that trouble is a part of life, and it is not due to the heavenly Father in heaven. No person can escape entirely the afflictions that are here on earth. Anyone who expects to be without problems and free from trouble is living in a fantasy world. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

In Jesus, we have peace, joy and happiness. Anyone who looks for trouble or who creates tribulations just because Jesus said there would be some, is living in a fool's paradise. Please read Revelation 1:9; 2:9 and 7:14. You will recognize that when Jesus said to rejoice even in tribulation, He is warning every believer. Jesus wants us to recognize and be realistic, and not morbid. Life can very discouraging and even tragic, but the underlying thought should always be according to the Scripture that there is a living heavenly Father with His Son, Jesus Christ, who loves us and understands us. They care immeasurably and share of their strength with others.

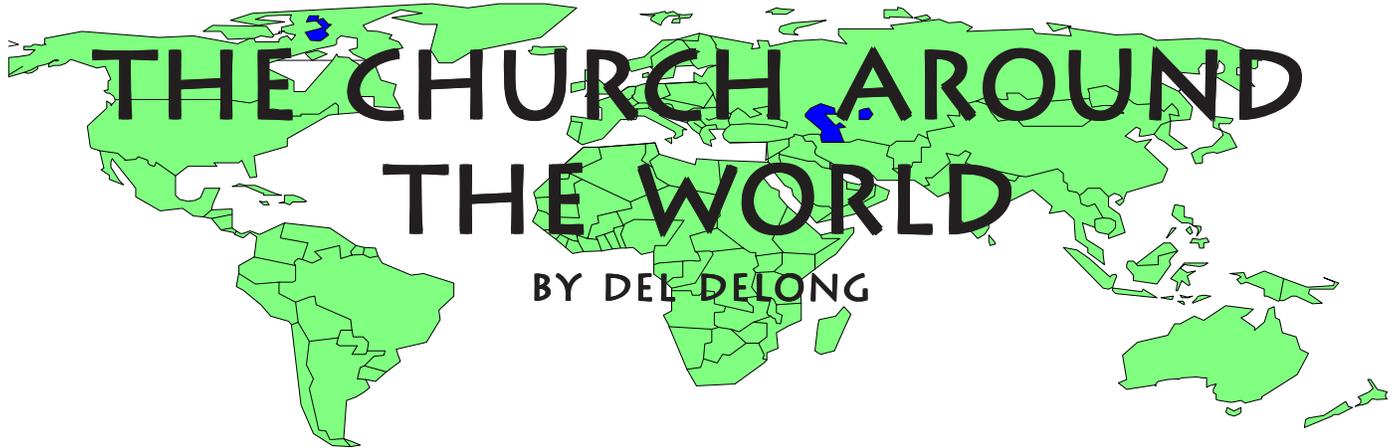
Question: In James 2:18-26 and Romans 4:19-23, how can you harmonize James's insistence on works with Paul's teachings that we are saved through faith?

Answer: James and the Apostle Paul do not disagree. James does not rule out the necessity of faith. His only claim is that works are necessary to demonstrate faith. He wrote, "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18). Paul presents essentially the same thought. In Romans 4:5, he explains that faith rather than works, is counted for righteousness. But in verses 19-23 of the same chapter, he explains that it was Abraham's work in connection with being the father of Isaac that proved his faith, being fully persuaded that what God had promised concerning the birth of the child, would be performed. "And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness" (Romans 4:22). James is in agreement with this in his statement, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith

only" (James 2:24).

Another point often overlooked in the writing of these two, relative to faith and works, is that they are not both discussing the same sort of works. Paul, at times, contrasts faith with the ceremonial works of the Law, such as circumcision: while James, in his reference to works,

means the things that we do in obedience to God's will which demonstrate that we believe God, and that our faith is not merely a mental assent to the fact that He exists, or that Jesus is our Savior.



KENYA

The following photographs are of various stages of the new clinic being built in Kenya. Brother Henry Miroro is our overseer there, and he reports that the work is nearly completed.





LESSON I**THE SEARCH FOR A WIFE FOR ISAAC****Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:1-16.****Golden Text: Genesis 24:4.**

"But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac."

1. When Abraham was getting old, what did he want his servants to do? Genesis 24:1-4.
2. What did the servants take when they started on their journey? Genesis 24:10.
3. When they arrived at the city, what did they do? Genesis 24:11.
4. What did the servant ask the Lord to do? Genesis 24:12-14.
5. When he had finished talking to the Lord, what happened? Genesis 24:15.
6. What did the maiden look like? Genesis 24:16.

LESSON II**REBEKAH GIVES THEM WATER****Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:17-28.****Golden Text: Genesis 24:28.**

"And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things."

1. What did she say when the servant asked Rebekah for a drink? Genesis 24:17-18.
2. What did she say and do after the servant had finished drinking? Genesis 24:19-20.
3. When the servant asked her who she was, what did she say? Genesis 24:23-25.

4. When he heard this, what did he do? Genesis 24:26.
5. What did the servant say? Genesis 24:27.
6. What did Rebekah do when she heard who he was? Genesis 24:28.

LESSON III**LABAN AND BETHUEL'S CONSENT****Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:29-52.****Golden Text: Genesis 24:51.**

"Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the Lord hath spoken."

1. When Laban, Rebekah's brother, heard about the servant at the well, what did he do? Genesis 24:29-30.
2. What did Laban say to the servant? Genesis 24:31.
3. What did he do when he entered the city? Genesis 24:32-33.
4. For what did he say that he had come to them? Genesis 24:40.
5. When the servant told Laban and Bethuel that he wanted to take Rebekah home for Isaac's wife, what did they say? Genesis 24:51.
6. What did the servant do when he heard this? Genesis 24:52.

LESSON IV**REBEKAH'S DECISION****Scripture Reading: Genesis 24:53-59.****Golden Text: Genesis 24:59.**

"And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse and Abraham's servant, and his men."

1. What did the servant give to Rebekah and her family? Genesis 24:53.
2. What did Rebekah's mother and brother say when the servant was going to leave? Genesis 24:54-55.
3. What was the servant's answer? Genesis 24:56.
4. How did they decide to settle it? Genesis 24:57.
5. What was Rebekah's answer? Genesis 24:58.
6. Who went with Rebekah? Genesis 24:59.

FIND THE NAME

To discover this Bible name find the eleven mystery letters in the puzzle below. Do this by comparing the two words on each line. The mystery letter is the letter that appears in the first word, but not in the second word.

1. THE LETTER IS IN MARCH
BUT NOT IN CHART
2. THE LETTER IS IN FOREST
BUT NOT IN FROST
3. THE LETTER IS IN MILE
BUT NOT TIME
4. THE LETTER IS IN CAR
BUT NOT IN ARK
5. THE LETTER IS IN HOUR
BUT NOT IN FLOUR
6. THE LETTER IS IN CHIN
BUT NOT IN NOTCH
7. THE LETTER IS IN MAZE
BUT NOT IN CAME
8. THE LETTER IS IN SEA
BUT NOT IN SAT
9. THE LETTER IS IN DREAM
BUT NOT IN CREAM
10. THE LETTER IS IN EAR
BUT NOT IN RAN
11. THE LETTER IS IN MARCH
BUT NOT IN HARM

SOMETHING TO SHARE

by Helena Welch

Jerry was unhappy. He wanted to go to visit Paul. Paul was the little boy who lived across the street. He and Jerry were good friends. He often shared his toys with Jerry.

But Jerry didn't have any toys to share with Paul. Jerry's parents were very poor. His daddy worked hard, but Jerry's mother had been ill a long time. Even though she was better now, she had to have a lot of expensive medicines. So there wasn't enough money to buy toys for Jerry.

Aunt Ellen, who had come for a visit, noticed how sad Jerry was. She put her arm around Jerry as he stood looking out the window at Paul's yard where Paul was playing. "Why are you unhappy?" she asked. "Won't you tell Aunt Ellen?"

Slowly Jerry nodded. He wanted to tell Aunt Ellen about not having any toys to share with Paul when Paul shared with him all the time.

"I wish I had something to share with Paul," Jerry added after he had told Aunt Ellen about it.

Aunt Ellen looked thoughtful for a moment. Then she said, "Maybe Paul doesn't need you to share toys with him. He has toys of his own. Maybe he would rather share your friendship. It can be pretty lonesome playing by yourself, even if you do have a lot of nice toys."

Jerry was quiet for awhile. He was thinking about what Aunt Ellen had said. He had never thought of playing with Paul as sharing, but maybe it was. He remembered how happy Paul always was whenever he came to play.

Suddenly Jerry looked up at Aunt Ellen. "If playing with Paul is sharing, and sharing makes Paul happy, then I should play with him more often, shouldn't I?" he asked.

Aunt Ellen nodded. "You certainly should," she answered and smiled at him.

Jerry was smiling, too. "Then I'm going to go and play with him right now," he announced as he ran out the door. "Thank you, Aunt Ellen, for telling me about having something to share. I'm always going to remember it."

And Jerry did.



SNATCHY SUZZANE

by G.H. Clement

Suzzane was a little girl with a bad habit which made her greatly disliked by all the children in the neighborhood. Everything she saw, she wanted. Maybe some little reader might say, "That's not a bad habit, Mister, that's only natural." Well, Suzzane not only wanted everything she saw, but she snatched from other children things that belonged to them. If she liked what they were playing with, she would just take it, and play with it herself. Her mother, and nearly every mother in the district, had scolded her for doing this, but she still kept right on snatching things that others had, which she wanted.

One day a little boy came to the playground with his bubble pipe. He was blowing beautiful, light bubbles out of the pipe and sending them up in the air. When Suzzane looked up from the sand box where she was playing and saw these colorful bubbles floating out of the pipe, she

got up and told the boy that she wanted that pipe. She grabbed it right out of the little boy's hand. She put it to her mouth and blew, and blew and blew, until her face was red. But not a single bubble came out of the pipe. She tried again after she had gotten her breath, but still no bubbles. Suzzane was puzzled and disappointed.

"I guess it's broken," she said, as she handed the pipe back to the little boy. "No, it isn't" said he.

"And if you had only asked me to loan it to you, instead of snatching it out of my hands, I would have shown you how it works. You can't make bubbles with nothing in the pipe."

She noticed a little bottle of soapy water in his other hand, but by then he was out of the playground and on this way home.

Still, Suzzane had not learned her lesson not to snatch things, for the next day Johnny, the boy next door, came to her backyard playing with a Yo Yo. He was making it do all kinds of tricks. Before he knew it, Suzzane grabbed it, and shot it out in front of her. But instead of it doing a nice circle as it had for Johnny, it sprang back and hit her right on the knuckles.

"Ouch," she cried, "But watch me do it right this time."

She spun it up in the air, and if she hadn't ducked quickly it would have hit her right on the forehead. She handed it back, disgusted, and a little shamefacedly too. She remembered the bubble pipe of yesterday.

"I'm sorry I grabbed this Yo Yo from you," she said. "Won't you show me how it works?"

Johnny looked surprised. He had never heard Suzzane say she was sorry for anything before. And neither had he ever heard her ask for anything she wanted. He was glad to show her, and what fun they both had together.

Suzzane never snatched anything after that. She found she was a much happier little girl, too, and her playmates now seemed so glad to share their toys with her. It wasn't long before Suzzane was also sharing all her things with her playmates, too, and the result was that the children no longer called her "Snatchy Suzzane."

Jesus said that true happiness comes from giving and sharing, and not from wanting everything for oneself. Boys and girls who have followed what Jesus said in this respect have proven just like everything else Jesus said, that it works.

TOWER OF BABEL

1. There was a dispersal of men throughout the _____.
2. They came to a plain to build a _____.
3. _____ came to see what the sons of man had done.
4. They wanted to build a _____ to reach heaven.
5. They found this plain in the land of _____.
6. The people _____ the same tongue.
7. Yahweh said "Come, let us go down and _____ their language."
8. They said "Come let us make _____ and bake them in the fire."
9. The town was named Babel because their _____ was confused.
10. They were not able to _____ the town.
11. Yahweh _____ them over the face of the earth.
12. They were not a _____ people with one language.



A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER

From the internet, submitted by Kathy and Lee Petit

I asked God to take away my habit.
God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said, No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.
God said, No. Patience is a by product of tribulations;
it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness.
God said, No. I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain.
God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares
and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow.
God said, No. You must grow on your own!
but I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.
God said, No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.
God said.. .Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

