

The Advocate
of Truth



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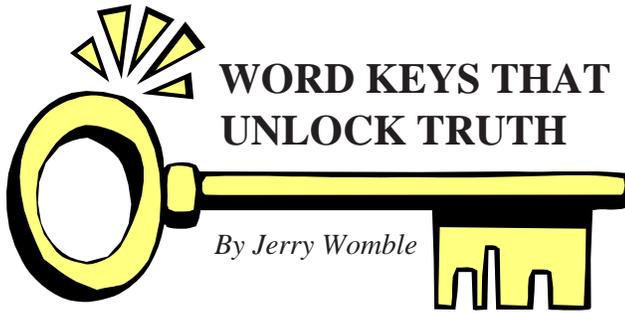
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HEDGE

In Bible times, a hedge was used to protect property. Men used it to protect their fields, and God used it to protect His property; that is, men and nations that were following Him: The hedge that a man would plant was a thorny one. It was used to separate property lines for gardens and orchards and grew so thick and with so many thorns that it could keep out even the wild animals of the area.

The hedge used by God was His angels. In II Kings 6, we read of Elisha and a young man with him that were about to be taken by a large army. But when God opened their eyes, they could see His protection. The mountain

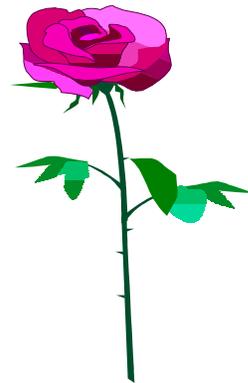
was filled with angels ready to fight for them.

We always think of Job when thinking of a hedge. The Devil even called God's protection of Job a hedge, and it was so strong that the Devil could not penetrate it to tempt Job.

In the model prayer that Jesus gave us, it states "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." This is to say hedge up the way for me to travel both physically and mentally so that I will not be tempted by the Devil. When we pray for God's hand in our life to keep us from temptation, to protect us from harm, to ease us from pain or aid us in the troubles of life, we are asking for his hedge to be placed around us. I noticed in Ezekiel 22:30 that God is looking for a man "...that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap..." He is asking for one man to stand strong for him, to be a hedge between Him and Israel and God would count this man as a barrier between Him and Israel to keep God's wrath from falling upon them.

Remember we have the promise of this hedge. The Scriptures tells us, that the angels are sent to minister to all those that are seeking salvation. Pray for the hedge of safety and strength every day in your life, and it will be there.

THANK YOU



Sandra felt as low as the heels of her shoes as she pushed against a November gust and the florist shop door. Her life had been easy, like a spring breeze. Then in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor automobile accident stole that from her.

During this Thanksgiving week, she would have delivered a son. She grieved over her loss. As if that weren't enough, her husband's company threatened a transfer. Then her sister, whose holiday visit she coveted, called saying she could not come for the holiday. Then Sandra's friend infuriated her by suggesting her grief was a God-given path to maturity that would allow her to empathize

with others who suffer. She has no idea what I'm feeling, thought Sandra with a shudder. Thanksgiving? Thankful for what? She wondered. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when he rear-ended her? For an air bag that saved her life but took that of her child?

"Good afternoon, can I help you?" The shop clerk's approach startled her. "I...I need an arrangement," stammered Sandra.

"For Thanksgiving? Do you want beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer favorite I call the Thanksgiving "Special?" asked the shop clerk. "I'm convinced that flowers tell stories,

she continued. "Are you looking for something that conveys 'gratitude' this Thanksgiving?"

"Not exactly!" Sandra blurted out. "In the last five months, everything that could go wrong has gone wrong." Sandra regretted her outburst, and was surprised when the shop clerk said, "I have the perfect arrangement for you."

Just then the shop door's small bell rang, and the shop clerk said, "Hi, Barbara...let me get your order." She politely excused herself and walked toward a small workroom, then quickly reappeared, carrying an arrangement of greenery, bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses. Except the ends of the rose stems were neatly snipped; there were no flowers.

"Want this in a box?" asked the clerk.

Sandra watched for the customer's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems with no flowers! She waited for laughter, but neither woman laughed. "Yes, please," Barbara, replied with an appreciative smile. "You'd think after three years of getting the 'special', I wouldn't be so moved by its significance, but I can feel it right here, all over again," she said as she gently tapped her chest. And she left with her order.

"Uh," stammered Sandra, "that lady just left with, uh....she just left with no flowers!"

"Right," said the clerk, "I cut off the flowers. That's the 'Special'. I call it the Thanksgiving Thorns Bouquet."

"Oh, come on, you can't tell me someone is willing to pay for that!" exclaimed Sandra.

"Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling much like you feel today," explained the clerk. "She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing, her son was into drugs, and she was facing major surgery."

"That same year I had lost my husband," continued the clerk, "and for the first time in my life, had just spent the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too great a debt to allow any travel."

"So what did you do?" asked Sandra.

"I learned to be thankful for thorns," answered the clerk quietly. "I've always thanked God for the good things in my life and never questioned the good things that happened to me, but when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask questions! It took time for me to learn that dark times are important. I have always enjoyed the 'flowers' of life, but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God's comfort.

You know, the Bible says that God comforts us when we're afflicted, and from His consolation we learn to comfort others."

Sandra sucked in her breath as she thought about the very thing her friend had tried to tell her. "I guess the truth is I don't want comfort. I've lost a baby, and I'm angry with God."

Just then someone else walked in the shop.

"Hey, Phil!" shouted the clerk to the balding, rotund man.

"My wife sent me in to get our usual Thanksgiving Special...12 thorny, long-stemmed stems!" laughed Phil as the clerk handed him a tissue-wrapped arrangement from the refrigerator.

"Those are for your wife?" asked Sandra incredulously. "Do you mind me asking why she wants something that looks like that?"

"No...I'm glad you asked," Phil replied. "Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we were in a real mess, but with the Lord's grace and guidance, we slogged through problem after problem. He rescued our marriage. Jenny here (the clerk) told me she kept a vase of rose stems to remind her of what she learned from "thorny" times, and that was good enough for me. I took home some of those stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specified "problem" and give thanks for what that problem taught us." As Phil paid the clerk, he said to Sandra, "I highly recommend the Special!"

"I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life." Sandra said. "It's all too...fresh."

"Well," the clerk replied carefully, "my experience has shown me that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God's providential care more during trouble than at any other time. Remember, it was a crown of thorns that Jesus wore so we might know His love. Don't resent the thorns."

Tears rolled down Sandra's cheeks. For the first time since the accident, she loosened her grip on resentment. "I'll take those twelve long-stemmed thorns, please," she managed to choke out.

"I hoped you would," said to clerk gently. "I'll have them ready in a minute." "Thank you. What do I owe you?"

"Nothing. Nothing but a promise to allow God to heal your heart. The first year's arrangement is always on

me." The clerk smiled and handed a card to Sandra. "I'll attach this card to your arrangement, but maybe you would like to read it first."

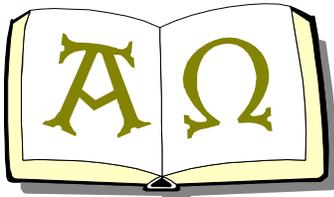
It read: "My God, I have never thanked You for my thorns. I have thanked You a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the

difficulties I bear; teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have drawn closer to You along the path of pain. Show me that, through my tears, the colors of Your rainbow look much more brilliant."

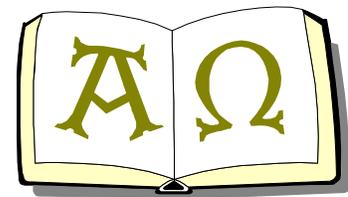
Praise Him for your roses; thank Him for your thorns!

Author Unknown - From the internet

GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS



By Bibi Shimon Allicock



In the world today, men feel they may worship God the way they want to. But, my dear friends, God does not accept such prayers. "The Lord is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:29). "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination." "For the time will come when they shall not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from hearing the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (Proverbs 28:9; II Timothy 4:3-4).

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:" "Behold, The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6; 59:1-2; 55:7).

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it

shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (Isaiah 53:8-13).

"Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice; for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the Lord, speak, saying, The Lord hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. For thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted unto mine altar; for mine house

shall be called an house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:1-7).

"Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me." "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 1:13 first part; 18-20). "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." "My Son forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour

and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." "It shall be health to thy navel and marrow to thy bones. Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase."

"So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction. For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth: even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold" (Proverbs 3:7; 1-6, 8-14).



GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THINGS

BY BOND TENNANT

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

David wrote, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High" (Psalm 92:1). The Psalmist then mentions one of the reasons for this. "For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O Lord, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep" (Psalm 92:4-5). In America, a day is set aside in November in which the people are called upon to give thanks to God for the blessings of the year. It was first observed as a harvest thanksgiving, during which the Lord was acknowledged and praised for providing temporal blessings.

Through the Constitution, the founding fathers of the United States attempted to safeguard the country against the evils of the union of church and state. This day of national thanksgiving to God was intended to keep be-

fore the people the fact that there is a higher power. This authority is much greater than that invested in the law making agencies. He is the great Creator and Provider! "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:28). Children of God in America today feel that one of their great causes for thanksgiving is the fact that in the Lord's providence it is their lot to live in a country where religious freedom is allowed.

In the world today, it is only a minority who enjoy anything approaching an abundant life, made comfortable and rich with material blessings. These few will have cause for thankfulness that in this respect their lot has fallen in pleasant places. But their lot is only temporary! There is seething unrest because in today's world, seventy-five percent of the people are living on subnormal rations. The underprivileged masses storm the bulwarks of a dying civilization. They insist that they be given their fair share of the earth's bounties. There is little assurance that those

who are well fed will have their happy lot continued.

The world's cause for thanksgiving rests on a flimsy foundation. But the hope for mankind rests on a sure foundation! The Lord, in his abundant mercy, has revealed his works to us. We can say unto the world that the Lord will "make unto all people a feast of faith things." Read Isaiah 25:6. This is not a literal feast, but a satisfying of the legitimate desires of the human heart. We know that this is in sink for mankind. Therefore, we like to think of the time when there will be a worldwide thanksgiving day. "O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us" (Psalm 67:4-6).

Many, even under present difficult conditions, find cause for thankfulness. However, there is another side to the human experience which the Apostle Paul refers to in Romans 8:19,22-23. "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." If we prove faithful to our calling, we will be blessed when the manifestation of the sons of God takes place.

Children of God will always endeavor to think of the

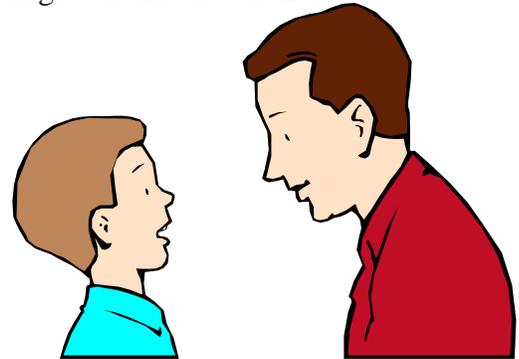
Lord, and of their participation in His works in connection with their everyday affairs. Their relationship to Him is more than a beautiful and spirit theme. The Lord takes a personal interest in our everyday experiences. These experiences include our joys, sorrows, trials and problems. Jesus spoke of the very hairs of our heads being numbered. As the old hymn states, we can thank God "for the sunshine and the rain," and also "for the sorrow and the pain."

David said that the thoughts of God toward us are very deep. "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee" (Psalm 139:17-18). The fact that He thinks of us at all is beyond comprehension. "What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8:4). He knows our every weakness and imperfection. "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14).

God has thought of every experience that has ever, or will ever come into our lives. He has assured us that He will share our joys, strengthen us in trial, guide us by his wisdom and protect us from harm. He will give His angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways. "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways" (Psalm 91:11). The Apostle Paul wrote, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Roman 8:28). Therefore, always, and in all things, we will give thanks unto the Lord.

IMAGE

BY PASCACIO TAVIZON



A natural law, which is confirmed by the Scriptures, establishes that children resemble their parents. This is easily confirmed by simply looking around us. We parents wish to transmit our preferences and characteristics to our children, and we insist on doing so. We dress them

like us. We take them to observe and practice our favorite sports. We take them out to eat the kind of food that we like. In short, we want them to look and be like us as much as possible.

In I Corinthians 15:49, we find that we bear in our

lives the image of the earthly. However, it is also stated that the children of God will also bear the image of the heavenly. How can we develop the image of our Heavenly Father in ourselves. Let us imagine that our lives are like photography plates. Images received through light are imprinted on such plates. consistent with this principle, the more we are exposed to the presence of the Divine light, the clearer our God's image will be imprinted in each of us. We must regularly attend to the study of God's Word. By being exposed to God for a longer time, His image will become more and more imprinted in our lives.

We will be instilled with His character, His wisdom, His way of dealing with day to day affairs, and His way of treating people

As God's servants, we accept His invitation to come before Him and receive His likeness. This makes us see that God's will is not subject to ours. Our wills are subject to His! It is similar to being in a boat and throwing a rope to the shore. As we pull on the rope, are we pulling the shore toward us, or are we getting closer to the shore? Allowing God's image to become imprinted in us depends on the time we devote to being before Him.

BE STUDIOUS, AS IGNORANCE IS EXPENSIVE

BY BUDDY SCOTT - PASS IT ON
THE FACTS - CLUTE, TEXAS



I recently spoke for a worship service for a church in Katy.

Without planning to say it, out came the words, "Ignorance is expensive!"

The phrase became a theme of the message, and I found myself repeating it throughout my delivery.

As an example, I observed how expensive ignorance is to teens who rebel against their families.

Their not knowing the realities of the real world and ignorantly partying on can cost them good reputations, close relationships with quality people, high school and college educations, good jobs and fulfilling careers.

How much might they pay throughout their adult lives for unwise teen choices?

Ignorance can be very expensive!

The word ignorance originated from Latin words that meant "to not know."

Synonyms make the meaning of ignorant more obvious: untaught, unlearned, untutored, uninstructed, unenlightened and uninformed.

An ignoramus is one who is taken advantage of be-

cause he or she has not sufficiently educated himself or herself or been taught the knowledge it takes to ward off preying financially opportunistic predators. He or she has the capacity to know, but doesn't know at the time he or she needs the information.

I once visited with Bill Murray, the son of Madalyn Murray O'Hare, the well-known American atheist, and he told me something I have always remembered.

He said that although many people are appalled by atheists, ignoring God (willfully living a life of ignorance about God) ultimately turns out at the same place as atheism.

He said that if a person is without God, he or she is the same condition without regard to the path he or she took to arrive in that condition.

Readers, think about how expensive ignorance is in Bill Murray's context.

"Ignorance is no excuse," as the saying goes, and that's a reason why the Apostle Paul mentored a young minister named Timothy with these words:

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a work-

man that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

What applies spiritually also applies practically.

As a consumer, ignorance has at times cost me. But in a recent transaction, experience saved me from being "hijacked."

I ordered a couple of lightweight items from a national parts warehouse.

The phone clerk totaled my order and said, "And that will be plus 18 dollars shipping and handling (Parcel post, would you believe?)."

Fortunately, I wasn't ignorant of shipping charges, and I replied, "That seems way too much, and it's persuading me to back out of ordering."

Without hesitating, he said, "OK sir. What if I divide that in half, and only charge you nine dollars for S and H?"

I responded, "Then, let's continue with the order."

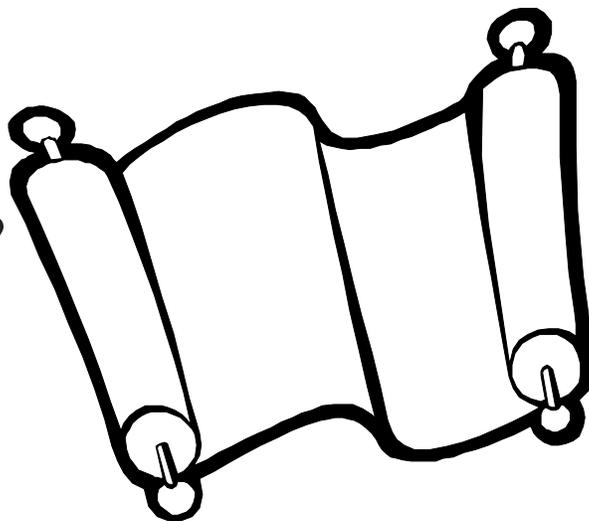
Had I not known that mail-order companies increase their profits by overcharging for shipping and handling, he could have happily taken advantage of me for his company.

An insider attitude of some companies seems to be: Go ahead and overcharge for shipping and handling. We will lower it for those who aren't ignorant and timid, and we'll make money off those who are ignorant and timid.

"Let the buyer beware" certainly applies today. "Be an informed and defensive consumer" applies as well.

WHAT IS THE WORD THAT JESUS PREACHED?

COMPILED BY SIEGFRIED MAYWALD



Where did it come from?

What is its purpose?

The scriptures give us answers to
all of these questions.

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God" (Luke 8:11).

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11).

"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10).

"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me" (John 17:8).

Great boldness is needed to preach God's word. In many instances, people feel threatened when His word is courageously spoken. Something more is needed if souls are to be awakened to a sense of sin in their lives and to be healed by God's mighty grace. When His word is proclaimed, signs and wonders can be done, but we must have belief and faith in God! That is why we read in Acts

4:29-30, "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy child Jesus".

However, boldness and faithfulness alone will not bring souls to Christ. We must always remember that it is the Spirit that quickeneth, along with the testimony of preaching the Word. God gives the increase! We only plant the seed! On the other hand, doubt and fearfulness will only hinder the miraculous healing power of God's Holy Spirit.

The convicting word may be very bitter to some of the souls at first, but thereafter it becomes sweeter than honey. To feel the sweetness of this divine security and pace within one's heart, one must keep reading the Word and act accordingly.

God's word is described in the scriptures:

1. As the "**engrafted word**," which is to be received. It is also able to save our souls. "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21).

2. As the "**faithful word**," which has been taught us. It is sound doctrine. "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers" (Titus 1:9). It is given to us for doctrine, for reproof, for correction ad for instruction in righteousness. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction , for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16). Through patience and comfort of the scriptures , we can have hope. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

3. As the "**word of life**," which is to be held forth, that we may rejoice in the day of Christ. "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain" (Philippians 2:16). In John 6:63, Jesus said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

4. As the "**word of truth**," which is to show ourselves to be approved of God. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be

ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:16).

5. As "**the armour of God**," "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:11-12). It gives us hope unto salvation. "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation" (I Thessalonians 5:8).

6. As "**the sword of the Spirit**" which is sharper than any two-edged sword. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). This is why some people feel threatened when God's word is spoken to them. Their own conscience convicts them of wrongdoing, and they feel uneasy about it. Many people in the world today cannot stand to have the truth spoken to them. They prefer fables instead. "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:4).

7. As "**the door**" "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:9). Here we get to understand that the Word was made flesh. He was with God and appeared in the likeness of sinful flesh. Christ as only the Word could not be seen or heard in the same way as the word made flesh.

The Word alone has not the virtue in it to relieve the burden of sin for mankind and save our souls. Only through God's grace was it made possible! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

With Jesus's words, "I am the door", we see:

a. Simplicity - "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

"By Me"

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John

10:9).

b. Exclusion - "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6).

"If any man"

c. Inclusion - "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24).

"Enter In"

d. Condition - "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).

"Shall be saved"

e. Certainty - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death" (John 8:51).

"Go in and out"

f. Liberty - "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17).

"Find pasture"

g. Provision - "I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God" (Ezekiel 34:15).

"And ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God" (Ezekiel 34:31).

"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3).

God's word pricks like fire and burns like the sun's rays, the same as when a magnifying glass is held to concentrate the sun's rays. The sun's rays burning power is intensified. In like manner, the word of God is both a fire and a burning glass. A divine truth is concentrated through the burning or magnifying glass and focused on the heart of men. It becomes powerful in its influence. It is quick and powerful, piercing, dividing the soul and spirit (Hebrews 4:12). It acts as a discerner of the thought and intents of the heart. That is why people feel uneasy or uncomfortable when God's word is spoken. Their own conscience convicts them of the wrong doings. It is difficult and even hurts at times to have to accept correction, to be told to change. But the truth has to be listened to, convicting us, to make a change for the better, to love more in accordance to God's word. It was the Apostle Paul's charge to Timothy to preach the word, the truth,

and to prove, rebuke and exhort with great patience and careful instructions. Today, we must do likewise because we live in a time when many people turn away from the truth and prefer to listen to fables. They would rather listen to smooth talk which does not prick their conscience.

Echinacea, a well known medical plant, has been extolled lately even by the medical profession as a very powerful antidote against flues and colds of any kind and a help in strengthening the immune system of the body.

In like manner, the word of God must be the believer's Echinacea. While in the wilderness of their world, we must always carry it with us in our hearts and minds. It is God Almighty's weapon or antidote to overcome the fevers of passion and anxiety, and the hindrances of doubt and unbelief. It is the only antidote that gives us assurance of safety and peace wherever we are, whether in the midst of a large city with all its rush or in the solitude of a tropical jungle or in the heat and empty space of the desert.

"But he answered and said, It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

MY DRUG PROBLEM

I had a drug problem when I was young.

I was drug to church on Sabbath morning,

I was drug to church for weddings and funerals.

I was drug to family reunions no matter the weather.

I was drug to the bus stop to go to school every week-day.

I was drug by my ears when disrespectful to adults and teachers.

I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those drugs are still in my veins today; they affect my behavior in everything I do, say and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin, and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would certainly be a better place.

From the internet

CHRIST GIVES CAUSE TO REJOICE



A STUDY LESSON



Please read Philippians 4:4-13.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Philippians 4:4 reads, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." The thought is that the child of God has reason to be continually happy. This happiness is spiritual and can be found only in the Lord. The apostle repeats the exhortation to show not only his earnestness but also that it was God's will that this attitude, stemming from a proper condition of heart, would reflect a desirable relationship between the Heavenly Father and His spirit-begotten sons.

We read in Philippians 4:5, "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." In this instance, the word moderation means patience. It carries the thought of meekness under provocation, readiness to forgive injuries. The thought of being meek under provocation implies a complete and unreserved consecration to the Lord. It also shows the willingness on the part of the individual to trust in the precedences of the Lord. The Apostle Peter said of our Lord, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (I Peter 2:23). This seems to be the thought that the apostle is making. In the latter part of Philippians 4:5, the text reads, "...The Lord is at hand." This is similar to the phrase used in I Corinthians 16:22, Maranatha, which means "the Lord is judge." The complete thought of the text is that the child of God should be meek under provocation, realizing that the Lord is the judge.

In Philippians 4:6, the apostle saith, "Be careful for

nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." The expression "be careful for nothing" has the thought, be not anxiously solicitous. To be anxious would indicate a lack of confidence in the overruling providences of the Lord. In communicating with the Lord by prayer and supplication, we are making a solemn application to God, appealing to Him from a sense of want. The thought of supplication is that of continuance in earnest prayer. Our prayers to the heavenly Father, however, must be prefaced with an earnest desire to ask only those things that are in harmony with His will. If the petition being made is not in harmony, we must earnestly desire that it not be acted upon.

With a full awareness that we as children of God have been blessed above all people and that we have been the recipients of countless past blessings and favors, surely our disposition in all our communication with the Heavenly Father should be one of thankfulness.

Philippians 4:7 reads, "And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." The real peace of mind comes to the child of God because of his relationship to the Heavenly Father. This peace gives reason and direction to all the conflicting thoughts and appetites that come into our minds because of the flesh. It has as its foundation a sense of pardon and forgiveness, but more than anything else, a realization of favor with God.

This peace will keep our hearts and minds. Our hearts are pictured in the Bible as that of affections, motives, and our minds are symbols of understanding, judgement,

and conscience. These two symbols together represent the new creature, or creation, that is the subject of all God's dealing with true children of God.

This is really saying that if we, as new creatures, maintain our relationship with God and maintain the peace that results from this relationship, then God through the power of the Holy Spirit operating through our Lord Jesus, will keep us from falling.

We truly have cause to rejoice.

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

THE TRAGEDY OF ECUMENICAL UNFAITHFULNESS

With heart so kind and gentle,
And sympathetic eye;
With touching deep affection,
And loyal, tender tie-
Was LOVE betrothed to DOCTRINE
To hold him all her days,
And walk the path of gladness
United in his ways.
Her younger sister also
Had qualities so fair,
of caring , selfless, kindness,
And warmth without compare;
Thus Unity was drawn to
The husband of her youth;
And pledged herself forever
To be the bride of TRUTH.
But TIME, with bitter envy,
Across the testing years,
Pursued the slow erosion
Of happiness to tears;
Till LOVE began to weary
Of DOCTRINE'S pleasant voice,
And UNITY grew cold to
The partner of her choice.

The LOVE began to notice
The charms of HERESY,
And awed by his opinions,
She wanted to be free;
And UNITY perceived that
Her virtues were desired
By many, many others
Whose ways she so admired.
At length, two precious unions,
So promising, so blest,
Were darkened by delusion,
Disloyalty, unrest;
Til came the day of sorrows,
And rendering vows of youth,
When LOVE divorced her DOCTRINE
And UNITY her TRUTH.

-Author unknown

A NEAT STORY

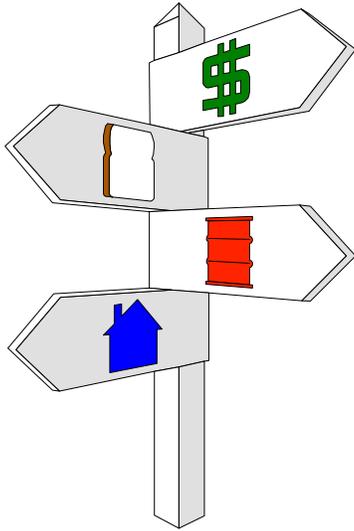
And they call some of these people "retarded" ...
A few years ago, at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash.

At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry.

The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back...every one of them. One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why? Because deep down we know this one thing. What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters in this life is helping others to win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.

From the internet



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 appeared in The Houston Chronicle.

Children of single parents suffer more psychiatric woes, study says

Associated Press

Children growing up in single-parent families are twice as likely as their counterparts to develop serious psychiatric illnesses and addictions later in life, according to an important new study.

Researchers have for years debated whether children from broken homes bounce back or whether they are more likely than kids whose parents stay together to develop serious emotional problems.

Experts say the latest study, published this week in The Lancet medical journal, is important because of its unprecedented scale and follow-up - it tracked about 1 million children for a decade into their mid-20s.

The question of why and how those children end up with such problems remains unanswered. The study suggests that financial hardship may play a role, but other experts say the research also supports the view that quality of parenting could be a factor.

The study used the Swedish national registries, which cover almost the entire population and contain extensive socioeconomic and health information. Children were considered to be living in a single-parent household if they were living with the same single adult in both the 1985 and 1990 housing census. That could have been the result of divorce, separation, death of a parent, out of wedlock birth or guardianship.

About 60,000 were living with their mother and about 5,500 with their father. There were 921,257 living with both parents. The children were ages 6 to 18 at the start of the study, with half already in their teens.

The scientists found that children with single parents were twice as likely as the others to develop a psychiatric illness such as severe depression or schizophrenia, to kill themselves or attempt suicide, and to develop an alcohol related disease.

Girls were three times more likely to become drug addicts if they lived with a sole parent, and boys were four times more likely.

The researchers concluded that financial hardship, which they defined as renting rather than owning a home and as being on welfare, made a big difference.

However, other experts questioned the financial influence and suggested that quality of parenting could also be a factor.

"It makes you think that what you're seeing is just the most dysfunctional families having these problems, rather than the low income. The money is really an indicator of something else," said Sara McLanahan, a professor of sociology at Princeton University, who was not involved in the study.

Comment

Children need both parents when they are growing up. Society has made good progress in trying to redefine the definition of "family." God intended for a family to begin with the union of a man and a woman. Of course, there are valid reasons why a child may be living with a

single parent such as the death of the mother or father.

If God's Word were followed, there would be no children born out of wedlock!

Financial hardship should not enter into the picture. Financial hardship for some is one of the features of the society in which we live. The quality of parenting is the crucial factor in rearing a mentally sound and God fearing child. "Train up a child in the way he would go" and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Newton predicted world's end, BBC says

Associated Press

JERUSALEM - Sir Isaac Newton predicted the world will be ending in 57 years, based on a document from a Jerusalem archive, a TV network said. But a library official said he has not seen the document.

Newton's somber prediction was unearthed by a Canadian researcher in a British Broadcasting Corp. documentary, "Newton: The Dark heretic."

In a statement promoting the program, to be aired March 1, the BBC said it will show a handwritten Newton document predicting the end in 2060, and assigns calculations he made based on the Bible. The BBC said the document was found in the Jewish National Library in Jerusalem.

Raphael Weiser, director of the library's manuscripts and archives department, said Sunday that Canadian academic Stephen Snobelen worked extensively on its Newton collection and had brought a BBC camera crew with him. Weiser said he has not seen the document the program intends to present as evidence.

Newton, who died in 1727, is renowned for formulating the law of gravity, but he also was a theologian who wrote more than a million words on biblical subjects. The BBC said he studied the Bible for more than 50 years to unravel God's secret laws of the universe.

Comment

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Sir Isaac Newton evidently did not believe this verse.

United Islamic state called for by clerics

Houston Chronicle News Services

BAGHDAD, Iraq - On the main day of Muslim prayer, clerics across Iraq exhorted Sunns and Shiltes to unite to create an Islamic state. Some clerics, including Abdel-Hadi al-Muhammadawi i Baghada, also urged the United States to leave Iraq. The pleas from clerics came a day after Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in dictated Washington will not allow an Islamic government.

Comment

The idea of a democratic government seems to be foreign to Islam in the Middle East. It will be interesting to see what transpires in Iraq.

POLL LINKS FAITH, HAPPINESS

Washington Post The Houston Chronicle

Despite increased tensions on the world stage and a faltering U.S. economy, nine of 10 Americans are happy with their lives and say their religious faith has a lot to do with it, according to a Barna research poll.

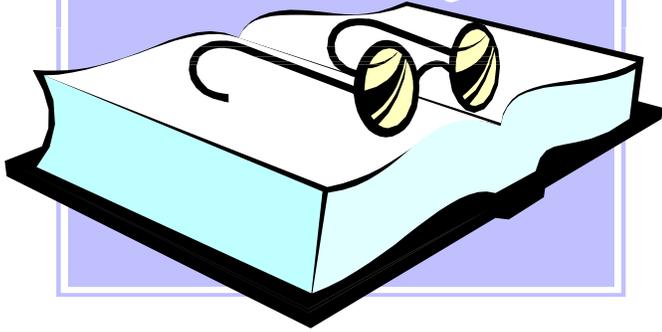
Those with an active Christian faith - who attend church, read the Bible and pray during a typical week - were more likely than other adults to say that they are very happy with their lives, that their faith is growing deeper and that they are in excellent physical condition.

Respondents in the "nonfaith" group were least likely to feel very happy or connected with others and most likely to feel that their lives are increasingly stressful and complex, the study says.

Nonpracticing Christians and adults affiliated with other faith groups fell between those two extremes on the happiness scale. But George Barna, who directed the study and provided an analysis, pointed out that many of the happy respondents also are the most affluent and that happiness doesn't mean that religion is being practiced properly, especially a Christian faith that puts service to God before material comforts.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Why waste time emphasizing that 'eternal torment in hell' is an erroneous belief as it seems that few any longer believe in it? Why not spend the time talking about the glories and beauty of God's Word of truth?

Answer: The idea that the majority of the human race will go into a hell of torment at the time of their death is still held by millions of people! It has never been removed from the church creeds. False doctrine, or teaching, based on anything except God's Word does not die easily! Being sent to hell to be tortured in fire and brimstone is very real to many people.

No evidence has ever been presented to prove that fear of hell has raised the moral standards of any people. On the other hand, many have declared themselves atheists rather than worship a God who permits His human creations to be so cruelly dealt with. We need to be dedicated to teaching all the true doctrines found in God's Word, untrammled by the errors which have become part of man-made religion.

The doctrine of eternal torment is not truth. It is based on a devilish lie as the following text shows: "Now the serpent was more subtle 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? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:1-4). The lie of the serpent was in direct contrast to the true statement of the Lord God, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof THOU SHALT SURELY DIE" (Genesis 2:17).

This lie "Ye shall not surely die" is the false foundation upon which the mortality of the soul and the eternal torment errors are built.

Question: What is the "white stone" of which our Lord mentions in Revelation 2:17?

Answer: Revelation 2:17 reads, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

When Jesus said that he would give a "white stone" to those who overcome, He used the Greek word *Psefos*. This particular word appears in the New Testament in only one other instance which is in Acts 26:10. In this text as translated in Wilson's *Emphatic Diaglott*, we have the words of the Apostle Paul saying that before his conversion he had cast his "vote" against Christians, which resulted in their being put to death. The word "vote" is here a translation of *psefos*.

Liddell and Scott's Greek Dictionary displays quite an array of evidence to show that the stone, or pebble,

referred to by this Greek word is in reality a balloting stone used by the ancients in casting their votes. Elections and other decisions of the people, as well as decisions of the judges, were expressed by the use of their particular kind of stone, or pebble. These stones were painted white to express a favorable vote, or black to express an unfavorable decision in the situation under consideration.

The Greeks still use a method of voting like this. They have a tinbox divided into two parts, one side painted white and the other side painted black. A hole permits the voter to insert his hand into the box and drop a little ballot made of lead, about the size of a pea, either into the white side of the box or into the black side.

The Ancient meaning of this Greek word used by Jesus, in the promise of Revelation 2:17, would seem to give an added assurance to the overcomers. He is apparently saying that He will cast His vote in favor of those who faithfully follow in His steps, that He will stand as our Advocate before the Father, assuring us of immortality.

This is a precious promise in view of all the powerful and subtle enemies which are arrayed against us as children of God! Paul raises the question, "Who is he that condemneth? ..." (Romans 8:34). It really doesn't make any difference to us who may condemn. We know that as brethren in Christ, we are certain to be accused. In many instances, brethren who make this mistake of viewing each other according to the flesh would probably vote against those whose hearts are right before God. But Christ will make no mistakes. He will cast his vote, His "white stone" for us if we are faithful, electing us to joint-heirship with Himself.

Question: Is it wrong to question what we are being taught?

Answer: It would be wrong if we did not examine the Scriptures carefully in order to ascertain whether or not what we are being taught is supported by the inspired Word of God. If we did not do this, we would be shirking our responsibility before the Lord. We should appreciate those who help us to understand the Bible, but we should not accept their teachings without proving them by the inspired Word of God.

The Apostle Paul was one of the inspired servants of God. He spoke and wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, but he did not expect anyone to accept his teachings without proving them by the Word of God. In connection with Paul's ministry in Berea, we read: "These

were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). This is the only proper attitude to take if we would be truly taught by God.

Question: In the Old Testament, is the word "day" ever used to cover more than twenty four hours?

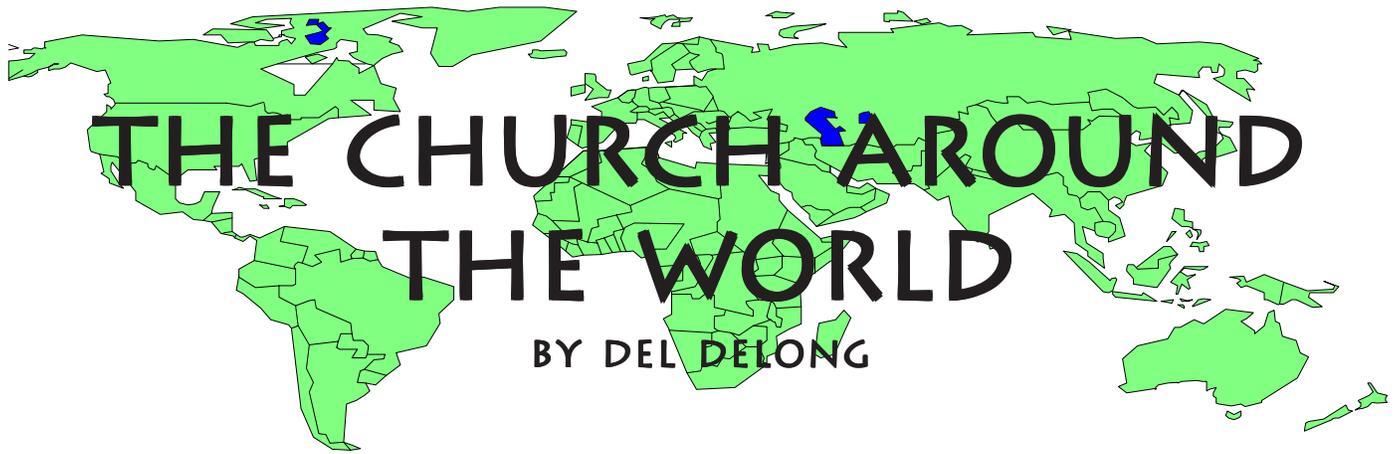
Answer: In Genesis 2:4, we read, "These are the generation of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens." Here, the word "day" is used to describe the whole period of creation.

In Psalm 95:7-10, we read, "For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways!" Again, the Lord clearly applies the word "day" to the entire forty years of Israel's wanderings in the wilderness.

Psalm 110:3 reads, "Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." This is a reference to the thousand-year kingdom of God when Christ and the saints will rule and reign over all the earth.

Question: Is there any Scripture that states that fermented wine should not be used at the Lord's Supper?

Answer: Yes there is. In Exodus 12:20 we read, "Ye shall eat nothing leavened;..." Now some people say that eating is different from drinking. This is just justifying man's ideas again. The preceeding verse states, "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses;..." Surely that statement has nothing to do with eating and drinking. This is of course part of Moses's Law and does not affect children of God today. But there must be found no leaven at the Lord's table at communion time. "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (I Corinthians 5:7-8).



Seagoville, Texas

The following photographs on this page and the top of the next page show newly baptized members of the church in Seagoville. The officiating minister is Brother Ricky Herrera, pictured with the tie.





Salem, West Virginia

The photograph below shows the children participating in Bible school this summer which was held here at the Publishing House. Melany DeLong was their teacher.



LESSON I

THE FIRST BORN THREATENED

Scripture Reading: Exodus 11:1-10.

Golden Text: Exodus 11:1 (first part)

"And the Lord said unto Moses, Yet I will bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt;"

1. The Lord tells Moses that there will be one more plague upon Egypt. What will Pharaoh do after this final plague? Exodus 11:1.
2. What are the children of Israel to do, and what did the Egyptians think of them and of Moses? Exodus 11:2-3.
3. What was God going to do to the Egyptians? Exodus 11:4-6.
4. Would any of the children of Israel be harmed, and why did God do this? Exodus 11:7.

NOTE: God wanted everyone to know that the children of Israel were special to him.

5. What did the Lord tell Moses about Pharaoh? Exodus 11:9.
6. Did Moses and Aaron warn Pharaoh of what would happen? Exodus 11:10 (first part).
7. Did Pharaoh let the children of Israel go? Exodus 11:10 (last part).

LESSON II

THE PASSOVER INSTITUTED

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:1-10.

Golden Text: Exodus 12:2.

"This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."

1. The Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron. What did he

tell them? Exodus 12:1-2.

2. In the tenth day of this month, what were the people of Israel to do? Exodus 12:3.
3. If the household was too little for the lamb, what were they to do? Exodus 12:4.
4. What kind of lamb were they to choose? Exodus 12:5.
5. How long were they to keep the lamb up, and when were they to kill it? Exodus 12:6.
6. What were they to do with the blood? Exodus 12:7.
7. How were they instructed to roast the lamb, and what were they to eat with the flesh? Exodus 12:8-9.
8. Were they to eat it all? What were they to do with that which remained? Exodus 12:10.

LESSON III

THE PASSOVER

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:11-20.

Golden Text: Exodus 12:13 (last part).

"...and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt."

1. How were the children of Israel instructed to dress when they ate the Lord's Passover? Exodus 12:11.
2. When the Lord passed over the land of Egypt that night, what would happen to the firstborn of the land? Exodus 12:12.
3. What would happen in the houses where the blood had been applied to the door posts? Exodus 12:13.
4. This day was to be a day of memorial to the children of Israel. How long were they told to keep it? Exodus 12:14.

5. For how many days were they to eat unleavened bread? Exodus 12:15.

6. What two days of the week were to be an holy convocation? Exodus 12:16.

7. In what month and on what day of the month were they to eat unleavened bread? Exodus 12:18.

8. Was there to be any leaven found in their houses? Exodus 12:19-20.

NOTE: The meaning of Exodus is "departure". The children of Israel departed or left Egypt.

NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
The Holy Gospels wrote,
Describing how the Saviour died-
His life and all He taught.
Acts shows the Holy Spirit's work,
With signs in every place,
And Paul in Romans teaches us
How man was saved by grace.

The Apostle In Corinthians
instructs, exhorts, reproves;
Galatians shows that faith in Christ
Is what the Father loves.
Ephesians and Philippians tell
What Christians ought to be,
Colossians bids us live for God,
And for eternity.

In Thessalonians we are taught
The Lord will come from heaven;
in Timothy, and Titus
A pastor's rule is given.
Philemon shows a Christian love,
Which only Christians know;
Hebrews reveals the Gospel
Prefigured by the Law.

James teaches, "without holiness
Faith is but vain and dead";
And Peter points the narrow way
In which, the saints are led.
John, in his three Epistles,
On love delights to dwell;
And Jude gives awful warning
Of judgement, and wrath, to tell

The Revelation prophesies
Of that tremendous day
When Christ, returns for his saints
And how the wicked pay.

LESSON IV

THE FIRSTBORN OF EGYPT SLAIN

Scripture Reading: Exodus 12:21-36.

Golden Text: Exodus 12:29 (first part).

"And it came to pass, that at midnight the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt..."

1. What did Moses instruct the elders of Israel to do? Exodus 12:21.

2. What did he tell them to do with the blood? Why was it so important they do this? Exodus 12:22-23.

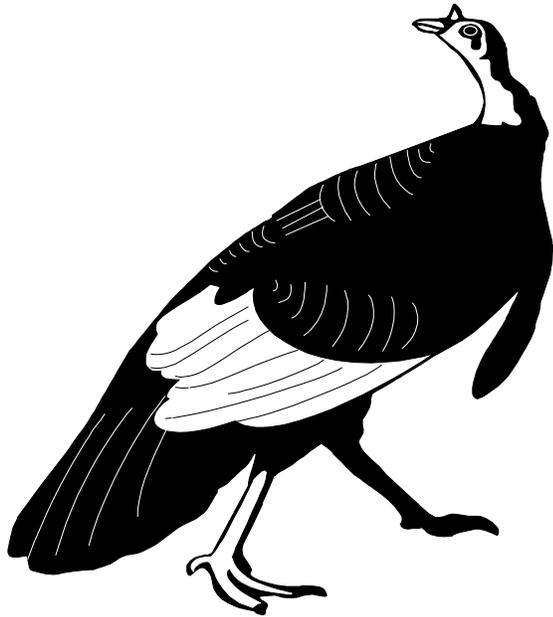
3. How long were they to keep or observe this ordinance? What were they to tell their children when they asked why they should keep this service? Exodus 12:24-27.

4. Did the children of Israel obey Moses and Aaron? Exodus 12:28.

5. What terrible thing happened at midnight? Exodus 12:29-30.

6. Was Pharaoh willing to let the children of Israel go this time? Were the Egyptians also anxious to see them leave? Exodus 12:31-33.

7. What did the Israelites take with them? What had they taken from the Egyptians? Exodus 12:34-36.



GRANDMA'S STRANGE VISITOR

by Marie Hurley

There was a loud crash and the tinkle of falling glass. "Another broken window!" sighed Grandma. "I didn't know there were any boys around there this morning, but that sounded like a ball crashing through the dining-room window."

Grandma took her hands from the dishpan and dried them as she walked toward the dining room. Yes, there was a large hole in the window. She looked out. There was no boy in sight!

"It must have been a ball," she said. "Windows don't break by themselves. Let me see now. I suppose the ball would be across the room from the window." She looked under the buffet, and in the corner under the chair. But there was no ball anywhere on that side of the room. "Maybe it rolled back toward the window. I'll look under the table," she thought as she lifted the tablecloth and peered under the table. There was not a ball under the table; but what was that looking back at her?

"Well, how do you do, sir!" said Grandma. "Are you as surprised and bewildered as you look?" Standing there under her table was a large and very puzzled pheasant.

Grandma looked around the dining room. There were plenty of things he could break if he became alarmed and flew about the room. But he seemed quiet right now. Maybe she could pick him up. Maybe-

Dropping slowly to her knees, she reached carefully under the table. He was a big bird; she'd have to get a good hold. Her hand closed around his legs. He didn't struggle. She leaned toward him and slid her other arm carefully over his wings and around him. Grandma held the pheasant close to her as she stood up again.

"You poor thing," said Grandma. "You must have hit the glass so hard that it stunned you. Or are you so ashamed of your blunder that you can't even fight to get away? You probably think you're doomed to an awful death. But God made you, Mr. Pheasant. He made you to walk proudly through the fields and orchards destroying pests. You are our friend. We should protect you. Now where did I put the big box I had yesterday? Oh, yes, I put it on the back porch."

Carefully Grandma lowered Mr. Pheasant to the porch and turned the big box upside down over him. Then she placed a piece of grain and a small pan of water in his prison, and went happily back to her dishes.

Grandma had several friends come to visit her that day. She greeted each one with a mysterious smile and a beckoning finger. "Come here, and meet the strangest visitor I've had today," she said. Then she told of the broken window and her search for some boy's ball.

"It will soon be dark, Mr. Pheasant," said Grandma that evening as she lifted the box. "I suppose Mrs. Pheasant and the children will be wondering where you are." She lifted him carefully and carried him to the yard. "I hope you were not injured in your crash though my window. Most of my guests knock at the door, you know, but then most of my guests are much different from you. There now let's see if you can still fly. I'll be glad to leave the window open if you care to call again. Now fly away home."

Mr. Pheasant looked at Grandma, bobbed his head politely, and with a sudden fluttering of his strong wings disappeared into the evening twilight.

**Unscramble the books of the New Testament and then find them in the puzzle.
They are backwards, forwards, up and down.**

1. Asloniscos
2. Repet
3. Tacs
4. Nathinicorn
5. Stiut
6. Tailganas
7. Temtawh
8. BresheW
9. Sanmor
10. Deju
11. Ramk
12. Samje
13. Hesienspa
14. Mothyti
15. Kuel
16. Lapipinship
17. Elimophn
18. Nojh
19. Slaonesithans
20. NeltevaioR



These Hands

By Carol Buechner

*May these hands remind you every day,
To without ceasing pray and pray.
Offer praise and petitions to your Heavenly Friend,
Whose love for you will never end.*

*May these hands remind you where you stand,
Always cuddled in God's strong and loving hands.
Relax and rest in His special care,
Never needing to worry, fret or despair.*