

**THE
ADVOCATE
OF TRUTH**



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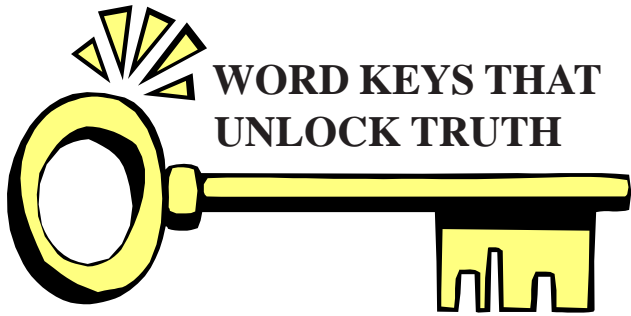
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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is the companionship of persons on equal terms. It is the association together of persons with mutual aims and interest. This is the strict and literal meaning of the word. It comes nearest to realization, in the religious scene, in the fellowship which exists in the church.

Children of God are called to have fellowship with Christ. "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord" (I Corin-

thians 1:9). "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Philippians 3:10).

There are many verses which tell of the fellowship of the saints. "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). "Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the Saints" (II Corinthians 8:4). "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowships with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (I John 1:3).

Children of God are to have no fellowship with evil! "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils" (I Corinthians 10:20). "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11).



ANGELS

By Gary Mills



Angels are a creation of God which were created a little higher than man. We find this in the book of Psalms in a description of our Lord Jesus Christ when He was a man.

"What is man, that thou art mindful him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour" (Psalms 8:4-5).

The word Angel means messenger. The Bible does not describe the exact nature of Angels but rather describes their relation to God, Jesus Christ, and man. Angels are given a work to do which is to be ministering spirits. This is described in the book of Hebrews .

"And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire" (Hebrews 1:7).

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14)

The exact function of God's messengers are not spelled out in specific detail. Rather they are presented as doing God's bidding. They appear as helpers and protectors of people in need, as proclaimers of news, delivering revelations of God, and as guides and guardians.

Some people believe Angels are people that have died and gone on to heaven. While this cannot be found in the Bible, there is a promise that we will be made equal to the Angels after the resurrection. This is found in Luke when the Sadducees questioned Jesus on how marriage would work after people are resurrected .

"And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of

this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection" (Luke 20:34-36).

There are two classes of Angels. There are the good Angels who follow God's will. There is also a second class of fallen Angels which have sinned and been cast out of heaven along with their leader, the devil. They are deceitful, familiar spirits whose work is to hinder salvation. This can be found in the book of Revelation.

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found anymore in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which de-

ceived the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:7-9).

These fallen angels are hard at work today trying to turn mankind from the teachings of Christ.

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the later times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirit, and doctrines of devils" (I Timothy 4:1).

Angels are creations of God placed in the divine order between man and Christ and are numerous. There are good angels who follow the will of God and bad angels who follow Satan. Angels are marvelous creatures, encompassed with splendor and glory. They are a God given source of inspiration of strength, inspiration, and encouragement to the faithful..

Melchisedec

Levitical

Melchisedec

Melchisedec

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Melchisedec

Melchisedec

THE PRIESTHOODS

Melchisedec

Melchisedec

By Ben DeLong

Melchisedec

Melchisedec

Levitical

Levitical

Melchisedec

In the book of Hebrews, Paul writes: "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, To day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek (Hebrews 5:5-6).

So what does this mean, that Christ is a high priest forever after the order of Melchisedek? To find the answer we have to go back to the beginning.

Creation

At the creation, God established a basic set of laws for the benefit of man. Many references to these laws exist in the book of Genesis, including:

Seventh day for rest

"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the sev-

enth day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had restored from all his work which God created and made" (Genesis 2:3).

Thou shall not kill

"And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth (Gen-

esis 4:8-12).

Law of the Clean and Unclean

"Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female" (Genesis 7:2).

Thou shalt not commit adultery

"And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair. The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants and maidservant, and she asses, and camels. And the LORD plagues Pharaoh and his house, with great plagues because of Sari Abram's wife. And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife? (Genesis 12:14-18)

Tithing

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all" (Genesis 14:18-20).

"For this Melchisedek, king of Salem, priest to the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the king, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace" (Hebrews 7:1-2).

After the Exodus from Egypt, the children of Israel were given the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone, written by the finger of God and given to Moses. These tables of stone were put inside the ark of the covenant.

"And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18).

"There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt" (I Kings 8:9).

Exodus chapter 20 contains the text of these commandments.

Levitical Priesthood

While Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments on mount Sinai, the children of Israel were building a molten calf out of gold and proclaiming it to be the god who had brought them out of Egypt. When Moses came down from the mount, he was extremely angry. He smashed the tables of stone containing the Ten Commandments, ground up the golden calf, put the dust on the water, and made the children of Israel drink it. Then Moses asked the question "Who is on the LORD'S side?"

"Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him" (Exodus 32:26).

"At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day. Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him" (Deuteronomy 10:8-9).

The sons of Levi answered the call, and God made them priests over the children of Israel. Because the children of Israel committed this transgression with the golden calf, the Levitical priesthood was established, and the added law was given to the children of Israel.

"And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, That Moses commanded the Levities, which bare that ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?" (Deuteronomy 31:24-27)

"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator" (Galatians 3:19).

Note three points about the two laws here. 1) The added laws were written by the hand of Moses while the Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God. 2) The book of the law was placed in the side of the ark while the Ten Commandments on the two tables of stone were placed in the ark. 3) The added law was given as a

witness against the children of Israel and was added because of transgression. A clear distinction was made between the two laws.

Melchisedek Priesthood

The Levitical priesthood lasted from the time of Sinai until Jesus came to the earth. At this time Jesus was installed as our high priest after the order of Melchisedek.

"For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek" (Hebrews 7:17).

"If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law (Hebrews 7:11-12).

This last verse makes reference to a change in the law. So what law was changed by Christ? Paul gives us the answer in writings to three different churches.

"And you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Colossian 2:13-14). "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself to twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby" (Ephesians 2:14-16).

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (Galatians 3:10-14).

These three sets of verses state that Christ "Blotted out the handwriting of ordinances", "Abolished...the law

of commandments contained in ordinances", and "redeemed us from the curses of the book of the) law". The added law was the only law that was written by the hand of man; the Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God. Also from Deuteronomy 31:26 we know that the added law was "a witness against thee." It is clear that the reference to "the handwriting of ordinances that was against us" is a reference to the added law, not the Ten Commandments. If "the handwriting of ordinances" refers to the added law, "the law of commandments contained in ordinances" must also refer to that law as they both refer to ordinances. As "the book of the law" is the same name used for the added law in Deuteronomy, all three of these texts must refer to the added law given under the Levitical priesthood. When Christ died for our sins, these added laws were done away with.

So now that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, what statutes do we live under? Since Christ is our high priest, we are now back under the order of Melchisedek, or the Melchisedek priesthood.

Confusion often arises in the fact that many of the laws under the Melchisedek priesthood were repeated in the added laws of the Levitical priesthood. The fact that the added laws were done away with does not mean that equivalent laws under the Melchisedek priesthood were also done away with. A good example of this is the law against murder, which is contained in both the Ten Commandments and the added law.

"Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13).

"And he that killeth any man shall surely be put to death" (Leviticus 24:17).

Just because the Levitical law against murder was blotted out doesn't mean that murder is not now a sin. Jesus is our high priest after the order of Melchisedek and the laws of the Melchisedek priesthood, referenced in the books of Genesis and Exodus before the establishment of the Levitical priesthood, are still in force.

Two other statutes were added to the Melchisedek priesthood when Jesus became our high priest; the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20).

"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 2:38).

These two statutes are part of the testimony of Jesus. We are required to keep this testimony and model our lives after his example.

"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 his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (I Peter 2:21-23).

For more information on the Melchisedek and Levitical laws, read the tract "Does the Bible Contradict Itself - The Two Laws Contrasted."

Conclusion

Therefore, that law and commandments from God that we are to observe today, being under the Melchisedek priesthood and having Jesus Christ as our high priest, are:

The Ten Commandments

The law of the clean and the unclean

The law of the ten percent tithe

The Remembrance of Jesus through the Lord's Supper

The acceptance of Jesus through Baptism

The testimony of Jesus to live by His example

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



BY DELL STOUT



In studying our lesson titled "Amos," it came to me that we, the USA, are in a similar situation to what Israel was in the lesson. We have enjoyed a period of unprecedented prosperity. We too are guilty of social injustices, pleasure seeking, self-indulgences and gross idolatry. Some examples:

The 10 Commandments taken out of Public buildings across America.

The removal of prayer from schools.

The propagation of separation of church and state in an effort to undermine America's Judeo-Christian heritage.

As Amos in a series of five visions portrayed the emergence of the day of doom, warning his people that they ought to prepare to meet God, we have people today sounding, the warning. For example, a poem titled:

"America the Beautiful"
by Justice Roy Moore

America the Beautiful or so you used to be
Land of the Pilgrim's pride, I'm glad they'll never see
Babies piled in dumpsters, Abortion on demand,
Oh, sweet land of liberty, your house is on the sand.
Our children wander aimlessly poisoned by cocaine,
Choosing to indulge their lust, when God has said abstain.

From sea to shining sea, our Nation turns away
From the teaching of God's love and a need to always pray.

So many worldly pastors tell lies about our Rock,
Saying God is going broke, so they can fleece the flock.
We've kept God in our temples, how callous we have grown,

When earth is but his footstool and Heaven is His throne.
We voted in a government that is rotting at the core,
appointing godless judges who threw reason out the door.
Too soft to place a killer in a well deserved tomb,
But brave enough to kill a baby before it leaves the womb.
You think that God's not angry that our land's a moral slum?

How much longer will He wait before His judgement comes?
How are we to face a God from Whom we cannot hide?
What then is left for us to do, but stem this evil tide?
If we show we are His children and will humbly turn and pray,

Seek His holy face and mend our evil way,
Then God will hear from Heaven and forgive us of our sins,
He will heal our sickly land and all who live within.
But America the Beautiful if you don't then you will see,
A sad but Holy God withdraw his hand from thee.

Some Thoughts On The Beast Of Revelation 13

By Delwin DeLong

The Beast found in Revelation 13 has been a mystery to many people for quite a long time. This page outlines a discussion of some of our thoughts concerning the nature of this beast.

This Beast is driven by Satan and his power, and it has been the vehicle of Satan's deception throughout the generations of this earth. It is an all encompassing force that has led many peoples, nations and tongues into sin and deception. It has caused them to unknowingly go against God's truth. In the second verse of this chapter, we read:

"And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority" (Revelation 13:2).

This beast is the vehicle that Satan has used throughout the generations of this earth. We see from the description in the previous verse that the beast appeared like a leopard, a bear and a lion. Let us examine the dream that was given to Daniel during his time in the Babylonian captivity.

"Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. The first was like a lion, and had eagles's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings

of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns" (Daniel 7:2-7).

The first of the four beasts was like a lion. This represented the Babylonian empire. The second was like a bear, and this represented the Medo-Persian empire. The third was like a leopard, and this represented the Grecian empire, while the fourth, with great iron teeth, represented the Roman empire. These four are summed up in the Beast we see in Revelation 13. Satan promoted the religions of these kingdoms which were against God's truth. Let us read what the interpretation of the four beasts was.

"These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth" (Daniel 7:17).

Continued study of the seventh chapter of Daniel will bring further insight about these four kings.

This Beast has a mark.

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:16-17).

A mark in the forehead means the thoughts of the people would be inclined toward the workings of the Beast. The mark in the hands would mean the actions of the people would do the bidding of the Beast.

We hear many people speak about the mark of the Beast. Let us read where this mark is found and what it is.

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy" (Revelation 13:1).

Notice the last sentence of this verse; "and upon his heads the name of blasphemy". The mark of the beast is blasphemy. What is blasphemy one might ask? It is defined as showing contempt or the lack of reverence toward God. God has view us the Truth of His Word. Satan twists these truths and tries to convince people that his lies are truth. This is blasphemous. Satan gives his power to the Beast of Revelation 13, and he has used this beast to blaspheme God and to deceive the people of this earth. The methods he uses, and the kingdoms he directs, make up the workings of this beast. This beast has continued throughout all the generations of the earth, and it will continue until Jesus returns and sets up His kingdom on the earth. Let us now read verses 4-6.

"And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beasts: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven" (Revelation 13:4-6).

Notice here that power was given the "mouth speaking great things and blasphemies" for forty-two months (which is a time period of three and one half years). Now let's go back to Daniel and read Daniel 7:8.

"I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this throne were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" (Daniel 7:8).

This little horn speaking great things lasts for three and one half years. This is expressed in Daniel as a time (one year), times (two more years), and the dividing of a times (one half year). This makes a total of three and one half years. Let us read this in Daniel 7:25 where the interpretation of this "little horn" is given.

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time" (Daniel

7:25).

This "little horn" will be taken out of the way when Jesus sets up His kingdom.

"But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:26-27).

We know this beast's power will survive until Jesus takes it out of the way at the battle of Armageddon. This beast's power will then be cast in the lake of fire.

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Revelation 19:20).

Satan wants to deceive as many people as possible before the Lord returns. If he can get us to climb upon the Beast of blasphemy, he will try to do so any way he can. Satan is very subtle and tries to make his lies appear as God's truth. Stay off this beast - do not be caught up in its deceptions. Satan has had great success and has caused many to ride this beast. It is up to us to make sure we are not being deceived by this beast's power. That is why we must prove all things with the Word of God, and hold fast to God's Truth. The mark of the beast will be put on our foreheads if we believe Satan's teachings. It will be placed on our hands if we do the things he prescribes. Satan is very dangerous and strong. He gives his power to this beast, so we must be very alert to stay away from this mighty beast power. Jesus is more powerful and has defeated this beast's power when He died on the cross, but this beast survives and is rampant throughout the world today. To defeat it and stay off it, we must turn our lives over to Jesus and then follow Him in the path He has chosen for us. In this way, we can be a part of that first resurrection where we, too, will have conquered that beast's power.

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6).



MARRIAGE... BEFORE YOU SAY "I DO" CONSIDER GOD'S WORD

By Laura Tennant



"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him" Genesis 2:18.

All of us at one time or another has thought about marriage - whether we would like to get married or decide it just isn't for us - whether it is about someone else's marriage or our own. We all have preconceived ideas or images of the state of marriage - some are romantic, some are realistic, some good ideas, some bad ideas, some a mixture of both. When we're young, we usually are starry eyed and when we are "in love" we think of marriage - of spending the rest of our lives with that special someone - the one who makes us feel special (or we want to make us feel special). We think if we love someone and are "good" to them that they will love us in return and be "good" to us and never want to leave. Before entering into marriage, we must be honest to each other and ourselves. Some are under the misconception that our love can change a person for the better. When reality settles in, we find this is not true. We do not take in to consideration all the influences of daily life that affect a marriage or relationship. Marriage is indeed that, handling day to day situations together as one. "But from the beginning of the creation God make them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh; so then they are no more twain, but one flesh" Mark 10:6-8.

In marriage, or any union, there is not always smooth sailing. Problems can develop and they will. Sometimes we magnify the habits of another person and allow them to irritate us beyond reason. When we do this, we hide bigger problems that exist in the relationship or within ourselves that we are not willing to face or try to change. We convince ourselves that any existing problems are the fault of the other party involved. There are no ideal conditions for marriage - it never happens. We must be prepared for rough spots in the road of life. They will come. A "working" marriage allows us to face life's bumps to-

gether. "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" Matthew 19:4-6.

Beginning a new life with someone can be difficult if you have never experienced the responsibility of daily living - working, paying bills, emergencies that may crop up, etc. Living with your parents is far different than living with your mate. You can't just ignore them when situations develop. Living alone is also not the same as living with the person you chose to marry. The decisions in your life are now to be made by you and your spouse. In Genesis 2:24-25 we read, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." As husband and wife, we will be naked before each other, not only in a physical absence an emotional one as well. We are to be as one and not hide anything from each other. We are to be able to share our inner most thoughts and feelings with each other without a feeling of shame. In a marriage situation, we must be willing to reveal our weaknesses as well as our strengths to one another. In order to do this, we must be honest with each other. Marriage is headed for failure when there is distrust and lies. We are to be as one, encouraging and lifting up each other as we would like others to do towards us.

Marriage carries responsibilities for both of its partners. Each should have certain expectations concerning the other before entering the union. God has forseen the problems that we might encounter in a marriage. If we look at His Word carefully, we can study the responsibilities and expectations we should have towards one another. We can see what truths we should possess and what we should look for in a partner. It is important for us

to do this as a marriage is held together by a man and woman, equally sharing in its responsibilities - becoming one.

When we look at some of the necessary characteristics needed in each partner to form a good union or marriage, these key words are among a few that appear in Scripture: **Benevolence** (kindness, compassion, generosity, goodwill); **Reverence** (respect, admiration); **Virtuous** (God, righteous, worthy, moral, upright, honest); **Prudent** (careful, sensible, practical, wise); **Honorable or Honor** (worthy, moral, principled, good, respectable, upright, proper); **Trust** (confidence reliance, dependence); **Strength** (power, intensity); **Understanding** (considerate, thoughtful, kind, appreciative, tolerant); **Wisdom** (understanding, knowledge, insight, good judgment); **Kindness** (compassion, gentleness, benevolence consideration). Let us take a closer look at God's Word.

"Who can find a **virtuous** woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely **trust** in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she brings together food from a far. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it; with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good; her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. **Strength** and **honour** are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with **wisdom** and in her tongue is the law of **kindness**. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she

shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates." Proverbs 31:10-31

Proverbs 31:25-26 - "**Strength** and **honour** are her clothing...in her tongue is the law of **kindness**." "A **virtuous** woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones" Proverbs 12:4.

I Corinthians 7:3-4 - "Let her husband render unto the wife due **benevolence**: and likewise also the wife unto her husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath no power of his own body, but the wife." Scripture shows this is an equal partnership.

In Colossians 3:18-19 we read, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, **love** your wives and be not bitter against them." What kind of love is implied? To further understand the word "love," let us turn to I Corinthians 13:4-8 (first part). "Charity (Love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity (love) envieth not; charity (love) vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, helpeth all things, endureth all things. Charity (love) never faileth." This kind of love does not fail.

Ephesians 5:22-33 tells us, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord, 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. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, **love** your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. **He that loveth his wife loveth himself.** For no man ever yet hateth his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, for his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a **man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be**

one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church. **Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself: and the wife see that she reverence her husband."**

In Hebrews 13:4 we read, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Let us read Proverbs 5:18-23. "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all time; and be thou ravished always to her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be

ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord and he pondereth all his goings. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cores of his sins. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray."

In marriage the key word is "oneness". As you are about to become as "one", ask yourself this question. "Is this who I want to be?" Your life partner will be a reflection of you. You will be a reflection of them.

7 Things You May Or May Not Know About GOLD

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. The ark of the covenant was covered inside and out with gold.

"And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold" (Exodus 25:10-13).

2. The gold for the ark and the other items in the tabernacle came from the children of Israel.

"And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying, Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass, And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, And rams' skins dyed red, and badger's skins, and shittim wood, And oil for the light, and spices for anoint-

ing oil, and for the sweet incense. And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate. And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the Lord hath commanded; The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his caskets, The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering" (Exodus 35:4-12).

3. When Israel was victorious (with God's help) over other nations, they were told not to desire the silver or gold that was on the other nations gods.

"Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the Lord thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt; The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the Lord thy God brought thee out: so shall the Lord thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid. Moreover the Lord thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed. Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the Lord thy God is among you, a mighty God and terrible. And the Lord thy God will put

out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee. But the Lord thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with the mighty destruction, until they be destroyed. And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them. The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is upon them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the Lord thy God. Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing" (Deuteronomy 7:18-26).

4. The judgments of the Lord are to be desired more than gold.

"The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:9-10).

5. Instruction and knowledge are more valuable.

"Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold" (Proverbs 8:10).

6. The heathen bring trees into their houses and decorate them with gold and silver.

"Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel: Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them. For the customs of the people are vain; for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jeremiah 10:1-4).

7. The New Jerusalem will be of pure gold.

"And the that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, a hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the

wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an emethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass" (Revelation 21:15-21).

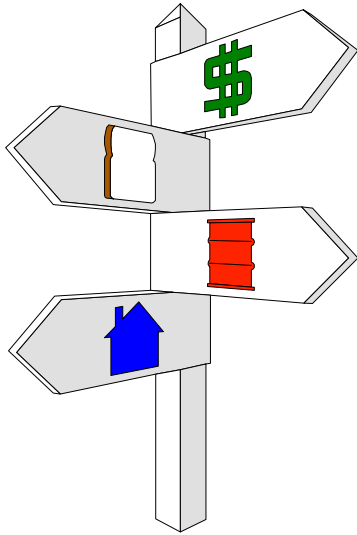
A BLESSING

"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.



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 were taken from the *Houston Chronicle*.

For retailer, never say never on Sundays Nationwide chain opens on Sunday

**by Tara Dooley
Houston Chronicle Religion Writer**

On the seventh day, God rested.

Everyone else, it seems, shops. Now the first day is open, too.

To accommodate the modern busy schedule, Family Christian Stores opened its doors nationwide Sunday for the first time in the company's 71-year history.

"It's a pretty big deal for Christian retailers," said Hector Westry, manager of the Family Christian Store in Sugar Land. "It's an opportunity to minister to people in a fast-paced world. This is the only opportunity for families to get out and shop."

The Sugar Land store was among the company's 315 outlets - seven in the Houston area - that opened for business on Sunday this week.

The stores will be open noon-5p.m. Sundays, between morning and evening church services. The goal is to give customers a chance to race to the store after church to pick up the newest Veggie Tales video or a copy of whatever book was all the buzz at Bible study. The abbreviated hours also mean employees don't have to give up their own Sunday worship rituals.

"It became very clear it was the right thing to do," said Dave Browne, president and CEO of the Grand Rap-

ids, Michigan based company. "If we're going to be there to help them, we needed to be there on the day they are paying the most attention to their spiritual needs."

It remains to be seen if opening Sundays will meet the financial needs of the privately owned company, which is the largest Christian retail chain in the country, Browne said. Dallas-area stores started Sunday hours as a test in mid-July, he said. Initially, the store lost money, but they are beginning to break even, he said.

"From a ministry standpoint it has been a gigantic success," Browne said.

The Sugar Land store had a steady trickle of customers Sunday afternoon, and by 2:30 p.m. Westry had already sold three Bibles, he said.

"I understand that some people think Sundays are a time when nothing is open," said Cynthia Ostman, who stopped by to find a study guide for a Bible study she will lead this fall at Houston's Second Baptist Church. "But Sunday seems like the most appropriate time to do it."

Plus, it's a nice convenience, she said.

"The Lord is 24/7. He doesn't take a break."

British airwaves lure viewers with more sex, nudity on dial

**by Mark Rice-Oxley
Christian Science Monitor**

LONDON - When British police flew to Greece last month to help investigate a brawl that left one young British vacationer dead, they had an idea who one of the culprits might be: British television.

A documentary called Club Reps that aired last year had focused on the alcoholic and sexual excesses of a Mediterranean vacation. Police Superintendent Andy Rhodes says it was a magnet for teenagers to head south and behave badly.

"I would apportion quite a lot of blame to Club Reps," Rhodes told reporters from the Greek resort of Faliraki. "People like watching it, but there's a lot of young people here who have been influenced by it."

Club Reps is hardly unique on Britain's airwaves.

Sex, nudity, violence and vulgar language have become regular ingredients of the dramas, documentaries and reality TV staples that make up the British TV diet.

Scenes that would have provoked a furor 15 years ago now rarely cause a fuss..

According to a report released last month, 1 in 5 programs broadcast on one of the five terrestrial channels last year depicted some form of sexual activity, most of them mild.

Scenes depicting sexual intercourse more than doubled - rising to 14 percent from 6 percent in 1997.

"People are more accepting nowadays of nudity on television," says Robin Hull of the Broadcasting Standards Commission, a watchdog that monitors British television and radio to ensure that taste and decency guidelines are observed.

"People want to be told something is coming up that they may not be comfortable with," he adds, "but clearly this report shows there is more sex and nudity on TV."

A quick flick through the TV program guides of recent months shows that viewers with more salacious tastes could take their pick from an array of titles - ranging from the documentary (Real Sex, Sex on TV, G String Divas) to dramas such as Tipping the Velvet, Bayfather and Bodily Harm.

America's "Sex and the City" is a late-night regular. Shows such as "Eurotrash" and "Temptation Island" speak for themselves.

Live reality TV shows are under pressure to titillate. The first series of Survivor in Britain was dominated by suggestions of an illicitly beach tryst between two scantily clad contestants, while the latest Big Brother instalment was crudely taped to generate maximum frisson.

"The industry is in a turmoil at the moment because of the economic downturn, and so the pressure to come up with next Big Brother or Survivor is always on," notes

Andrew Sparke, managing director of Iskra TV, an independent television distribution company.

"If that means you have to go one step further down the trashy road, then more and more will do so, even though there are plenty of producers who can't stand what is going on at the moment," he said.

More viewers mean better ratings, the key to success.

For the government-funded BBC, more viewers means a stronger justification for charging viewers the \$190 annual license fee, which helps fund it; for independent television (ITV), better ratings means the ability to charge advertisers more for slots.

"ITV has to make a lot of money to compete with the BBC" notes John Milton Whatmore, chairman of Mediawatch UK, a body campaigning for better standards of decency in the British media.

"So ITV makes programs that are either sensational or the wrong side of the line to get the short-term viewers that make the advertisers come in," Whatmore says.

There are still standards of decency that cannot be breached. And the BSC closely polices a taste "watershed," which stipulates that content of an "adult" nature must be shown after 9 p.m.

Particularly shocking television also should carry a rider, warning viewers of what is about to be screened.

The refreshing thing is that the watershed is being respected," says Hull. "There was a time when it almost became a waterfall, but our research shows the broadcasters are tending not to transgress the rules."

Yet complaints still pour in about British TV.

So far this year there have been more than 1,000 objections to indecency on independent television alone.

Supporters of cleaner programming argue that the regular framework is weak, and say it is unfair to charge people to watch TV and then tell them to turn it off if they object to what is being shown.

"We are concerned that the media industry seems to be self regulatory," says Whatmore. "It's like the police doing investigations into their own misdemeanors."

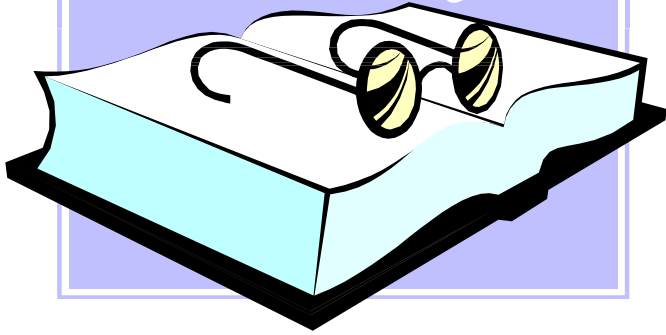
He says that the standards set on television affect the communal psyche of a country and that this is the basis for Mediawatch UK's insistence on better standards.

"If you show images that are questionable on television many times over, some of that is bound to rub off on society," he argues. "If you show sex on television as

(continued on page eighteen)

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: How should the Church of God be organized?

Answer: When God created the heavens and earth, He set all things in motion according to His design. Observe the course of the sun and moon, the precision of their paths that brings on the seasons and tides necessary to sustain life on this earth. Gaze through a microscope at a flower petal and you will see the smoothest edge. Man's most accurate tools cannot approach God's creation for beauty and design. God, the great architect has organized His whole creation to work in harmony. All life is dependent one upon another.

Our Creator also has a great plan for His church. Every member rightly fits together so the whole body can function in a healthy productive manner.

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in the hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:4-5).

Unraveling the mystery of how the church is organized allows us to make choices to assure we are part of the body of Christ.

First, we understand God's redemptive plan was to send His Son, Jesus to die for our sins that they may be forgiven. Jesus was taunted as they put a crown of thorns upon his head: "And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head" (Mark 15:17). See also: John 19:2, 19:5.

Christ rose from the dead after 3 days and ascended

to the throne on the right hand of the Father.

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 1:20).

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

This is significant! If Jesus is alive and at the right hand of the Father, then He has authority: "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).

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18).

Therefore Jesus occupies the seat of authority over the church, his church and his body. He is the head. Since he is alive now there can be in that seat of authority without working against Christ.

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God shewing himself that he is God" (II Thessalonians 2:4).

God planned to exalt Jesus from the foundation of creation and make Him head of His church: "For unto us

a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

While Jesus ministered on this earth, He organized the church and chose twelve disciples to work with Him: "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease" (Matthew 10:1).

"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:" (Matthew 10:5)

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities" (Matthew 11:1).

"And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach" (Mark 3:14).

"And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits" (Mark 6:7).

"And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles" (Luke 6:13).

"Then He called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases" (Luke 9:1).

Jesus's appointment of the twelve followed the same pattern as Moses: "These are those that were numbered, which Moses and Aaron numbered, and the princes of Israel, being twelve men: each one was for the house of his fathers" (Numbers 1:44).

After Jesus appointed the twelve apostles, He chose seventy: "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come" (Luke 10:1).

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name" (Luke 10:17).

Once again Jesus set his church ministry after the same pattern as Moses: "And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee" (Numbers 11:16).

"And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle. And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease" (Numbers 11:24-25).

The role of the twelve and seventy is spiritual. They are to judge with the very Word of God and therefore are responsible for governing the Church according to the will of God as set out in scripture. The body of the church must follow the direction of the head, which is Christ. The Spirit, the very power emanating from the Father through His Son to this people, leads these men.

All decisions taken on behalf of the body are not made by one carnal man but are brought by the twelve through prayer to the Father. Decisions taken are not by majority vote but are unanimous amongst the twelve. Every time the twelve work together the unity of God's Spirit is demonstrated.

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

And so the church is built up as the very body of Christ. With His knowledge we become perfect in Him. To be "in the unity of the faith" we must all be in agreement. The doctrine must be pure, untainted so it may feed the body. With God's plan for church government there is no bickering over who is the greatest since Christ is the head and the twelve and seventy are chosen by God's lot. God's plan and design for us is to grow in the fullness of Christ. How different from worldly governments!

In the early days of the church, the money was put together and carried in one purse. Disbursement of the monies was made according to the needs. A dispute broke out about the financial caring of widows. The apostles did not become embroiled in the worldly dispute but realized

that the church had to prosper financially. Therefore they appointed seven men of good repute to handle the financial affairs of the church:" Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business,. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word (Acts 6:2-4).

And so the government was set over the church, twelve apostles, seventy and seven. As God foreshadowed in the Old Testament, Jesus instituted in the new. Moses representing a "type" of Christ making intercession for God's people when they sinned, but Jesus intercession being complete.

And God hath set some in the church first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues" (I Corinthians 12:28).

After Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, this left 11 apostles. Therefore it was necessary for the apostles to fast, pray and cast lots before the LORD so He could appoint another man for the work of the twelve. See how this position is filled without worldly favoritism since men could not be appointed or elected by carnal methods. Only through God's choosing as shown by falling of the lot.

"And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles" (Acts 1:26).

And so the lot system is the method for choosing God's twelve and seventy even today. This is the church government that God preordained in Moses, established in Jesus and carries forward in this kingdom when Jesus returns to this earth with the New Jerusalem.

"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom" (Hebrews 1:8).

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne" (Revelation 12:5).

"And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb" (Revelation 21:14).

"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Matthew 19:28)

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church of God (7thDay). Jesus set the organization of the church to have twelve apostles who are responsible for governing the church and seventy ministers to help spread the gospel. Seven stewards were then chosen by the apostles to oversee the financial matters of the church. Members of the twelve and seventy are to be chosen by God through the casting of lots.

Let us be joined to the body of Christ and serve in His ministry in this world and the next. Understand the mystery of the body of Christ governed by Jesus as the head, the twelve, seventy and seven. God's great plan revealed.

"And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power" (Colossians 2:10).

(continued from page fifteen)

being just jumping in bed and being self-indulgent, then the norms of what is acceptable slowly start to change."

On the Net:

MediawatchUK - www.mediawatchuk.org

Broadcasting Standards Commission - www.bsc.org.k

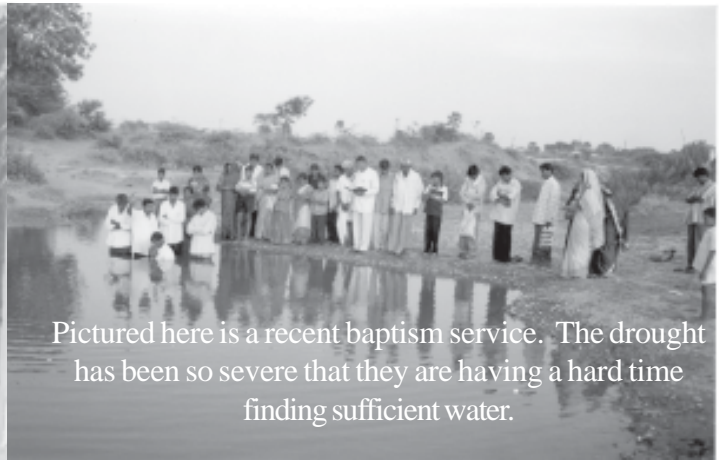
Comment

"Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights" (Psalm 119:143). Many today are ignoring God's commandments with dire consequences. Keeping the sabbath day holy and not committing adultery are becoming a thing of the past for the majority. We must always remember that God's commandments were given with our own well-being in mind. "Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye have heard from the beginning" (I John 2:7). If we follow His laws, we can not go wrong!



India

Elder M. Yehoshuva, a member of the Twelve, in India is shown with his new motorcycle and helmet which was purchased for him by the Church.



Pictured here is a recent baptism service. The drought has been so severe that they are having a hard time finding sufficient water.

Pictured below is a worship service where members of the church are seated on the ground listening to the message.



LESSON I

THE PUNISHMENT OF KORAH

Scripture Reading: Numbers 16:23-35.

Golden Text: Numbers 16:32 (first part).

"And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up..."

NOTE: We last learned that Korah and some others were rebelling against God and Moses. Moses asked the Lord not to destroy everyone for the sins of one man. We will now learn what happens to Korah and his followers.

1. What did the Lord have Moses to do concerning Korah? Numbers 16:23-26.
2. Did the congregation leave the tabernacle of Korah? Numbers 16:27.
3. What did Moses tell the people? Numbers 16:28-30.
4. What happened to Korah and his followers? Numbers 16:31-33.
5. Were the children of Israel afraid when they saw this? Numbers 16:34-35.

NOTE: Korah was one of Moses' own tribe, but he was jealous of Moses and sought to make himself the leader. Moses took this trouble to God as he did everything, and God settled the matter in no time. The earth opened and swallowed the rebels.



LESSON II

THE SIN OF MOSES

Scripture Reading: Numbers 20:1-13.

Golden Text: Numbers 20:11 (first part).

"And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice."

NOTE: Many years of wanderings have passed between our lesson today and the rebellion of Korah.

1. As our lesson begins, one of the leaders has died. What one was it? Numbers 20:1.

NOTE: Miriam was about 130 years old when she died.

2. Why did the congregation murmur at this time? Numbers 20:2.
3. What things did they say to Moses and Aaron? Numbers 20:3-5.
4. What did Moses and Aaron do? Numbers 20:6.
5. What did the Lord tell them to do? Numbers 20:7-8.
6. Did Moses do just as the Lord had said? Numbers 20:9-11.

NOTE: Remember the Lord said "speak" to the rock. But Moses smote the rock twice, saying "must we". This was not giving God the glory.

7. Because Moses had done this thing, what did the Lord tell him? Numbers 20:12.

NOTE: It was just as the Lord said. Moses and Aaron did not get to lead the children of Israel into the promised land. Aaron and Moses both died that same year as they were nearing the land for which they longed.

LESSON III

THE LAND OF EDOM AND THE DEATH OF AARON

Scripture Reading: Numbers 20:14-29.

Golden text: Numbers 20:29.

"And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days, even all the house of Israel."

NOTE: The Children of Israel are now at the city of Kadesh and want to travel through the land of Edom. Let us study to see what now happens.

1. Who did Moses send messengers to see, and what was the message he sent? Numbers 20:14-16.
 2. What did Moses ask of the king? Numbers 20:17.
 3. What reply did the King of Edom give? Numbers 20:18.
- NOTE:** The Children of Israel ask again if they can walk through Edom by the highway and offered to pay for any water they would use. The King still refuses to let them go through his land. See verses 19-20.
4. Where did the Children of Israel then go? Numbers 20:22.
 5. Now that they are at Mount Hor, what did the Lord tell Moses and Aaron to do? Numbers 20:23-26.
 6. Did Moses do as the Lord asked? Numbers 20:27.
 7. Where did Aaron die? Numbers 20:28.
 8. How long did the Children of Israel mourn Aaron's death? Numbers 20:29.

NOTE: Aaron was about 123 years old at the time of his death.

LESSON IV

REVIEWING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:6-22.

Golden Text: Deuteronomy 5:10.

"And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments."

NOTE: The word "Deuteronomy" means "Repetition of the Law." In this chapter, Moses is repeating the Ten Commandment law to the children of Israel that they might remember and obey it. Let us see how well we remembered the Ten commandments from when we studied a few months ago (Exodus 20).

1. What is the first commandment? Deuteronomy 5:7.
- NOTE:** There are other ways of breaking this commandment than just bowing down to idols. If we think more of anything than we do of God, we are putting other gods first.
2. What does the second commandment tell us not to do? Deuteronomy 5:8-10.
 3. What will the Lord do to those who take His name in vain? Deuteronomy 5:11.
 4. The fourth commandment is the one that almost the whole world has forgotten. What is it? Deuteronomy 5:12-13.
 5. Which day of the week is the Sabbath? Deuteronomy 5:14.
 6. The fifth commandment has a promise with it. What is that promise? Deuteronomy 5:16.
 7. What are the 6th, 7th and 8th commandments? Deuteronomy 5:17-19.
 8. How are we to treat our neighbor? Deuteronomy 5:20-21.



THE LIGHT THAT HELPED

By Katherine Blake

"Are we almost there, Daddy?" Billy asked. "Will it be much longer until we get to Aunt Susan's?"

"I don't know," said Daddy. "I thought we were almost there, but I'm not sure. I can't find any sign that tells where we are."

"Don't you know where we are, Daddy?" Alice asked. "Are we lost?"

Daddy kept on driving down the road. "No," he said. "We're not exactly lost. But I don't know for sure where we are, either."

"I'll get out the flashlight," said Mother, "And look at Aunt Susan's letter again. Maybe it will help us."

She turned the flashlight on the letter. "We're all right so far," she said. "We passed the old store and the big red bridge. Then we turned at the next corner."

"How far past the corner are we to go?" Daddy asked

"Until we come to a white gate," said Mother.

"But we can't see the gate," said Billy. "It's too foggy to see anything much."

"It can't be far from here," said Daddy. "Everybody watch and maybe we'll find it soon."

Daddy had to watch the road carefully so that he wouldn't drive off the road, so he couldn't watch for the gate. Mother looked and looked, but the fog swirled closer and whiter until the headlights would hardly shine through it at all. The children helped Mother look. But no one could see the white gate. "I'll drive a little farther," Daddy said. "If we don't find it we'll have to look for a house and ask where we are."

"If we can't find the gate, we can't find a house, either, Daddy," said Billy.

"Perhaps you're right, son," Daddy said. "We'll see."

Finally the fog got so thick that Daddy had to roll his window down and stick his head out before he could see the white line down the middle of the road. "If we don't get there pretty soon, we aren't going to be able to travel at all," he said.

Suddenly Billy saw something. "Daddy! Daddy!" He said. "There's a light."

"Where?" Daddy asked.

Right there," said Billy. He pointed ahead and to one side.

At first Daddy could not see the light. Then as they turned around a corner, he could see a faint glow through the fog. "A house!" he exclaimed. "I'll stop and ask where we are."

But it was not a house. As they went closer, they could see that the light was right by the road. Closer and closer they crept through the fog. At last they reached it.

"It's a lantern," Mother exclaimed. "It's hanging on the gate. Aunt Susan must have hung it there so we could find our way. Now we know where we are."

"That reminds me of a Bible verse," said Daddy. "Can you guess what it is, Billy? Something about a lamp."

Billy thought for a moment. "Is it my memory verse?" he asked. "That verse that says, 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path?'"

"That's the one," Daddy answered. "God's word, the Bible, helps us find His way just as the lantern is helping us to find Aunt Susan's hose."

"A helping light," said Billy softly. "Its light shines for us, and we can let it shine for others. I'm glad for helping lights, aren't you?"

Everyone agreed.

MY DAD

When I see my father smile,
I'm happy as can be
To know he is a gift from God
Sent down to earth for me.

When I see his big, strong hands
So rough from honest toil,
I know my heart to will be
Always true and loyal.

When I hear his tender voice,
With words so wise and kind,
In my heart I give deep thanks
To God, that Dad is mine!

-Grayce Krough Boller



TO SHOW MY THANKS

My Father often takes the time
To pitch a ball with me,
To make a kite, or fishing go,
Or hike beside the sea.

I know my Father works so hard
To give me things I need,
Clothes and shelter, food and books;
He is my friend, indeed.

To show my thanks to my fine Dad
I try with all my might
To think and say and do the things
He's taught me to be right.

-Mary Howard Poole

Use the clues below to help you find the missing word.

- The 1st letter is in SCARF but not in SCARED 1. ____
- The 2nd letter is in LACE but not in CELL 2. ____
- The 3rd letter is in RATE but not in BARE 3. ____
- The 4th letter is in HOUR but not in FLOUR 4. ____
- The 5th letter is in FOREST but not in FROST 5. ____
- The 6th letter is in RAT but not in BAT 6. ____

ANSWER: _____

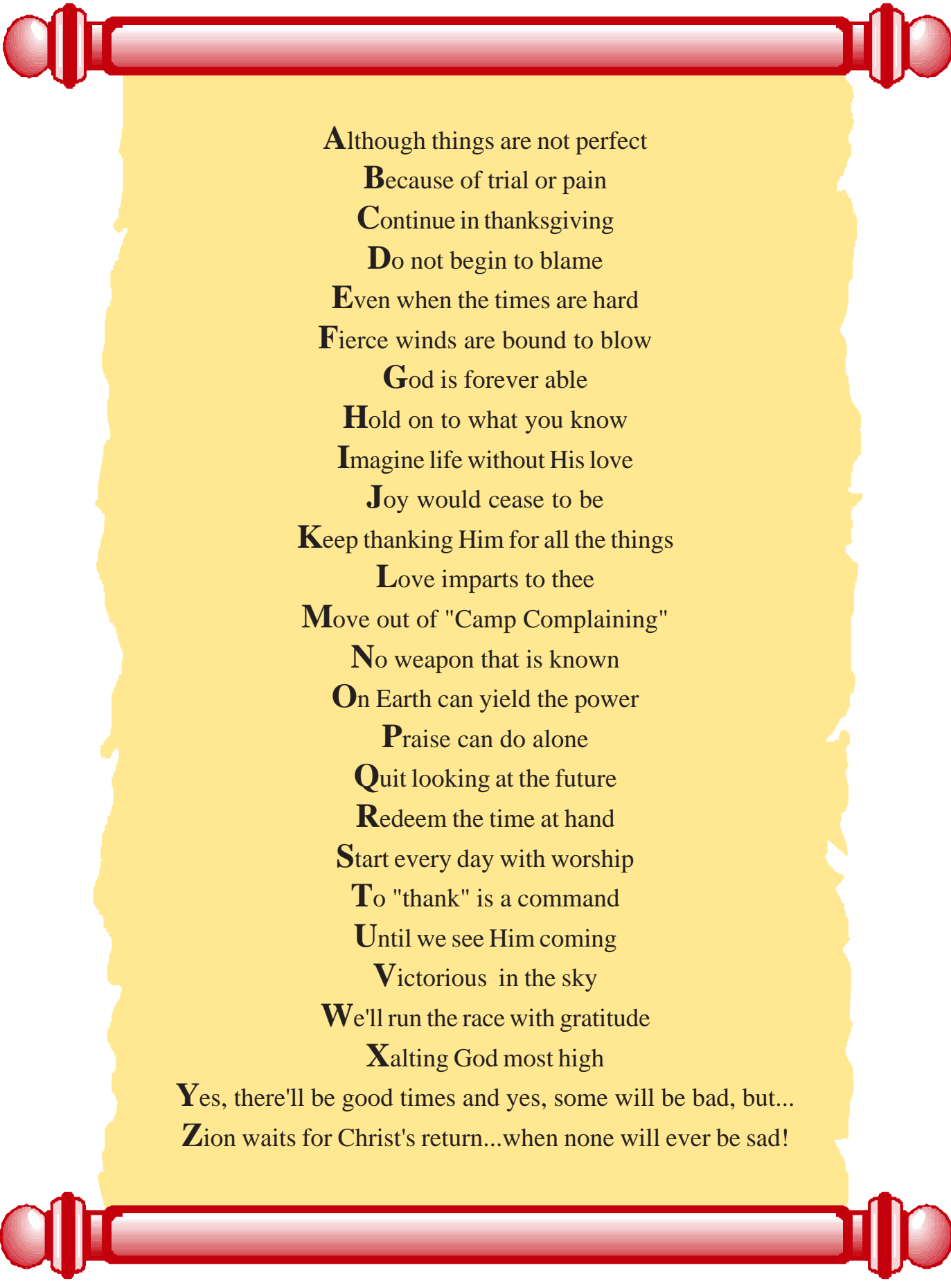
"The Ten Rules For Human Relations"

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ear is their own name.
4. Be friendly and helpful. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do were genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like everybody if you try!
7. Be generous with praise. Cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of and with the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinion of others. There are three sides to a controversy-yours, the other fellow, and the right one.
10. Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

To find out what God did on the 7th Day, cross out all of the following letters: A-H-L-N-W.

Write the remaining letters _ _ _ _ _

HARLLENASHTWEWD



Although things are not perfect
Because of trial or pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee
Move out of "Camp Complaining"
No weapon that is known
On Earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To "thank" is a command
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We'll run the race with gratitude
Xalting God most high

Yes, there'll be good times and yes, some will be bad, but...
Zion waits for Christ's return...when none will ever be sad!