

A close-up photograph of several bright orange cosmos flowers in full bloom, surrounded by lush green leaves and stems. The flowers have multiple layers of petals and a prominent yellow center. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the same flowers and foliage.

ADVOCATE OF TRUTH



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**Telephone: 304-782-1411  
Fax: 304-782-2248  
E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com**

**Del DeLong**

**Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff  
Gary Mills ..... Managing Editor  
Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor  
Fred Hardman ..... Printer**

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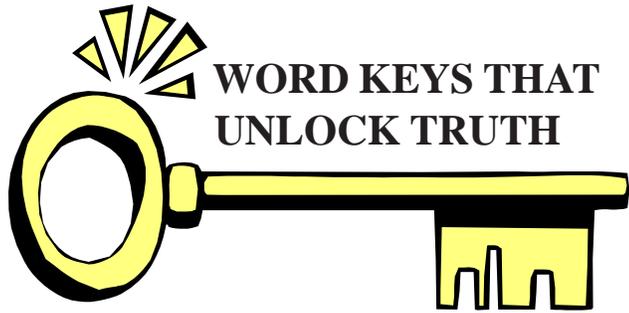
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## Things You Might Or Might Not Know About -

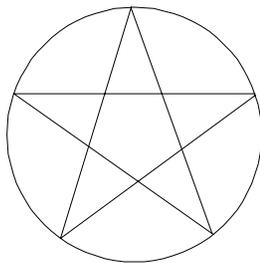
## SATAN

## CURIOUS ARTS

by Warren H. Randall Jr.

This term refers to the practice of sorcery. "Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver" (Acts 19:19).

The public burning of magical books confirms that the new believers in Christ were immediately taught to turn away from occult practices. Witchcraft, black magic, sorcery, spiritualism, and other occult practices are satanic activities. These are completely incompatible with the life of the child of God! One cannot be a true believer in Christ and at the same time deal with spirits or attempt to gain contact with the dead. God forbids and condemns all such activity as detestable. Read Deutronomy 18:9-13. Dabbling in the occult and spiritism will open one's life up to powerful satanic influence and possibly demonic possession.



1. He was created.

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created" (Ezekiel 28:13).

2. He was perfect until he sinned.

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezekiel 28:15). "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:12-14).

3. He is the God of this world.

"Again the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written THOU SHALT WORSHIP THE LORD THY GOD, AND HIM ONLY SHALT THOU SERVE" (Matthew 4:8-10).

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In

whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

4. He is more subtile than any other beast.

"Now the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1)

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14).

5. He is a liar and father of the lie.

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your fa-

ther ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44).

6. He is trying to destroy others.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5:8).

7. He will be destroyed.

"Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee" (Ezekiel 28:18-19).

## God's Children - A People Of Hope

### A Lesson Study



"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15). Read Romans 5:1-5 and 8:18-25.

Hope is defined as a desire with expectations of obtaining what is desired. A child of God's hope has its beginning in the promises found in His Word. In Romans 5:1-5, the Apostle Paul says that there are really four things that give assurance to the child of God's hope.

Verse 1 states, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." The word, peace, has the thought of being set at one again. Every consecrated child of God knows what it is like to be out of harmony with God, for all were children of wrath before accepting the blood of Christ by faith. All of God's consecrated children know the peace of mind and heart that comes from being reconciled with God. The Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:7 states, "And the peace

of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." This peace comes from knowing God and being able to have fellowship with Him through his Word. This wonderful condition of mind and heart is a real confirmation of real hope.

In Romans 5: 2, Paul states, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." It is through Jesus that the consecrated child of God is enabled to stand before God. He is justified by faith in the merit of Jesus's blood. This condition in itself is confirmation of his hope to be with Jesus and to see Him as He is! The Apostle John expresses this hope for us. "Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (I John 3:2-3).

In Romans 5:3-4, the Apostle Paul states, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience hope." This is a profound statement by Paul. The implication is that we should bask in the favor of God and the glorious hope of one day being with Him and sharing in the great work of the kingdom. We should also glory and rejoice greatly in the tribulations that are promised to every child of God. It is through tribulations-trials under difficult and trying circumstances-that we learn to wait on the Lord. Waiting on the Lord is the equivalent of exercising patience!

Patience in its real sense expresses complete submissiveness to the Heavenly Father's will and confidence in its overruling providence in the lives of His people. With this attitude of mind, the child of God is prepared to realize that "This thing is from me," and to look for the lesson and for God's over ruling providence in the experience.

These experiences then give a basis for our hope and make the prospect of receiving our desire more of a reality. Thus, we gradually learn that... "He is faithful that promised" (Hebrews 10:23).

In Romans 5:5 we read, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." A hope that is thus developed and strengthened becomes a tangible reality in our minds and a force that motivates and directs our lives. We are now moved to serve and worship in a manner that is not inhibited by doubts and fears.

Now we can say with the Apostle Paul, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 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. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, FOR THY SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED A SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present,

nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31-39).

Truly, God's children are a people of hope!

Contributed

## HOW TO WIN OVER SELF

Many people have difficulty deciding which way to go in life. They want to have things both ways by holding on to God with one hand and Satan with the other. This can't work! A definite choice between the two must be made! "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23)." We must make the choice to follow the Lord. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, of the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). We must make Christ our choice, and stand firm in that decision, leaving no bridge unburned which would allow us to turn back to Satan.

Many people are very self-indulgent. They fail to practice self-denial, self-discipline or restraint in their daily lives. "Blessed is the man that endureth the temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12). We win by exercising self-discipline and staying as far away from Satan's temptations as possible!

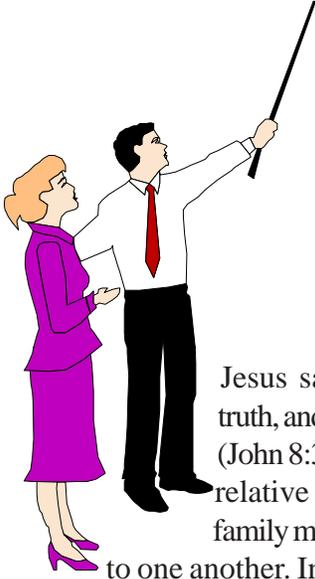
Many people are devoted to selfish interests. They fail to win over self because they neglect God and others. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). Faithful church attendance, daily prayer and Bible reading, plus sharing Christ with others bring victory over self.

Many people ultimately fail their quest for victory over self because they lack the courage to eject the wrong and to take a firm stand for the right. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). We must develop bulldog tendencies, a never-give-up, do-or-die attitude. Determination, with God's help, brings victory in the greatest battle of all-the battle against self.

Contributed

# THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE

By Bond Tennant



know the  
you free"  
must be  
bers of a  
subject

relative in the home. Mem-  
family must to some extent be  
to one another. In the God honoring  
family, each member can do as he pleases only if that  
which he pleases contributes to the best interests of all.  
The automobile driver is not free to drive where and how  
he will on the road. The exercise of such liberty could  
quickly result in death and injury to himself and others.  
The employee is subject to his employer. The president  
of a business is subject to a board of directors. Absolute  
freedom is unworkable in any field of human experience  
or endeavor.

What did Jesus mean when He said that we shall know  
the truth and the truth shall make us free? The truth to  
Jesus was the will of His Heavenly Father! He prayed on  
behalf of His disciples, "Sanctify them through thy truth:  
thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The Word of God to  
Jesus was the Old Testament which He agreed to obey at  
the time of His consecration at Jordan. His followers have  
now been blessed with the New Testament Scriptures.  
These enlarge upon that which had previously been writ-  
ten. Thus, God's will is made plain to those who are sanc-  
tified by it.

The truth not only makes us free, but it also sanctifies  
us. These two results of the Word of God in our lives are  
merely parts of one accomplishment. First, the Word of  
God separates us from the binding influence of error, and  
then sets us apart to do the will of God. It liberates us  
from being slaves to sin, and makes us their bond" ser-  
vant of Jesus Christ." "Not with eye service as men

pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of  
God from the heart" (Ephesians 6:6). We see that the  
freedom that Jesus offered his followers through the truth  
was not personal liberty to chart their own course in life,  
because no one knows better than Jesus that such liberty  
leads to death. Jesus wanted His followers to be free from  
the traditions of men. He wanted them to be free from the  
burdens imposed upon them by the religious leaders of  
that day. In place of that bondage, He invited them to  
take His "yoke" upon them. He explained that His "yoke"  
is "easy, and His burden "light". "Take my yoke upon you,  
and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye  
shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and  
my burden is light" (Matthew 11:29-30). It would be easy  
and light because they would learn to love it!

The whole universe is controlled by law. The planets  
are not free to travel in the heavens where they will. In  
like manner the followers of our Lord, in harmony with  
God's will, are restrained and controlled by law. That law  
is the will of God! Up to a certain point, their obedience  
is voluntary. Any of us can say that we will not do this, or  
we will do that, regardless of God's will in the matter.  
However, we cannot continue in such a course of liberty  
without suffering for it. God is dealing with us, and the  
entire human race-and even the angels- with the view of  
all learning to love His will-learning to love it so whole-  
heartedly that it will be our delight to do it.

This was true of Jesus. He did not exercise personal  
liberty in His service of God and of the truth. He came to  
do His Father's will! "For I came down from heaven, not  
to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me"  
(John 6:38). The will of God was not burdensome to the  
Master, but a delight. "I delight to do thy will, O my God":  
yea, thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8). God was  
his head, and the head of the church is Christ. "And hath  
put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head

over all things to the church" (Ephesians 1:22). "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body" (Ephesians 5:23). This means that as Children of God we have freedom only within the circumscribed limits of the will of God and of Christ, or Head.

## THE SMILE STARTER!

Smiling is infectious,  
You catch it like the flue.  
When someone smiled at me today,

I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner,  
and someone saw my grin.

When he smiled I realized,  
I'd passed it to him.  
I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth.

A single smile just like mine,  
could travel the earth.  
So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected!

-From the Internet

# MYSTERY!! GOD'S MYSTERY



By Michael George



God works in many mysterious ways, which at times can not be comprehended by the human mind: Yet His mysteries are revealed by His spirit to His group of believers. They are revealed at a specific time and season according to God's will and purpose.

Take for example Joseph, the son of Jacob, and his dreams given by God. In Genesis 37:5-11, we read, "And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and behold, your sheaves stood round about and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and

for his words. And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, behold I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou has dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? And his brethren envied him, but his father observed the saying."

Now those dreams were given by God, which he caused to be fulfilled in due season. For Joseph did not understand the dreams at the time, until God was ready and performed them in his life.

The Pharaoh of Egypt also had a mysterious dream which he did not understand. In Genesis 41:14-16, it reads,

"Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace" or to put his mind to rest. In those dreams and mysteries, the mind cannot be at peace until the matter is explained. For example, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed in Daniel 2:3-4. "And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled know the dream. Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriac, O king, live for ever, tell thy servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation."

The king, Nebuchadnezzar, was in great distress, he was so desirous to know the dream, that he was prepared to destroy all the wise men in the kingdom if they did not put his mind at peace by telling his dream and interpretation. And as we recall, the thing was of God. In Jeremiah 20:9, last part, we read how dreadful God's word could be to mortal man; "But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire, shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay." "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock to pieces? (Jeremiah 23:29)

We could imagine what mental stress was in the king? And yet he could not remember the dream. God's great mystery. As the Apostle Paul emphasizes in Romans 11:33, "O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Yet he reveals it unto his children.

Our Lord said the following in Mark 4:11, "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables." And in Amos 3:7, he said "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

In Nebuchadnezzar's rage, he also would have destroyed God's chosen few. "And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain (Daniel 2:13).

Now although it is a honourable thing to die for the Lord, it must be according to his will. "Precious in the

sight of the Lord are the death of his saints" (Psalms 116:15). Yet the Lord uses his people to reveal His secrets and manifest His power, so at times we are delivered from death according to his purpose in us. "He shall redeem their souls from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in this sight (Psalms 72:14).

"Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Bablyon : He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation" (Daniel 2:14-16). Here we see how we, the children of God, must trust in him. Daniel had full confidence that his God would reveal such a great mystery to him.

"Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing own to Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of Heaven" (Daniel 2:17-19). Here our Lord admonishes also, that we should ask: "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened" (Luke 11:9-10).

We can also copy Daniel in this thankfulness for receiving such great favour from God . He was very grateful and gave thanks to God.

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise and knowledge to them that know understanding" (Daniel 2:20-21).

James, concerning lack of wisdom, admonishes us also, "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." James 1:5.

Our Lord has promised to grant our request if we have agreement one with another, even as Daniel and his companions. "Again I say unto you, That if two of you

shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19).

The Apostle Paul also gave us the same admonition in his letter to the Colossians, "That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2-3).

God does not want his children to be ignorant of His mysteries, but there are conditions that they should be revealed to us. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Timothy 3:16).

The greatest of all the mysteries is that of Jesus Christ, the son of God; and the first of God's creation, he was a hidden mystery of man and angels from the beginning, as Paul affirms to the Corinthians, "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory" (I

Corinthians 2:7-8).

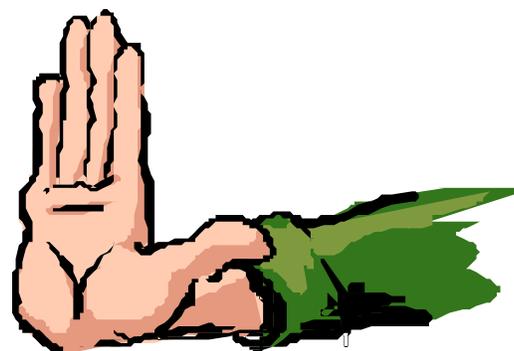
Moses wrote of the prophecies that God would raise up of the children of Israel; yet he did not know of the precious Son of God. Agur wrote concerning God and the name of the Son in Proverbs 30:4. So we see God's great mystery was his Son, until it pleased God to reveal Him. Even His early disciples whom He called and those that followed Him observing His great works could not be certain who He was; for example, when He asked them, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist: some say Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:13-16). How did Peter find out who He was?

"And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my rather which is in heaven" (Matthew 16:17). And so God's mystery doctrine will befall everyone, unless He makes it known to them. May God bless you as you consider these thoughts. Amen.

## THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

REPRINTED

Most people in our world are familiar, in some way and measure at least, with the Ten Commandments. They were given to Adam and Eve by the Word of God. They are all mentioned in different places in the Book of Genesis. Later, God noticed that they did not remember them at all. He had spoken them to their leaders. (Exodus 16:20,27-28, 20:10-17). He then wrote them on two tablets of stones as a tangible sight-seeing object to which they could look and obey.



Of the Ten Commandments, the first four (or the first tablet of stone) deal with man's relationship and love to his God. Jesus said, "On these two (commandments) hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:36-40). Basically, we may say that the requirements stated by these Commandments, in man's relationship to God, can be summed up in three words: reverence, worship and obedience.

The last six Commandments all deal with man's rela-

tionship to his fellows as he wishes to be treated and loved. They are: To honor father and mother. You are not to steal, you are not to murder, you are not to bear false witness against anyone, and you are not to covet anything which belongs to your neighbor.

It is important to remember that all these Commandments are given to man for his own well being. They are not unreasonable or arbitrary requirements from God imposed upon man to test his willingness to do the things that are without reason, purpose or requirement. Every one of these Commandments has a root purpose in the well-being of man.

The last six, demand certain things which are basic to human life. They demand respect for life itself, for marriage, for the home, for property, for justice and truth. Common sense and experience alike confirm that where these requirements of God are set aside, the result is a breakdown of society. Ultimately, the end of setting aside these reasonable requirements of God can only be one thing, and that is anarchy, which, in turn frequently leads to tyranny. In our study today, it is important to notice the place given to stealing. Stealing is placed in direct association with murder, adultery, and perjury. Any sensible person with any kind of moral values will acknowledge that murder, adultery, and perjury are extremely serious and evil things. Stealing is placed side by side with them. In other words, God evaluates stealing as an act of evil, as injurious and as wrong as breaking any one of the other Commandments (James 2:10).

#### WHAT IS STEALING?

It is interesting to consider the definition given by the dictionary of the word, STEAL: "To steal is to take something that does not belong to you."

There are two important things to notice in this definition:

First: There is no precise indication of what means are used to take the thing. It may be taken by deception. It may be taken surreptitiously. The taking of it may be covered up by various different pretexts or arguments, but the fact remains that taking is taking, what ever means are used, and all forms of taking something that does not belong to one are forms of stealing.

Second: It is not important to whom the thing taken does belong. Providing it does not belong to the person who took it, that person in taking it, is stealing.

It is important to see this because many persons are somewhat morally blind about certain aspects of stealing. This is particularly true in our society. For instance, many people would not directly steal from one another. They would not walk into a neighbor's home and deliberately take money, or jewelry, or some other item of value. Or, working beside another person in a factory or office, they would not steal his purse from the locker, or tools from his bench, or something of value out of a desk drawer. They would feel that this would be absolutely wrong and below their moral standards to do such a thing.

But the strange thing is that such people as this often feel no compunction, or sense of guilt about stealing from the company they work for, from the school supply room, from the army, or the government. This applies even to people who profess to be religious who steal on their income tax, or from the tithe that belongs to the Lord. I know of a man who worked for General Motors. He was a good moral man, by most standards. He attended church. He paid his tithes properly, he paid his taxes correctly. He prided himself on not being tempted to steal. But he felt no sense of guilt about prolonging from General Motors. If his car needed a carburetor, he would put one in his lunch pail and put it on his car. If a friend needed a set of points and plugs he would take them home and give them to his friend. He had worked so long for General Motors that they would not mind at all if he took some things home with him. Such a man would express horror if he was accused of stealing. He was a righteous man, and he would not approve of stealing. Is it not remarkable to this man that a person taking something from him or his house, was stealing? Yet he could not see that when he took things, without permission, dishonestly, surreptitiously, by an underhanded means from General Motors, that was as unjust and stealing as that man who would walk into his house and take an item of his own property.

#### BLINDED TO BE LOST

It is remarkable, sometimes, how religious people

actually act. They have been sent strong delusions. "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (II Thessalonians 2:11-12).

In Romans 2, the Apostle Paul is writing to people that claimed to be very religious, who claimed to see his standards, and yet he says, (and this verse applies to us today also) "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" (verse 21)

Here is a religious person who preaches to others, claims to set an example, claims to know what is right and wrong, and yet he is caught stealing himself. There is no question that they are many such type of people in our culture, claiming to be moral, religious and respectable. Who are employed by large corporations, and habitually steal things from big companies.

#### AS GOD SEES IT

In the light of this heading, we wish to point out some other provoking thoughts which relate to stealing and all activities of this kind.

The first fact is that God sees us. He can look right into our heart and see us premeditate a theft. We may be able to cover our actions from our employers, but here is one person who always sees everything that we do. That person is God the Father. In Proverbs 15:3, it tells us: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Everywhere we might be going we can be sure that the Father can see us. There is no place on earth where we could hide anything. You can cover up from man, but you cannot cover up from God, for it is God that you will have to answer to.

#### JUDGEMENT

Remember secondly that God judges both the works of good and bad. God looks at the capabilities of people. If they are wasting their talent, they will be punished for it. In two epistles, Ephesians and Colossians. Paul writes specifically to employees, who, he calls servants. In Ephesians 6:8 he says: "Knowing that whatsoever good

thing that any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord..."

In Colossians 3:25, speaking likewise to employees, Paul says this: "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." He means that no one has a special privilege or favor with God that permits him to do that which He has prohibited. The fact that you are a relied and trusted employee or a good churchgoer, or the Sabbath School superintendent, or the Church elder, does not mean that God evaluates your actions any differently from those people around about who may not go to church, or make a public profession of their religion, God judges everyone alike. If that person steals, he loses his sainthood or the place in the Book of Life. He loses his citizenship with the Family of God. He will be judged like all sinners and desperadoes. He is again a sinner in the eyes of God. You are a thief, and you will be judged as a thief. If you tell a lie and purger yourself, you will be judged as a liar, and will be place into the Lake of Fire.

#### THE CURSE

The third fact is that God has placed a special curse upon those who practice theft and perjury. God gave Zechariah a vision of a great scroll which was flying out across the face of the ark, and entering into certain homes. When Zechariah sought the meaning of this scroll, which he observed had writing on both sides, this is the answer he received:

"...This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for everyone that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side, according to it." (Zechariah 5:3-4).

Notice how accurate the Scripture is, because almost everybody who steals sooner or later will also be obliged to perjure himself. For instance an employee of a firm that handles goods in transit, and they have to sign forms or consignment orders or receipts of some sort and they set aside some goods for their own purpose (they are in fact stealing them, as I have already said) but the time will come when they have to cover up the theft, you will either prejure their self or admit everything. God has joined to-

gether these two crimes of theft and perjury, and united them under a single curse. Psychologists have discovered that a person that lies is also a thief. Speaking of this curse again, which Zechariah saw in vision, entering into one house after another, across the face of the earth, God said to Zechariah: "I will bring it forth, saith the Lord of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that swear that falsely by and shall remain in the midst of his house, and it shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof" (Zechariah 5:1-5).

### GATES OF THE CITY CLOSED

The fourth thing we want to tell you of this subject, is that the New Jerusalem's gates are all closed to thieves. Jesus said this very clearly in Matthew 19:17-18.

"Thou shalt not steal" (Exodus 20:15). The Apostle says again in I Corinthians 6:9-11: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?...Nor thieves...and such were some of you: but ye are washed but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus..." Some people might imagine that it would not be necessary to tell churchgoing folks things such as this; but experience shows at many times a person is still blind to the reality of their own action. In these three verses it mentions those sins with which stealing is placed.

### THE HARVEST

Finally, we want to point out the end result of stealing. God says in Galatians 6:7: "...whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." You cannot break any of the Commandments of God and get away with it. You cannot sow dishonesty or transgress the law and reap blessing.

Furthermore, what we sow comes back to us multiplied many times over when the harvest is ripe. It is also equally true if we live spiritually righteous we will also reap the abundant blessings from heaven, overflowing. It is vividly expressed by the prophet Hosea 8:7, speaking of Gods people: "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind." Any wind may be strong and powerful, but a whirlwind, as we know it, is many times stronger and more destructive. If we sow evil, we shall

reap destruction abundantly.

Persistent stealing brings certain obvious results. It sends up the price of living in various ways. It increases insurance costs inevitably. It increases law enforcement costs. It increases general lawlessness. It increases the cost of government (taxes) yearly. Have you ever thought of why our country is so strangled by vice and crime and lawlessness? If we give way to just one of the Ten Commandments then our country becomes lawless.

If some of these thoughts concerning breaking the Ten Commandments have you worried, we would like to suggest, to stop and consider what you have been doing wrong! Repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins. Get on The Lord's side where He will help you to keep His wonderful Ten Commandments of love and liberty.

We must keep the Ten Commandments, the Law of God and of His Christ. It is "Perfect, converting the soul." The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes."

"Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward" (Psalm 19:7-11).

"If ye love me, keep my commandment" (John 14:15).

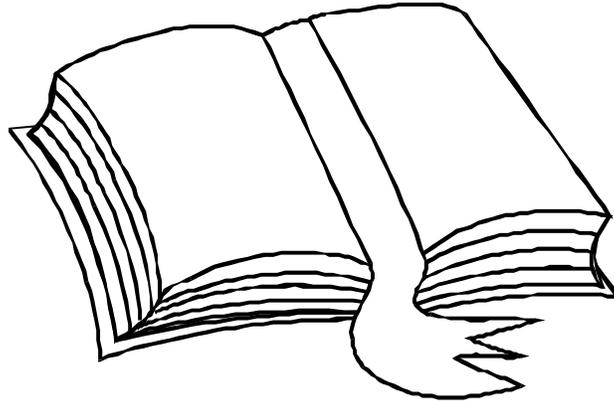
"...If a man love me, he will keep my words:..." (John 14:23).

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you ...for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto" (John 15:14-15).

As we have seen, "the law of Christ" is the standard of judgment. In order to be a perfect law (James 2:8-12). defining sin and over the entire range of human responsibility, it must profit everything that is in its nature wrong and enjoining everything that is right. Therefore the laws of Moses have been done away with by Jesus, the law giver, who is our high priest after the order of Melchizedec, now and forever.

The Gospel standard is the only perfect one. It condemns all that is wrong and reestablishes the Melchisedec Priesthood in which was no wrong. It alone is in force now. It has superseded in every respect the covenant made with Israel known as "the added law". Jesus Christ is now our high priest who gives us peace and liberty through the Ten Commandments.

# FINDING TRUE HAPPINESS



"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:12).

There are many teachings regarding happiness throughout the Bible. No where is the subject dealt with more in detail than in the Beatitudes which open Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. His words describing happiness sound strange to those schooled in the world's understanding of happiness. Each of the Beatitudes begins with the word "blessed." According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, blessed can properly be translated either blessed or happy.

While other teachings hold forth the rich, the learned, the mighty, and the influential among men as the pattern to be copied if happiness would be obtained, Jesus sets forth the reverse for those "who hath ears to hear" (Matthew 13:9). He said to them, "..., If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

We find these words in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Jesus was addressing those who believed on Him, and were of a humble spirit. Those who are happy in the Lord are the ones who lean upon Him, trusting Him implicitly.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted" (verse. 4). Jesus always promised, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth"

(Matthew 5:5). None can be taught without the quality of meekness or teachableness. Valuable lessons must be learned which are essential to progress.

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (verse. 6). Those who would follow in the footsteps of Jesus will desire to love righteousness and hate iniquity.

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (verse 7). The most important lessons for the child of God to learn are love, sympathy and mercy. Our imperfections constantly require divine mercy. This should impress upon us the importance of having of a merciful disposition toward those with whom we have to deal.

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (verse 8). While in the flesh, we cannot obtain absolute purity thought, word or deed. However, we can have heart purity-pureness of intention and desire. Only those who have this heart condition may hope to see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (verse 9). This implies victory in attaining inward peace, and in becoming a peacemaker for others.

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (verse 10-11). These experiences are allowed to run out our characters.



# 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 articles are from the Houston Chronicle*

**Mormon student may be excommunicated  
for articles  
by Patty Henetz  
Associated Press**

SALT LAKE CITY - A graduate student with Mormon family roots says he will probably be excommunicated next week for articles he has written questioning the validity of the book of Mormon.

Thomas W. Murphy, 35, published an article in the may Signature books anthology, *American Apocrypha*, that uses genetic data to discredit the Book of Mormon claim that American Indians are heathen descendants of ancient Israel.

The conclusion also is the thesis of his doctoral dissertation at the University of Washington.

"We're told to tell the truth, but not if the truth contradicts church doctrine. I would prefer to tell the truth," Murphy said.

Murphy, chairman of the anthropology department at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Washington, will face a church disciplinary council on December 8.

There, he will be allowed to make a statement and council members may try to change his mind about the Book of Mormon.

Church spokesman Dale Bills declined to comment specifically on Murphy's case.

"Matters of church discipline are handled on a confidential basis between church members and their local lead-

ers. Local church leaders determine what, if any disciplinary action is appropriate," Bills said.

Lavina Fielding Anderson, a historian who was excommunicated in 1993, said Murphy is one of at least three scholars threatened with exploration excommunication in the past three months, raising concerns about renewed efforts to purge dissident church members.

In an e-mail sent Tuesday to Signature Books, Anderson said the two other scholars were hoping to avoid public exposure.

"Such ecclesiastical actions are deeply distressing," she wrote.

Anderson was excommunicated after she presented a history of troubles between church leaders, scholars and feminists at a 1992 conference.

The next year, Elder Boyd Packer, a member of quorum of the Twelve Apostles, declared feminists, homosexuals and "so-called intellectuals" endangers the church.

A series of excommunications followed, though high-profile cases have waned.

## **Comment**

Let us consider the following comments which appeared in a well respected news magazine.

The article states that Mr. Murphy's conclusions about native American origins were something of an afterthought in his research into the church.

The article also states that forcing critics to prove a negative is a common tactic of the church's defenders. It give us the example that, a century ago, its belief that human-made mounds in the eastern United States were the work of Neghite and laminate tribes was widely discredited by the nascent science of anthropology. It states that,

until this day, the mounds are revered within the church, and the church has gone through strenuous intellectual gymnastics to prove that the elephants and other animals described in the Book of Mormon existed at the time of the North American occupation by the Israelite tribes. It states that none of this is supported by modern paleontology.

## **Millions smoke despite ailments**

### **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON - Millions of Americans, including many with chronic lung and other ailments, continue smoking despite warnings from their physicians.

Some 38 percent of people with the chronic lung disease emphysema still smoke, as do almost 25 percent of those with asthma, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality reported Tuesday.

And they continued even though at least 60 percent of them said a doctor had told them to stop within the last year.

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that about 15 million Americans suffer asthma. The American Lung Association estimates the number may be as high as 17.7 million, with another 2.8 million suffering from emphysema.

The data will allow researchers to detect trends and determine whether people with chronic illnesses continue to smoke in large numbers in long years, said Dr. Steven B. Cohen of the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, the government's lead agency for research on health care quality, costs, outcomes and patient safety.

"We're trying to assess the individuals who are current smokers and get a sense of whether, in the past 12 months, they have been advised to quit," Cohen said.

The findings didn't surprise Dr. Norman H. Edelman; "We see people like that all the time," the Long Island physician said.

"What it points out is nicotine is a true addiction, just like being addicted to heroin or cocaine or other narcotics. You are perfectly aware of deleterious effects but it's hard to break an addiction," said Edelman, who teaches at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The findings, part of a statistical brief on smoking, were issued without discussion by the Health and Human Services agency.

The report also noted that 20 percent of people with high blood pressure or heart problems continue to smoke, as do 18.5 percent of people with diabetes, diseases that affect millions more Americans.

Cohen said that the over all statistics on the number of adults who smoke are similar to other studies, but those studies haven't looked specifically at people with chronic illnesses.

Edelman, who serves as a spokesman of The American Lung Association, said that in addition to the problems of quitting smoking, some people who develop disease take that attitude that the damage already is done so that they may as well continue to enjoy cigarettes.

But, he stressed, research has shown that it's always beneficial to stop smoking.

"Physicians have to be much more active in helping people quit," he said. "They have to recommend programs, they have to monitor programs, make sure patients are pursuing pharmaceutical aids to quit. In general, we believe physicians should play a more active role in helping people quit.

The report found that 23.1 percent of adult Americans smoke.

### **Comment**

How about you? If you were told by your doctor that you would soon die if you did not quit a certain habit to which you were addicted, what would you do? Would you quit your habit, or continue on the road to an early physical death?

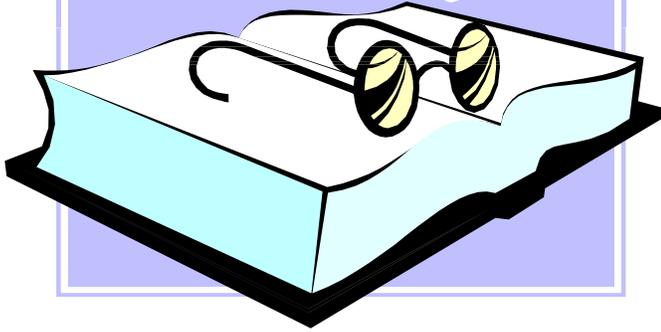
There is a thought in this for many professed Christians. They seem to be addicted to sin, and they are well aware of their sin. They have been in sin so long that it no longer bothers them. They have given place to Satan!

Perhaps these professed Christians became Christians out of a wrong motive. They may have wanted to be looked up to in the community, therefore they thought of joining a church to prove that they are fine outstanding people. If this be the case, they already have their reward!

On the other hand, the real consecrated children of God will examine themselves daily and be willing to be corrected by the Word of God when they find that their habit or practice is condemned by it. They know that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This is not the first death which is physical, but the second death which is eternal!

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**Question:** Why did a certain rich young ruler ask Jesus, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" When in another place it is written, "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord?"

**Answer:** There is no lack of harmony in these two scriptures. They do not contradict each other. We know that we receive the right of life and the forgiveness of our sins directly from our Father. He is the great life giver. Before the gift of eternal life could be extended to us, our Lord Jesus had to die to provide the way for our release from death! "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" (I Peter 1:18-19).

We receive the gift of eternal life through "Jesus Christ our Lord." It is of the Father, but by and through his Son. "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (I Corinthians 8:6). However, before this gift is bestowed, certain conditions must be met by the recipient. Undeniable conditions are attached to the gift. One of these qualifications is complete consecration to God. Our Master explained consecration to the rich young ruler in Luke 18:20-30, "Thou knowest the commandments, DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT KILL, DO NOT STEAL, DO

NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER. And he said, All these things have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful; for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." We see that this rich young ruler was unwilling to meet the terms of discipleship. In Matthew 16:24-25, Jesus said: "... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). If we meet

the requirements of consecration and faithfulness, we will inherit that great gift of God which is eternal life through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord. It was proper for the young man to ask, "What shall I do?" The fit of eternal life is conditional. It is a condition upon Christ opening the way. It is also conditional upon faithfulness to the Father on the part of each one who shall receive eternal life. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (I John 5:12).

**Question:** Why is salvation needed?

**Answer:** "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:1-9).

The doctrine of salvation, when applied to the work of Christ, means all that Christ has done to bring a sinning race into fellowship with God. This is the general meaning of salvation. It is the great theme of the Bible. It is the whole purpose of Christ's coming into the world. It is the powerful work of the Holy Spirit. It is the enmity and hatred of the devil and all of his agencies, but is man's greatest need. The Bible makes it plain that man's salvation arises out to two great facts; The fact of man's utter ruin and the faith to of God's unchanging love. If man is not ruined by the fall, then he does not need salvation. If God is not a God of love and mercy, as well as a God of holiness and justice, then man does not need salvation.

Hear what the apostle Paul says: "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Roman 5:12). That is a plain fact of history as well as of human experience. Adam's fall is clear, and man's ruin is

clear. It is evidenced by his stand in sin. Because of sin, man before God is guilty. Scripture and experience prove it. The heathen recognize and are conscious that God looks upon them in disfavor. They are guilty, and they are cursed. Read Galatians 3:10. Man is lost! He has lost his standing as a son. He is a child of sin. All the verses that speak of man's judicial standing before God are summed up in the expression, "guilty." All verses that relate to his moral standing are summed up in the word, "cursed." All the verses that relate to his spiritual standing before God are evidences in toward, "Lost."

His ruin is further evidenced by his state in sin. In Ephesian 2, a sinner's state is described in no uncertain manner. Sin has invaded the whole of the human personality. In the realm of the Spirit, we see the deadness of man. Read Ephesians 2:1. This explains why men can be alive to things mentally and physically, yet dead to spiritual things. To the sinner, God is not a reality. The Bible is not a living book, and Christianity is not a transforming experience, Read I Timothy 5:6. In the realm of the body we see disobedience of man. Read Ephesians 2:2. Notice the phrase, "children of disobedience." The soul is the seat of the mind, heart and will. It is sobering to think that each of these departments has been affected by sin. The mind is warped. See II Timothy 3:8. The heart is wicked. See Jeremiah 19:9. The will is wayward. See Isaiah 53:6. Again, into the realm of the body, we see the depravity of man. The body is dominated and dishonored by sin. It is also destroyed by sin. Here is man's state before God. Does he not need salvation?

God has been outraged by a sinning race. It is reasonable to say that we do not deserve saving. This is where God's love comes in. In mercy and in pity God has recognized man's separate need, and in amazing love, has incurred the cost of saving fallen man. The need of salvation proclaims the fullness of God's love.

**Question:** How did Judas die? How can you harmonize Matthew 27:5 with Acts 1:18?

**Answer:** Matthew 27:5 tells us that Judas hung himself. Acts 1:18 tells us that he fell headlong and burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out

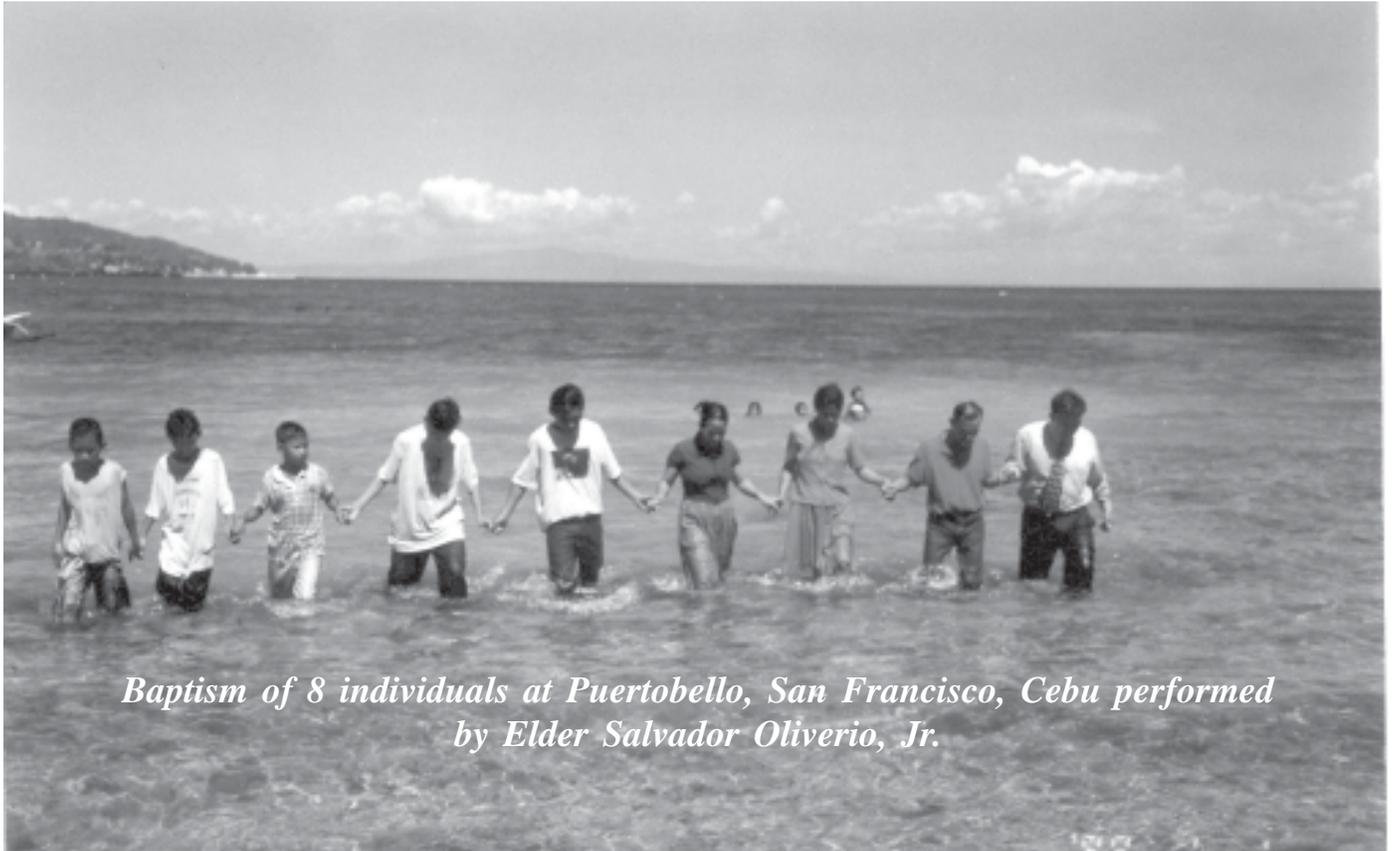
These two scriptures do not contradict each other. Apparently, Judas first hanged himself. Then at some point, the rope broke or loosened so that his body slipped from it and burst open below. Neither account alone is complete. Taken together, we have a full picture of what happened to Judas.



*The Philippines*



*Pictured above are members of the Church at Puertobello, San Francisco, Cebu in the Philippines.  
This photograph was taken inside their church building.*



*Baptism of 8 individuals at Puertobello, San Francisco, Cebu performed by Elder Salvador Oliverio, Jr.*



*Pictured here are members of the Church at Camanjac, Dumaguete City, Visayas. This was taken inside the church building after its dedication.*

LESSON I

MOSES SLAYS AN EGYPTIAN

Scripture Reading: Exodus 2:11-20.

Golden Text: Exodus 2:12.

"And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand."

1. What did Moses do when he was grown? Exodus 2:11.
2. What did Moses do to the Egyptian? Exodus 2:12.
3. What did two men of the Hebrews do? Exodus 2:13.
4. Did Moses believe that his deed was known? Exodus 2:14.
5. What did Pharaoh seek to do, and what did Moses do? Exodus 2:15 (first part)
6. Where did Moses dwell after he fled from Pharaoh? Exodus 2:15 (last part)
7. What did the priest of Midian have, and what did they do? Exodus 2:16.
8. What did Moses do for the priest's daughters? Exodus 2:17.
9. What did the father say to his daughters? Exodus 2:18.
10. What did his daughters tell him? Exodus 2:19.
11. What was the father's reply to his daughters? Exodus 2:20.



LESSON II

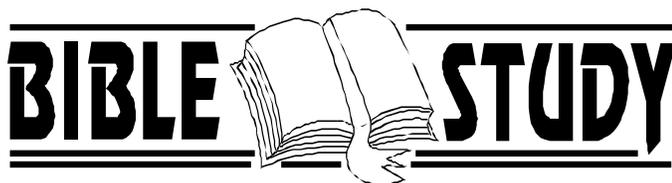
MOSES AND THE BURNING BUSH

Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-14.

Golden Text: Exodus 3:2.

"And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed."

1. Where did Moses lead Jethro's sheep? Exodus 3:1.
2. How did the angel of the Lord appear unto Moses? Exodus 3:2.
3. From where did God call unto Moses? Exodus 3:4.
4. What did God say unto Moses? Exodus 3:5-10.
5. What was Moses's reply? Exodus 3:11.
6. What did God say unto Moses? Exodus 3:12.
7. What question did Moses ask of God? Exodus 3:13.
8. What answer did God give Moses? Exodus 3:14.



LESSON III

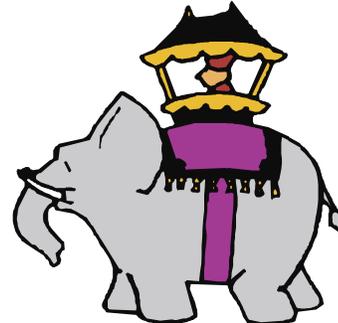
MOSES IS COMMISSIONED BY GOD

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 3:15-22.

**Golden Text:** Exodus 3:15.

"And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations."

1. What did God say unto Moses? Exodus 3:15.
2. What did God tell Moses to do? Exodus 3:16.
3. Where did God say he would bring the children of Israel? Exodus 3:17.
4. Would the children of Israel harken unto Moses's voice? Exodus 3:18 (first part)
5. Then what was Moses to do? Exodus 3:18 (last part).
6. What did God say about the king of Egypt letting the children of Israel go? Exodus 3:19.
7. What did God say He would do? Exodus 3:20.
8. Would God give favour to the children of Israel in the sight of the Egyptians? Exodus 3:21-22.



LESSON IV

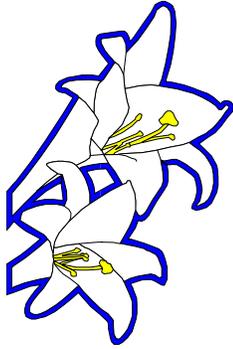
MOSES'S OBJECTION  
(THE UNBELIEF OF THE PEOPLE)

**Scripture Reading:** Exodus 4:1-9.

**Golden Text:** Exodus 4:1.

"And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee."

1. What did Moses say? Exodus 4:1.
2. What did the Lord ask Moses, and what was Moses's reply? Exodus 4:2.
3. What did the Lord tell Moses to do? What was the result? Exodus 4:3.
4. Then what did the Lord tell Moses to do? What was the result? Exodus 4:4.
5. What was the purpose of this miracle? Exodus 4:5.
6. Then what did the Lord tell Moses to do? What was the result? Exodus 4:6.
7. What happened when Moses put his hand into his bosom and took it out again? Exodus 4:7.
8. What did the Lord say would happen if the Egyptians would not harken to the voices of the first and latter signs? Exodus 4:8-9.



## THE LILIES AND THE WEEDS

By Ida Ogren

Unbidden tears quietly ran down the lovely cheeks of the fifteen-year-old girl, as she sat in her aunt's sitting room thinking of the fact that only three more days and her vacation would be ended. "If only this vacation would last. I'll miss the friends, the wonderful church services, the ...," Betty said almost aloud. Just then there was a knock on the door.

Quickly brushing the tears from her eyes, she ran to the door to see who it could be so early in the morning. "Oh, it's you, Patty. Do come in. I'm so happy you came!"

"Is...is there something wrong? I - I mean --well you look rather sad. I hope nothing has happened," finished Patty as she observed Betty's sad mood.

"Oh, no...nothing has gone wrong..I've only been thinking of my vacation. I have only three more days to stay. I'll be so terribly lonesome without you and the church services. I've grown to love the meetings more than I could tell you. The gang I used to chum with never attended any kind of church services. We thought it was smart to be rude, keep late hours and go our own ways. It'll be hard for me when I get back there. They'll

expect me to join them again - but I've changed - I know now what it means to be really happy," replied Betty.

"Don't be so discouraged about going back. How about getting your coat and we'll solve your problem while we go out to a field a little distance down the road-we'll get some pretty flowers to help us." suggested patty.

"Oh, that'll be grand-I just love to go flower hunting!" Betty gasped excitedly as she ran for her coat.

As they reached the field, both were refreshed from their brisk walk in the cool morning air and had almost forgotten their purpose of coming out there.

"Oh! look at all those pretty Bluebells over there!" Betty almost shouted with glee. "Oh, this will be fun. Where I come from, we don't have any chances such as this. We just have to be in that old city with the noise of the street cars, traffic, and factories all day."

"I'm sorry. I really wish you could stay here with your aunt all the time," sympathized Patty "Do you see that beautiful tiny white spot over there?"

"Yes, what is it?" asked Betty puzzled. "Lilies," replied Patty. "They are here every year."

"Out here in these weeds? How can lilies grow here amongst so many weeds?" Betty wanted to know as they reached the little white spot which was so inhabited with weeds.

"That is what we came out here for, Betty. Notice how firm these lilies' stems are...so strong, firm, and straight. The weeds do not disturb the lilies. In fact, I think the lilies take deeper root so they can grow strong. Also notice how beautiful they are! Not a speck,

not a trace of the ugly weeds by which they are surrounded. They are pure, white, and strong as also we must be each day. You will now go back to your home. When your former friends do things which you know are not right-just remember these white lilies-for that is the way you will have to stand."

"Thank you, Patty, I'll never forget this," replied Betty happily. "Now I won't mind going home. Now I know there is work to be done, and I'll do my duty as the lilies do theirs."

**Use the clues to fill in the spaces.**

**The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word.**

1. Solomon had this built so that Israel would have a place to worship God.
2. The garden that God created where Adam

and Eve lived.

3. Jonah was instructed by God to go to this city to warn the people.
4. The youngest son of Noah.
5. He was hid in the bulrushes as a baby and helped lead the children of Israel out of Egypt.
6. His purpose is to undo God's work and tempt men to sin.
7. These were put through Jesus's hands and feet when he was put on the cross.
8. One of the strongest men in the Bible. His strength was in his long hair, and when Delilah learned his secret, she cut his hair.
9. God instructed him to build an ark to escape the great flood.
10. A musical instrument with strings that David played.
11. One of the 12 apostles that assisted Jesus in feeding the five thousand people.

# *OUR FINE DAY OF REST*

By John Bouknight



Sabbath day's our day of rest,  
It is the time that God has blest.  
This day is last out of seven,  
A time for peace in earth and heaven.

Sabbath day named at creation  
It's time to sing in adoration.  
We gather together all with song,  
And praise our God the whole day long.

This day was made for Adam's race,  
T'was sanctified by our Lord's grace.  
The Holy Sabbath's a gift for man,  
This is the day - a holy plan.

Sabbath day ends every week,  
Foreshadows God's world for the meek.  
When Jesus comes with trumpet blast,  
God's remnant will have peace at last.

