

The Advocate of Truth





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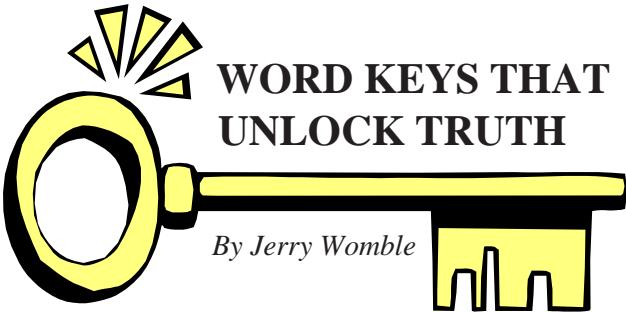
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SCRIBE

A Scribe was a public writer who drew up and interpreted legal documents. He is equivalent to our lawyer of today.

In the Old Testament, they were the ones that read the Scriptures and taught the law of God to the people. The Law of Moses was read and understood by these Scribes who were the leaders of Israel after Moses' day and time. In Nehemiah, chapter 8, we see Israel after they had returned from Babylonian captivity wanting to

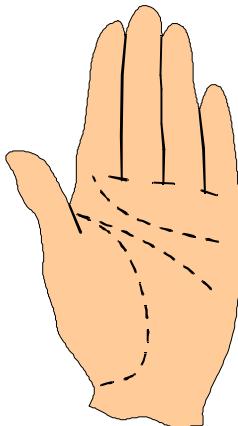
know more about God. Therefore, Ezra was ordered to read the Law of Moses, so the people could understand what God expected of them.

A Scribe was not a man that was ordained or appointed by God, only the priests were. Again, we notice in verse 1-2 and 9 that Ezra was both a Scribe and a priest - a man of God understanding and teaching the Law of God.

In the New Testament, the Scribes were called nomikoe, which in the Greek means teachers of the law. In that day and time, the law was both civil and religious, thus the scribe's duty was to determine how the Law of God should apply to daily life.

In Matthew 21:15-16, we see that the Scribes were the ones trying to find fault with Jesus and His teachings. They were among the ones that persecuted Peter and John in Acts 4 and were involved with the stoning of Stephen. But there was a division among them and some stood with the Pharisees on the behalf of Paul in Acts 23.

Our understanding of the Bible today is from the leading of the Holy Spirit. As you read and learn, apply the understanding that God gives you to better your life and live closer to Him.



VOWS, OATHS AND COVENANTS

BY BIBI SHIMOON ALLICOCK

"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better it is that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands" (Ecclesiastes 5:4-6).

Too often people make vows and do not realize that vows must be considered earnestly. There was a woman

whose name was Hannah, and she was much disturbed because her husband had another wife along with her. The other wife would provoke Hannah to anger because she was barren. This provocation met a climax when Hannah could not partake of her meal, but broke down and wept. Her husband tried to console her, but to no avail. "So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept

sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head" (I Samuel 1:9-11).

This woman was so grief stricken that only her lips moved as she poured her heart out unto the Lord. "And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long will thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my Lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord" (I Samuel 1:12-15).

Dear readers, prayers are necessary for our spiritual growth. We must pray sincerely as Hannah did so that we will be able keep our vows unto God. Hannah did keep her vow, and she took the child, Samuel, unto the house of the Lord in Shiloh. "And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, Oh my Lord, as thy soul liveth, my Lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there" (I Samuel 1:25-28).

Since God tries the hearts of man, Hannah was greatly rewarded, and God gave her five more children after she had given birth to Samuel. Isn't that wonderful? "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:10).

We also see that Jacob vowed a vow unto God. "And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee" (Genesis 28:20-22). Indeed, God dealt very well with him. "And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses" (Genesis 30:43).

In the world today, men and women take marriage vows. Many, before they know it, are in the divorce courts. Our Lord gave an answer to the Pharisees who were tempting Him concerning marriage. "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 no man put asunder" (Matthew 19:4-6).

"Then (the Pharisees) say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorce, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so" (Matthew 19:7-8). "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:9). "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (I Corinthians 6:18).

Therefore, let us be serious in our vows of marriage according to God's Word. By doing this, no marriage will be a failure. "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE" (Hebrews 13:4-5).

Also a covenant must be kept faithfully. Zedekiah, king of Jerusalem, did evil in the sight of the Lord. He made a covenant with Pharaoh, king of Egypt, instead of keeping his covenant with God. "But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and much people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape that doeth such things? or shall he break the covenant, and be delivered? As I live, saith the Lord God, surely in the place where the king dwelleth that made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant he brake, even with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die. Neither shall Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company make for him in the war, by casting up mounts, and building forts, to cut off many persons: Seeing he

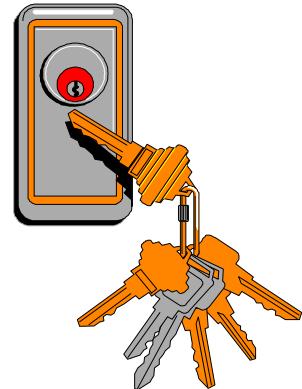
despised the oath by breaking the covenant, when, lo, he had given his hand, and hath done all these things, he shall not escape. Therefore thus saith the Lord God; As I live, surely mine oath that he that despised, and my covenant that he that broken, even it will I recompense upon his own head. And I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, and will plead with him there for his trespass that he hath trespassed against me. And all his fugitives with all his bands shall fall by the sword, and they that remain shall

be scattered toward all winds: and ye shall know that I the Lord have spoken it" (Ezekiel 17:15-21).

Almighty God is all powerful, and He will grant petitions to all who ask earnestly. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 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 55:6-7).

THE KEYS TO THE FRONT DOOR OF A DEDICATED HOME

Reprinted from
February 22, 1993



The temple was a special place for our Saviour. It was there, according to Mosaic law, that young 12 year old boys were sent to receive instruction from the priest. One young 12 year old boy used His opportunity to do His own instructing "And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding the answers" (Luke 2:47). "It was in the temple that Jesus first claimed He was "about His Father's business" (Luke 2:49). And it was there as an adult that Jesus showed a glimpse of the wrath to come as He cleansed His Father's House of the money changers (John 2:13-16).

In the house of the Lord, the faithful could find solice and instruction. It was a bit of heaven on earth. A place to commune with God. Oh, only if our own homes could be like that! A shelter from the world's storms and a safe haven for our children.

The reality is that our homes can be a little bit of heaven on earth. In fact, if not in our homes, then where else? A home dedicated to the Lord is comprised of three certain keys. Keys are necessary to enter into the home.

The first key is organization. A Christ centered family is little if it is not first organized in a manner pleasing to God in both structure and substance. The ideal structure

includes a mom and a dad who love each other (and who live together) kids, and support from extended family. Also included is a dad being the primary provider with mom as a devoted homemaker.

Obviously, circumstances differ for each family. The economy, death, illness, unhappy relation etc., all seem to keep us from the ideal. But the ideal is what we should strive for. The traditional family structure is time tested. It works . The closer we are to the ideal, the more our family will be blessed.

Substantially, family organization should include clear policies governing each relationship and household function. And the fewer policies, the better. Mom and Dad should lead the example more than command. Compliance to the rules will occur more easily among children when they see that the spirit of the law is just as important as the letter of the law.

The second key is preparation. Moving toward a Christ centered family requires the removal of certain stumbling blocks in our lives. Individually, we are required of the Lord to be born again. That is, we are to be clean and undefiled. We are to be fully repentant so that the atoning blood of our Saviour can have claim on us.

As a family, we must remember that everything has a season. Babies usually learn to crawl before they walk, and walk before they run. So should we in our families move from grace to grace and from precept to precept as we create a proper godly atmosphere in our homes. We are really preparing for the Second Coming of Jesus and for the rapture of all saints. Are there practical steps we can take in anticipation of the turbulent times which lay ahead prior to His coming? You may want to evaluate your life both spiritually and temporally.

The third key is to "establish a house." The Lord uses this term "establish" to mean to institute or to gain recognition or to put beyond doubt. Your home should be known among the members of your family, neighbors and the community for its commitment of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The actions of each member should confirm this commitment.

Setting goals and keeping them is a vital component to establishing a house to the Lord. Work goals, study habits, and service goals should be aimed at family members, neighbors, fellow church members and the community. These goals will help each family progress spiritually and set your home on a hill for all to benefit from its light. These three keys will put you successfully on the road to a Christ centered family. As you use these keys, you will discover the necessity of adding several characteristics to mirror a true House of the Lord. Your home should be:

A HOUSE OF PRAYER

If you are not having family prayer, you should begin right now. The blessings of unity and reverence will be immediate. The Lord wants your children to pray for each other. Parents must teach them how to pray. Children must see parents kneel and humbly pray to God. Use these times during family prayer to instruct them in offering sincere prayers. Call down blessings upon them. Speak reverently. Jesus is your Lord.

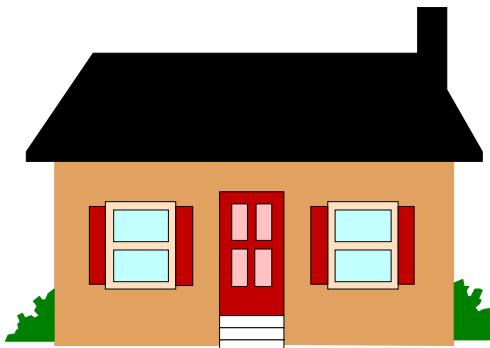
A HOUSE OF LEARNING

A primary function of ancient temples was a source of communication. The Lord God would speak to His servants the prophets, the prophets in turn would speak to the people, and parents in turn would teach their children the Word of the Lord. The passing along of light and truth to the rising generation is a responsibility that no parent should abrogate to others. The body of the parents should be explained that it is now the temple of God. Parents should tell that when people are baptized they become the receptacle of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. (Acts 8:15-18).

Your home is the perfect place to establish personal gospel study programs with your children. You should build an extensive library filled with good books and other tools of instruction. Never be afraid of learning as much as possible or of imparting that knowledge to your children.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HOME

REPRINTED



Today the foundation stones of our country are being overlooked and neglected!

No one in his right mind will question the importance of the home, the school, the church, and the nation, but there needs to be a constant emphasis of the underlying ingredients which strengthen these areas.

Genesis records the story of the first family. Religious training rested with the family. The father was responsible for the sacrifice. When the Levitical order was introduced, it did not do away with the responsibility of the family in training. It did away with the priestly responsibility of the father, but the teaching of responsibility remained with the

family.

In writing on the importance of teaching in the home, we read, "the Hebrew family emphasized solidarity and structure. The father was the head of the unit. He ruled, begat, taught, loved, supported, and disciplined.

But the mother, also, played an important part in the family structure, and the learning experience of the children. She schooled them and nurtured them in the Scriptures and also in application of honor and uprightness of conduct. The cohesiveness of a family plagued with insurmountable obstacles might well be attributed to their basic views of family life."

A speaker declared in the introduction of his speech that he received his moral training at the knee of a devout mother, and across the knee of a determined father. It takes both knees for successful rearing. We are made to wonder how many of the on coming generation will be able to make such a statement. It would seem that the day the woodshed gave over to the garage, many parents abdicated responsibility.

We hear so much today about the underprivileged youth getting into trouble. However, we are experiencing just the reverse. The overprivileged youth seems to be getting into trouble more often than the underprivileged. Could it be that we have lost the true meaning of discipline in the home? Every young person needs discipline.

If he is not disciplined while he is growing up in the home, he will not know how to discipline himself when he is grown. We parents need to read again what the Bible says in Proverbs 22:6; 23:13; 29:15 and 13:24.

And, too, many of us parents are failing to teach our children the discipline of delay. When we buy automobiles or clothes on the spur of the moment, we are not teaching by example how to deal with delay. Children can only learn to deal with delay as they observe it in the lives of their parents.

The home has been called the laboratory of life. In the home it is possible to deal with problems on the spot. The home, has the children 87 percent of the time. Out of one hundred and sixty eight hours of a week, a child spends thirty hours in school, one to three hours in church, sixty three hours sleeping, and seventy-four waking hours in the home. It is easy to place the blame for today's problems on the school and the church.

However, we parents need to take a fresh, candid look at the responsibility of the home. For as the home

goes, so goes a community. And as communities go, so goes a state. And as states go, so goes the nation. Programs and policies are being delineated in the capital of the United States, but the future of America is being shaped in the home.

Our families must be strengthened spiritually, socially, and emotionally. The church has a golden opportunity today to minister to the needs of families. Far too many families have become mere social security numbers. Families are being depersonalized in this computer age. On the job, members of the family are simply numbers. The entire day may be spent screwing a nut on a piece of equipment that is being manufactured.

The church must see families as God sees them. God sees them as individuals with individual and practical needs. The Bible teaches that God created men and women, boys and girls without a mold. Every member of a family is unique. If the church is to minister to families, it must see them as individuals for whom Christ died.

On the job, fathers and mothers are reduced to numbers. They are cogs in the wheel of depersonalization. But to the church they must be viewed as individuals with needs to be met by the church.

The challenge to each Church worker is to reach families, to teach them, win them, and hold them for Christ and His church through a united effort.

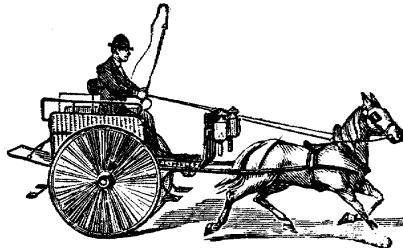
LOVING WORDS.

The neglect of loving words and tones of voice to each other in marriage would not be tolerated during the dating period. Few if any marriages would develop dry rot if husband and wives were as gracious to each other as they are to strangers and friends. This means that the same little phrases of love in courtship, such as "I love you," "May I help you?" "I am sorry." and "Forgive me," must be continued for a happy marriage. This means that little gifts selected with care, love letters when away, good bye and welcome home kisses, remembrances on special occasions, the loving touch of the hand and all other expressions of love which we practiced so early during courtship must be maintained for love to continue.

-John Drescher

JEHU'S ZEAL FOR GOD

BY SIEGFRIED MAYWALD



Jehu is first mentioned in connection with Elijah in I Kings 19:16. Later, he is mentioned in connection with Elisha in II Kings 1:2. He was an army commander in the service of King Ahab based in Ramoth-Gilead, an important point on the North-South trade route between Damascus and the Gulf of Aqabah. God had given Elijah the commission to anoint new kings for Syria and Israel. Jehu was to be anointed over Israel, but the time was not yet ripe for the anointing, so he set out to anoint Elisha in his stead. At a later time, Elisha fulfilled this commission when he sent a prophet messenger to anoint Jehu as king over Israel (II Kings 9:1-3,6). "So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramoth-Gilead. And when he came, behold, the captains of the host were sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of all us? And he said, To thee, O captain. And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel I have anointed thee king over the people of the Lord, even over Israel. And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hands of Jezebel" (II Kings 9:4-7).

The work that God gave Jehu to do consisted of two parts. (1) He had to destroy all descendants of the house of Ahab. (2) He had to root out all the evil of Baal worship, which was promoted by the queen mother, Jezebel. He did not waste time. He told the story to the other captain. "Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying Jehu is king. So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had kept Ramothgilead, he and all Israel,

because of Hazael king of Syria. But king Joram was returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said, If it be your minds, then let none go forth nor escape out of the city to go to tell it in Jezreel" (II Kings 9:13-15). So Jehu went and drove his chariot furiously, like a mad man, to accomplish his mission. "And the watchman told, saying, He came even unto them, and cometh not again: and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimship for he driveth furiously" (II Kings 9:20).

"And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonabad the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot" (II Kings 10:15-16).

1. Jehu knew him and selected him. He paid him respect.

2. Jehu professed that his heart was right with him, that he had true affection for this person, and desired to know whether he had the same affection for him when he said: "Is thy heart right?" Jehonadab gave him his word "it is" and gave him his hand as a pledge of his heart.

3. Jehu took him up into his chariot and said: "Come then." Come with me to see my zeal for the Lord.

Those were good words for anyone who seeks to serve the Lord. Jehonadab, although not a priest nor a prophet, was a greatly respected person and known for his spiritual, self-denying and devotional life style. He was just as eager and zealous to serve God as Jehu was, but separated himself and his family from the world and its deception. Jehu knew him and honored him. He knew

that people would think the better of him when they saw Jehonadab in the chariot with him. We notice three things these two men had in common:

(A) Their hearts were right with the will of God which is the first requirement to do the work. In general, our hearts are deceitful and wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). They are filled with evil proceedings (Matthew 15:19), but Jesus changes our hearts (II Corinthians 5:17). He offers us great possibilities in that:

1. God searches our hearts, examines the mind, makes it clear what causes us to sin and helps us to overcome sin (Jeremiah 17:10).

2. God's word can discern the heart, opens our understanding whether good or bad. He guides our spiritual and moral life (Hebrews 4:12-14).

3. God knocks at our heart's door, if complacent and satisfied, He calls to repentance as with the church of Laodicea (Revelation 3:20).

4. We can believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths (Romans 10:10).

5. God's love can be shared abroad by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5).

6. Gods' word can be hidden in our hearts. It is a deterrent to sin, but has to be demonstrated in our actions (Psalm 119:11).

7. God's word brings gladness, inward joy and happiness (Psalm 4:7).

There are hindrances to having our hearts right with God

1. Sin in our lives (Psalm 66:18).

2. A high look and a proud heart (Proverbs 21:4).

3. If we are stubborn, unrepentant and have a hard heart, we destroy ourselves (Romans 2:5).

4. We must not be slow to believe (Luke 24:25).

A suffering servant is no more popular in the year 2005 than he was at the time of Christ. (B) When we put our hands together and the heart is right, we are ready to serve the Lord, as Jehu said: "Give me thy hand." It is a sincere invitation to work together. The Bible encourages us: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountain of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore" (Psalm

133).

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (Acts 1:14).

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1).

(C) Holy Zeal

Consider Jehu's words: "see my zeal for the Lord."

We could definitely use some of that zeal today. In Revelation 3:14-15, we read the warning to the church of the Laodiceans. This church was lukewarm and a disappointment to God. He admonished them to wake up and repent and do not rely on riches. Our churches need to be zealous for Christ. If we want to serve Christ successfully, we must have our hearts right with God and our hands together to be able to accomplish our zeal to God. The work we need to do requires unity, harmony and a combined effort. However, we have to be careful not to become overcharged and go beyond what God wants us to do. Let us in our faith not become ensnared with personal ambition, power or cruelty.

Jehu fulfilled God's commission, and he promised him the reward that his children of the fourth generation of him would sit upon the throne of Israel. "And the Lord said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and has done unto the house of Agab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel. But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel sin" (II Kings 10:30-31).

Jehu's carelessness showed that his heart in reality was not truly right with God. He was only partially in his reformation because he continued in his zeal to destroy evil far beyond the Lord's command and killed people needlessly. He became secure with personal power and ambition, discarded Baal, but adhered to the worship of golden calves (II Kings 10:29). He did not adhere to God's laws, but he continued in the sin of Jeroboam. Therefore, the Lord instructed the prophet, Hosea, later to announce a punishment upon Jehu's dynasty for his sins (Hosea 1:4-5).

Jehonadab on the other hand demonstrated his zeal by separating himself from the worldly search for material things, power and idol worship. He abided in the law of

God and formed a group called the Recabites, named after his father, Recab, who strove to keep their lives pure by living apart from societies, pressures and desires. Jeremiah 35 speaks of the dedication of these people, and God even promised them continued descendants who would worship God.

The combined lesson we get from this story is that:

1. We have to have our hearts right and our hands together to serve God successfully. "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thought shall be established" (Proverbs 16:3).

2. We let the community know of our zeal for God through our action and interaction with people. Try to understand and listen to what people say.

3. We have to care and encourage one another to accomplish the work we have to do for our Lord Jesus Christ. That means to love one another with no condition attached and acknowledge the fact that love is not an emotion but a choice that has to be made. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (I Peter 1:22).

4. We must become servants of God outwardly as well as inwardly without the ensnarement of sin or the desire for material gain and ambition for personal power like Jehu's zeal revealed.

5. We have to stay focused. If we take our eyes off Christ, we forfeit unity.

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

6. We must not let minor issues get us down. We must avoid foolish questions and strife to which there is no profit.

"But avoid foolish questions and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" (Titus 3:9).

"Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers" (II Timothy 2:14).

7. We must settle disputes and not act in an angry manner.

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother" (Matthew

18:15).

"But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with this brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to this brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matthew 5:22).

8. We must follow after the things which make peace, and we must be humble.

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things herewith one may edify another" (Romans 14:19).

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:6).

9. We must heed and obey (II Peter 1:5-10).

"And beside this giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Therefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall" (II Peter 1:5-10).

PUT DOWN YOUR BURDENS

A professor was giving a lecture to his students on stress management. He raised a glass of water and asked the audience, "How heavy do you think this glass of water is?"

The students answers ranged from 20gm to 500gm.

"It does not matter on the absolute weight. It depends on how long you hold it. If I hold it for a minute, it is OK. If I hold it for an hour, I will have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you will have to call an ambulance. It is the exact same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

"If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, we will not be able to carry on, the burden becomes increasingly heavier."

"What you have to do is to put the glass down, rest for a while before holding it up again."

We have to put down the burden periodically, so that we can be refreshed and are able to carry on.

So before you return home from work tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it back home. You

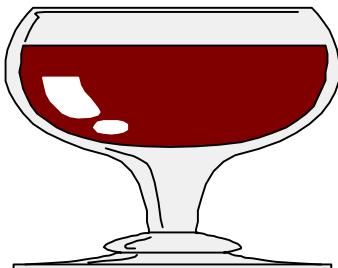
can pick it up tomorrow.

Whatever burden you are having now on your shoulders, let it down for a moment if you can.

Pick it up again later when you have rested...Rest and relax

Life is short, enjoy it!

**THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE
BY KENNETH W. SWIGER APPEARED
IN "THE HERALD" MAGAZINE IN 1997
CONCERNING GOD'S DIETARY LAWS**



Many Christians are very careful in choosing what they will put into their bodies. They realize that, as the temple of God, they have a responsibility to take the best possible care of this earthly tabernacle. If you are one who obeys God's dietary laws, it may interest you to know that some things which you have been eating are actually made from unclean animals!

A church member told me he had learned on the internet that Jello brand gelatin was made from pork products. I assured him that this was not so. After all, they have a little (k) on the label to indicate that their product is "kosher." Also, others have told me that they had phoned the toll free telephone number at Kraft Foods and had been assured that their gelatin was, in fact, "kosher." He responded that he believed the warning he had seen on the Internet and was not persuaded by "a (K) on the label."

I called Kraft Foods and asked them if the (K) on the label meant that the product was CERTIFIED as KOSHER. The lady answered. "Yes it does." I then asked if they meant by "kosher" that there was no pork or equine (Horse) products in the gelatin. Again, she said, "Yes." I asked her to send me written documentation of the "kosher" certification of Jello, now satisfied that Jello was OK for us to eat.

When the documentation arrived, I was dismayed to find that it listed all Kraft Foods products which are certified as "Kosher," EXCEPT for Jello! Their cover letter mentioned my contact regarding the gelatin products, yet

they didn't send me the documentation for it. I called again to ask for the written proof of Jello. This time I was told that the Jello was actually certified through a different rabbinical source. Instead of sending the documents on Jello certification, they gave me the name, address and phone number of the rabbi in New York City. I called and left messages requesting the information.

When I received the letter from the rabbi, I found a hand written, single paragraph letter with a startling admission. See the letter in box.

The letter in the box in the magazine was:

December 23, 1996

Dear Mr.. Swiger,

Gelatin is made from the skin and bones of animals-not the meat: as per information that I have enclosed, it can be considered Kosher, even if it starts with pork skins/bones.

Sincerely, Rabbi S.G. (name omitted by author Keith Hunt).

The information he enclosed was a two sided photocopied sheet. One side was a multi paragraph explanation, quoting many Orthodox rabbis and their writings, for the certification of gelatin described from any source as meeting "specification of orthodox dietary laws and therefore Kosher and Pareve."

Side two of this document was a brief summary of the production of animal based gelatin. I explained that, contrary to popular belief, gelatin is not manufactured from horns or hooves of animals, but rather from collagen bear-

ing tissues in the trimmings of the hide. These materials are soaked in chemicals, washed and cooked to extract the gelatin, which is then filtered and evaporated.

In order to make it clear that the gelatin could be made from ANY animal, they UNDERLINED the word "any." They conclude that the chemical process changes the composition of the product and that the identity of the original material is completely eliminated!

Amazing conclusion isn't it? By this deceitful line of reasoning, one could conceivably start with MANURE and, get a certified "kosher" product!

So, you're thinking to yourself that you'll just avoid Jello brand gelatin products from now on if you want to avoid eating unclean things. But unfortunately, the deception goes further. Many products contain so-called kosher gelatin. For instance: Land O'Lakes Sour Cream (regular not the "light" version) contains gelatin and has no (K) on the label.. I called them and they told me gelatin was added to make it seem creamier. They also told that their "kosher" gelatin was made from pork! They began to explain how it was chemically changed and so that made it all right.

Perhaps you've heard a health related audio tape touting the use of Knox brand gelatin for treatment of arthritis/rheumatism. A doctor on one such tape said that the Knox gelatin was made from chicken cartilage. I thought that would be a way to use gelatin and still observe "clean and unclean." However, I bought a package of the gelatin and called the toll free number on the box, only to hear them tell me that the product contains NO chicken at all! It is primarily made of beef and pork,. (To their credit, they don't even pretend to be "kosher" and have no (K) on their label).

There are some truly "kosher" gelatin products on the market. These are made from VEGETARIAN ingredients. Specifically, carrageenan and locust bean gum are ingredients used to produce gelatin which is suitable for human consumption.

The Bible warns us that evil men and seducers will grow ever worse, deceiving and being deceived (II Timothy 3:13). Surely those who lie to us or mislead us regarding the unclean contents of their food products qualify themselves as deceivers.

Keep your guard up and don't be fooled.

From the Internet

TBC TODAY: BOGUS BELIEFS

On an educational program on PA TV, two senior Palestinian Authority (PA) historians went to great lengths to deny ancient Jewish history and erase the Jewish connection to the Land of Israel. At the same time they describe an ancient Palestinian Arab history, creating a historical connection to the land that never existed.

Two central components of this Palestinian myth consist of turning Biblical Israel into Muslim Arabs, while teaching that the Palestinians are the descendants of the Biblical Canaanites, who are also turned into Arabs. With both the Canaanites and Israelites becoming Arabs and the religion of ancient Israel becoming Islam, the PA takes authentic Jewish history, documented by thousands of years of continuous literature, and crosses out the word "Jewish" and replaced it with the word "Arab."

This creative historical revisionism is not new in the PA. Denying the thousands of years of Jewish connection to the Land of Israel, coupled with the invention of "Palestinian" history of thousands of years, have always been of supreme importance to the Palestinian Authority. The PA is struggling with the challenge of creating a Palestinian national identity when no Palestinian national history exists. Even the term "Palestine" historically had nothing to do with Arab identity, and most of the population only migrated in the last century after the improved living conditions and work opportunities brought about by the Zionist movement.

Thus, incessant denial of Israel's history and right to exist, and the invention of a PA history have been backbones of PA indoctrination and education for years.

In the broadcast last week on PA TV the following are some of the main points of the "history".

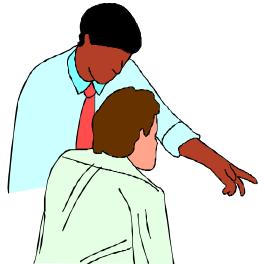
1. The Hebrews of the Bible have no connection to the Jews today.
2. The Hebrews of the Bible were Arabs.
3. The Prophets of the Bible were Muslims.
4. Biblical king Solomon was a Muslim Prophet.
5. Solomon's Temple was not built by Israelites but by Arab Canaanites.

6. The Canaanites are the fathers of the Palestinians.
7. The Bible is legends based on what Jews imagined and not on history.
8. The Jews today are descendants of a 13th Century Khazar tribe with no history in the land of Israel.
9. The location of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem is a

Zionist invention.
10. Zionism is Racism.

(Excerpted from an article by Itamare Marcus, director of Palestinian Medica)

The Berean Call
From the Internet



ENCOURAGEMENT

"So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle (letter): Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation (encouragement)" (Acts 15:30-31).

The need for encouragement is universal. Even the strongest people are weighed down at one time or another. Usually it is easy to tell when people are discouraged. We may see it in their eyes, hear it in their voices and sense it in their behavior. Discouraged people generally move slowly, smile infrequently and halfheartedly, and go through the motions of life with little or no enthusiasm.

However, discouragement is not so easy to detect in some people. They may cover their insecurity with an air of confidence. They may go into hiding, and they may even deny that anything is wrong even when you come right out and ask them. Sometimes one needs to be a detective to know when to give an encouraging word.

What can one do for a discouraged person. Here are some suggestions:

1. Remind the person of the good he or she has done in the past.
2. List some of the person's unique gifts and abilities.
3. Assure the person of possible future accomplishments.
4. Help the person to see life's bigger picture rather than just the troubling circumstances of the moment.
5. Assure the person that doing the right thing is more important than getting the desired results.
6. Remind the person that he or she is part of God's plan for the universe.

The New Testament is full of encouraging words that one can use to encourage a person. Let us look at some of them:

1. When people are discouraged due to an emotional crisis, encourage them with...Love - "For we have great joy and consolation (encouragement) in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother" (Philemon 1:7).

2. When people are confused, encourage them with...

Truth - "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).

3. When people are in a spiritual crisis, encourage them with...

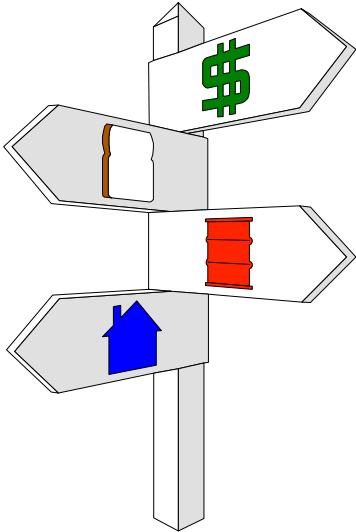
Faith - "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; that is, that I may be comforted (encouraged) together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me" (Romans 1:11-12).

4. When people are discouraged due to a relational crisis, encourage them with...

Fellowship - "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

Is there anyone who doesn't need encouragement once in awhile? Is there ever any good reason for failing to offer a word of encouragement to those who need it? No. No. No.

Contributed



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.

This article is taken from the Houston Chronicle.

A TONIC FOR TEENS

Study finds that young people who are religious are better off in many ways than their secular peers

**by Laura Sessions Stepp
Washington Post**

WASHINGTON - Here's a crazy idea: After all our ambitious child-rearing with Discovery toys, Suzuki piano lesson, conflict-avoidance classes, 4 a.m. swim practices, SAT-prep classes, driver education and summer flights to study folk music in the Republic of Georgia, we might have done just as well (and saved a lot of money) by sending our kids to church, temple or mosque.

Late last year, a commission convened by Dartmouth Medical School, among others, studied years of research on minds, including brain-imaging studies, and concluded that young people who are religious are better off in significant ways than their secular peers. They are less likely than nonbelievers to smoke and drink and more likely to eat well, less likely to commit crimes and more likely to wear seat belts, less likely to be depressed and more likely to be satisfied with their families and school.

"Religion has a unique net effect on adolescents above and beyond factors like race, parental education and family income," says Brad Wilcox, a University of Virginia sociologist and panel member. Poor children who are religious will do better than poor children who are not reli-

gious, he adds - and in some cases better than nonreligious middle-class children.

Meanwhile, a social ground-swell may be under way as a larger proportion of teenagers than a decade ago say religion is important. In 2001, about three out of five teenagers said religion was "pretty important" or "very important" to them - a significant increase, according to Child Trends, a research organization that analyzes federal data. The biggest jump occurred not among poor and unambitious teenagers - the stereotyped believers - but among young achievers who anticipated finishing four year of college.

Such teenagers have helped make a hit out of *Joan of Arcadia*, a CBS show about a 15-year-old who talks to God; it has been renewed for a second season. They've sustained a decade-long growth in the number of high school Bible clubs to about 15,000. They are swelling the enrollment at Christian colleges at three times the rate of other degree-granting schools. Religion is getting bigger in teenager's lives, and the Dartmouth panel's findings may suggest to some that it should.

Though one of its sponsors, the Institute for American values, publishes a good bit about God and faith, the commission was no conclave of religious conservatives. It included professors and researchers at the medical schools of Harvard and UCLA as well as long time experts on child-rearing practice including T.Berry Brazelton, Robert Coles, Peter Benson and Michel Resnick.

The commission members said that religious congregations benefit teenagers by affirming who they are expecting a lot from them and giving them opportunities to show what they can do. These are not exactly earth shak-

ing observations; the panel noted, the same could be said of clubs, sports teams and other youth organization (such as the YMCA, which helped fund the study). What sets religious groups apart, however - and makes a surprisingly big difference to kids, according to the panel is that they promote a "direct personal relationship with the Divine."

Adolescents, said the Dartmouth group, are "hard-wired to connect" to people and God.

Panels of academics and medical practitioners don't usually refer to "The Divine." But these experts couldn't ignore what the data suggested, in particular two things: Religion or spirituality may influence young people's brain circuits, reducing their levels of the stress hormone cortisol, and personal devotion is twice as likely to protect them from risky behavior.

"Their brains are changing, their relations with family, friends and the opposite sex are changing, and they're beginning to figure out what their purpose in the world will be," says Wilcox. "We know that people often turn to God in the midst of momentous changes. Adolescents are no different."

"Kimberly Pierce, a Columbia, Md. high school senior, puts it more simply." God isn't just a part of my life; He's the whole thing," she says. "I like knowing He is making the best decisions for me. That way I don't worry too much."

Comment

Although they may not know and follow the truth, God honors those who are conscious of Him.

HEAVY SOCIAL DRINKERS SHOW BRAIN DAMAGE

by Maggie Fox
Reuters New Service

WASHINGTON - Heavy social drinkers show a pattern of brain damage similar to hospitalized alcoholics - enough to impair day-to-day functions, researchers said Wednesday.

Brain scans show clear evidence of damage, and tests of reading, balance and other functions show people who drink more than 100 drinks a month have problems, researchers said.

"Often times alcoholics are the last ones to know they

have a problem" said Dr. Peter Martin of Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, who wrote a commentary on the report.

Dieter Meyhoff of the University of California San Francisco and colleagues examined 46 chronic, heavy drinkers and 52 light drinkers recruited using newspaper ads and fliers.

They use magnetic resonance imaging to look at physical brain structures and measured various brain chemicals associated with healthy brain function.

"The enrollment criterion for heavy drinkers was the consumption of more than an average of 100 alcoholic drinks per month for men over three years before the study (80 drinks for women)," the researchers wrote in their report, published in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.

One drink is usually defined as a shot of spirits, a glass of wine or a can or bottle of beer.

Standard tests of verbal intelligence, processing speed, balance, working memory, spatial function, executive function and learning and memory were given to the volunteers.

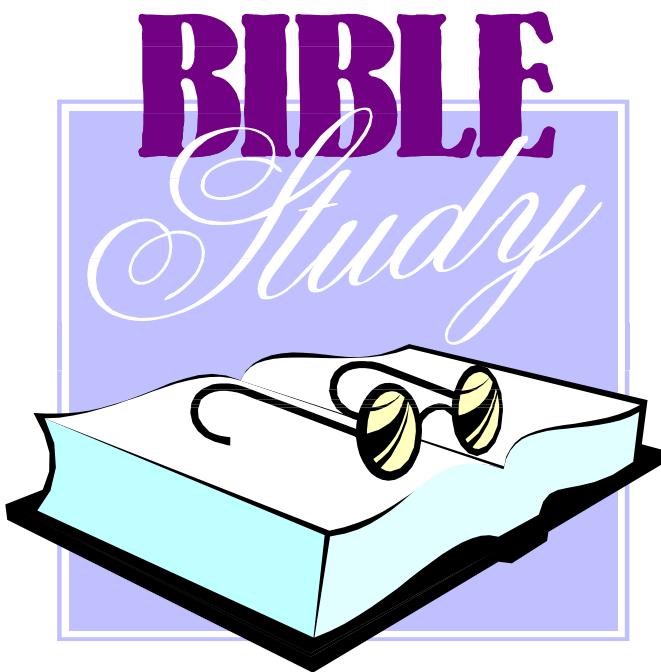
"Our heavy drinkers sample was significantly impaired on measures of working memory, processing speed, attention, executive function, and balance," the researchers wrote.

Comment

A drunkard is anyone who drinks even one drink of alcoholic beverage. You say that this is not true, but I say the dictionary says a person that is influenced by alcohol. The police department of our country prove that it takes just one drink to create a traffic hazard. Just one drink will begin to dull the senses and faculties of the mind. So even the social drinker is a drunkard and a menace to society and to himself.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these, Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envying, murders, DRUNKENNESS, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in the past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).

From the June 13, 1960 ADVOCATE OF TRUTH



Question: How can I overcome my resentment?

Answer: The dictionary defines resentment as "the feeling of displeasure or indignation at something regarded as an injury or insult, or against the author or source of it." That is quite a definition. There is much resentment these days. We can find it in every place on the earth. It is even in churches. We think that the places where you are to study the fruit of the Spirit, resentment would be dispelled, but such is not the case.

Why do people resent people, actions and even things? We resent them because of our own lust and our own egotism. Resentment is breaking one of the Ten Commandments. We know what happens to commandment breakers, do we not? We expect the world to revolve around us. We want everyone to cater to our whims. We order all things as we would have them. We expect friends and relatives always to be careful of our tender feelings and always do the right things our way. Whether or not we are willing to admit it, resentment grows out of our willfulness. It is an indication of a warped perspective.

Resentment can be very dangerous. Long indulged in, and keeping it bottled up inside for a period of time, resentment becomes a basic character trait, and makes your face become ugly, and your words spiteful. It will motivate every action of our lives and every reaction to our experiences. Everything in our lives will become colored with negativism. When our mind is filled with resentment, it will drive out our intellectual satisfactions and will

Bible Questions and Answers

stop our creativity and cause complete loss of all the fruits of the Spirit. When our hearts become full of this awful trait, it will shut a door against all love, filial, and other. It will turn us against the truth and the gifts of our Lord. Peace will be gone. When it permeates the heart, it endangers our very salvation by hindering spiritual growth and the locking out of the Word of God,

Harboring resentments is the cause of many physical illness. It can bring on chronic ills and all sorts of functional discords. It can also aggravate any organic illness and make it hard to cure. Now think, if resentment is such a threat to our health and happiness and to successful living, why do we continue to harbor and hold on to it? Perhaps it is for the same reason that we hold on to any other bad habit, because we are willing to be covetous. We want to have our own way. We want to force everything around us into our own pattern, to feed our egos.

Now what must we do about these parasites that do so easily beset us? First, let us look at James 4:1-10, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth

in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace, Wherefore he saith, GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, BUT GIVETH GRACE UNTO THE HUMBLE? Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep; let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." Then we must look at ourselves and see the ugliness that has spread upon our face. James 1:22-24 says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass (mirror); For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straight way forgetteth what manner of man he was." O look at yourself. Admit that your resentment is disfiguring your features. Then find out what you are resenting and why. Next reorient yourself of your environment and try to develop an outgoing attitude to replace the inward turning that fosters resentment. We must take full responsibility of ourselves and try to turn off the emotional dependence that is at the bottom of resentment. Instead of expecting others to take the responsibility for our comfort and happiness, we must take some of theirs and ALL of ours.

In short, we must climb out of the stage of arrested emotional development of which resentment is a symptom and grow toward maturity. When we face reality and stop making childish demands on other people, when we learn to think first of the comfort of others instead of jealously guarding our own, when we develop the kind of humility that comes from knowing our place in the world, the kind of humility Jesus preached, we will be happier and healthier, more creative and closer to our Saviour.

Finally, we must realize that it is much easier to resolve to be different than it is actually to change. The only way to change habitual attitudes and reaction toward experience is to substitute a positive thought or action every time one introduces itself. Here are some examples that will help us as we pray for the Lord to take away this vile habit of resentment.

1. When an old resentment over someone's selfishness comes to mind, immediately do something unselfish for him or her, something that would not ordinarily be expected to do.

2. When your critical habit causes a native thought to blossom, think of something good about the person you have criticized and concentrate on the good.

3. Try to give a person you resent credit for good intentions instead of assuming that his intentions are selfish or evil.

4. Pray for the one you resent.

5. Bless the one you resent and wish for him all the happiness and love you so desire for yourself.

6. Try to remember that no action or omission of another can hurt you unless you want it to or you let it.

7. Learn to let go of the people on whom you have been accustomed to make willful demands, and leave them to God. Try to remember that other adults are responsible only to God, not to you.

8. In general, overcome resentment by focusing on its opposite - love. When a resentful thought comes into your mind, deliberately put a loving thought in its place. As the Apostle James says, "Do not render evil for good, but good for evil."

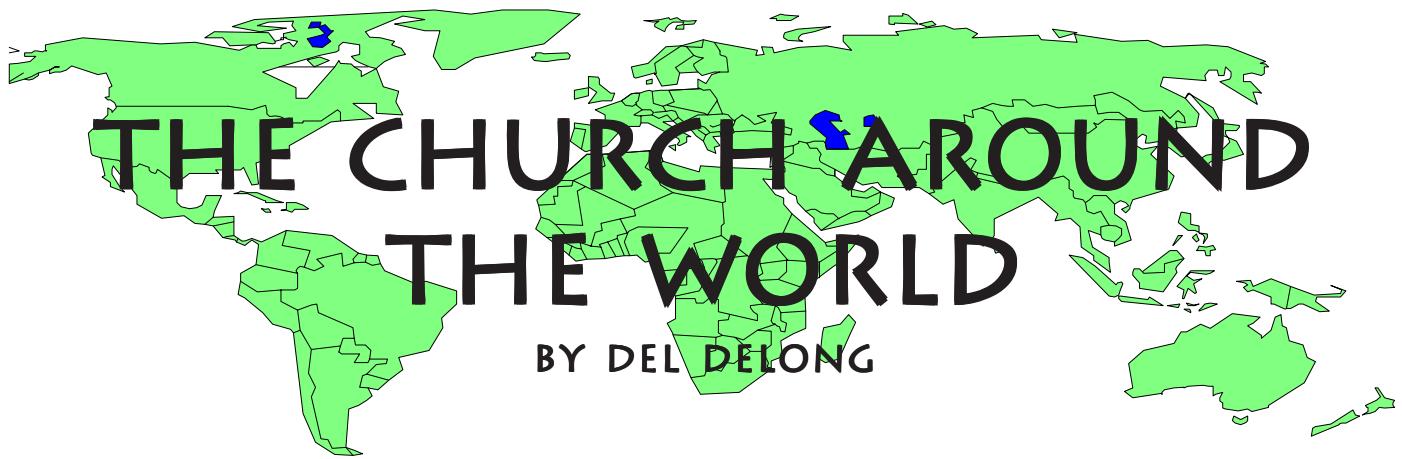
9. Learn to forgive as you hope to be forgiven when you are thoughtless or inconsiderate. Forgive the person you resent, and then forget the hurt. Do not wear your heart on your sleeve. Tuck it away, and put the Lord Jesus in. For this will build you in "Christ the hope of glory."

10. Finally, do not try to do it all by yourself. Ask God to help you. When you fail, ask the Lord to forgive you. Then start over again. Forgive yourself and say; "Dear Lord, help me to be what you want me to be!"

Question: Please explain Job 19:26.

Answer: Job 19:26 reads, "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

This statement by the Patriarch Job refers to the resurrection of the saints at the First Phase of the Second coming of Jesus Christ, the Parousia. This is the first resurrection when all the saints of all ages will come forth out of the grave. Their bodies may have rested for thousands of years. Jesus said in John 5:28-29, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Job and Jesus are saying the same thing. No matter how long or short a time you are in the grave, You will see the Lord in the resurrection.



Kenya

The following photographs are those of baptisms being performed in Kenya by Pastor Henry Mirroro.





*The baptism of Placide Mithonga Mwomba from
the Congo*



LESSON I**SAUL'S FIRST MISTAKE**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 13:1-23.

Golden Text: I Samuel 13:9.

"And Saul said, "Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Saul was king of Israel, and that the nation seemed to be on its way to greatness. Samuel warns Israel and Saul to not forget God, and they will accomplish great things. Let us see now if Saul obeyed the voice of Samuel.

1. After Saul had reigned two years, what did he do? I Samuel 13:1-2.

2. Where did Jonathan smite the garrison of Philistines? I Samuel 13:3.

NOTE: A garrison is a permanent military base.

3. What then did the Philistines do? I Samuel 13:5.

4. What did the men of Israel do? Were they afraid? I Samuel 13:6-7.

5. How long did Saul tarry in Gilgal, and what did he do there? I Samuel 13:8-9.

NOTE: Saul offered a sacrifice which was what the priests were to do. Saul thought he was great enough to do it.

6. When Samuel heard that Saul had offered a burnt offering, was he pleased? I Samuel 13:12-13

7. What did Samuel tell Saul would happen to his kingdom? I Samuel 13:14.

8. What happened that the Israelites had neither sword nor spear? I Samuel 13:17-23.

LESSON II**JONATHAN'S GREAT VICTORY**

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 14:1-24.

Golden text: I Samuel 14:13.

"And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him."

NOTE: King Saul was quite successful, at first, but humility soon gave place to pride in his life. He offered sacrifices, which was the exclusive function of the priests. This was the first sign of Saul's self importance. Now we shall study about Jonathan.

1. Who was Jonathan, and where did he go? I Samuel 14:1.

2. Where was Saul at this time, and how many men were with him? I Samuel 14:2.

3. Describe the passage way by which Jonathan went unto the Philistines' garrison. I Samuel 14:4-5.

4. Jonathan and his armour bearer made themselves known unto the Philistines. What did the Philistines say to them? I Samuel 14:11-12.

5. What did Jonathan do in I Samuel 14:13-14?

6. Did Saul and his people assemble and come to the battle? I Samuel 14:20-22.

7. Did the Lord save Israel that day? I Samuel 14:23.

8. Why had Saul commanded his army to abstain from food? I Samuel 14:24.

LESSON III**SAUL'S SECOND MISTAKE****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 14:25-52.****Golden Text; I Samuel 14:44.**

"And Saul answered, God do so and more also:
for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan."

NOTE: Saul's first mistake was made when he offered sacrifice, which was the exclusive function of priests. Now we shall learn what the second great mistake was. Saul commanded all the people of Israel to not eat any food until the evening. Let us see if everyone in Israel obeyed his voice.

1. What did the people find upon the ground as they came to the wood? I Samuel 14:25.
2. Did all obey Saul and not touch the honey which dripped? I Samuel 14:26-27.
3. Was Jonathan afraid of his father and what he might do to him for eating the honey? I Samuel 14:28-30.
4. What did the people of Israel do that day? I Samuel 14:31-32.
5. When Saul heard what the people had done, what was his command, and what did he do? I Samuel 14:33-36.
6. Did Saul seek counsel from God? Did God answer his plea? I Samuel 14:37.
7. Jonathan was taken, and he told Saul that he had eaten the honey. Did Saul still want to impose the death sentence upon him? I Samuel 14:43-44.
8. Were the people in sympathy with Saul or Jonathan? Did they rescue Jonathan? I Samuel 1:45.
9. Was there war against the Philistines as long as Saul

was king? I Samuel 14:52.

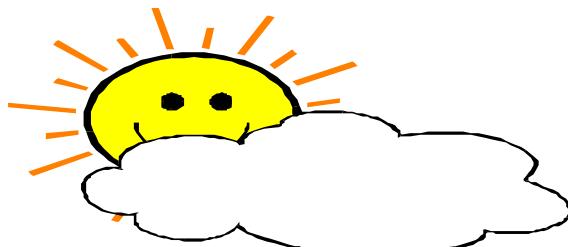
LESSON IV**SAUL'S COMPLETE DISOBEDIENCE
(PART 1)****Scripture Reading: I Samuel 15:1-11.****Golden Text: I Samuel 15:11 (first part).**

"It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments."

NOTE: Saul has made two great mistakes while he was king over Israel. We studied about his second mistake in our last lesson which was the death sentence imposed upon his son Jonathan. Now let us study about his third and final mistake.

1. When Samuel anointed Saul king, what did he instruct Saul to do? I Samuel 15:1.
2. What did the Lord say about Amalek I Samuel 15:2.
3. What was Saul instructed to do? I Samuel 15:3.
4. Did he obey this command? How many men were with him? I Samuel 15:4-5.
5. What did Saul tell the Kenites to do? I Samuel 15:6.
6. Did Saul smite the Amalekites? What did he do with their king? I Samuel 15:7-9.
7. What did the Lord say to Samuel in I Samuel 15:10-11?

NOTE: The Lord told King Saul to destroy all that the Amalekites had, and we find now that he did not obey God.



SPRING COMES FOR SHIRLEY

It's Spring! thought Shirley with delight as she looked out of the kitchen window. Sure enough, there was a very pale sun shining, and she could see some little green shoots along the side of the garage where the cold winds could not reach them.

"Here are your boots and your knitted cap," said Mother bustling into the kitchen. She was carrying Shirley's heavy winter coat over her arm, and Shirley was simply furious.

"I do not have to wear those things, today, especially not a hat and boots," she grumbled. "Everyone else is wearing short socks and light jackets. I have seen them."

Mother shook her head as she held out the boots.

"It may seem like spring, dear, but anything is likely to happen to the weather before you get home for lunch. You know you will get an earache and your cough will start up again if you get cold."

Shirley flounced down on a chair and jerked her boots on. Then she put on her cap, and dragged on her coat. She was so angry she did not kiss Mother good-bye as she usually did before she went to school. She just banged the kitchen door and clattered down the cellar stairs to the grade entrance. There was a wooden shelf down there that Dad used for old paint cans. Shirley had an inspiration. Very quietly she pulled her boots off, then her cap, and hid them behind the paint cans. Then, humming loudly, she hurried out of the side door and headed for school.

Grown-ups are always trying to spoil your fun, she thought as she joined some of her friends also on the road. They do not care how hot you get in winter coats, and you can't run when you are all bundled up. When I have little boys and girls of my own, I will let them wear anything they want!

At recess Shirley played skipping with her best friends, Ann and Margie. She felt fine when she was skipping, but when it was her turn to stand and turn the rope,

she started to shiver. Looking up she saw the sun had hidden his face behind a black cloud, and she felt chilly little breezes blowing around her feet and through her hair.

Back in school Shirley kept glancing through the window. The sky got darker and darker and the windows rattled as the wind tried to get in. Now it did not look like a spring day, it looked like the middle of winter. Great splashes of rain pelted down, and then they turned to snow. Big, white, dancing flakes. Shirley thought about the long walk home. She had no boots and no hat, and she remembered how much her ears hurt the last time she got cold. She wished with all her heart she had heeded Mother's advice.

Just before it was time to leave for lunch, one of the older girls came in the classroom and spoke to Miss Wills, the teacher. After she had gone Miss Wills said, "I would like to speak to you for a minute, Shirley." As she walked up to the desk, Shirley wondered what she had done wrong, even though Miss Wills did not look cross.

"I have just had word from the principal's office, Shirley, that your mother brought your hat and boots for you. Be sure to pick them up at the office."

As she thanked Miss Wills, Shirley felt her cheeks burning. Mother must have discovered the boots and hat she had hidden and walked all that way up to school with them.

Tapping on the principal's door, she remembered what she had been thinking on the way to school. She had thought grown-ups like to spoil everyone's fun, but now she knew this was not so. All mother wanted to do was to be sure she stayed healthy, the way God meant all little girls to be. She was sorry she had forgotten to follow the verse she learned in Sabbath School. "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).

Shirley put on her woolen cap very carefully, making sure her ears were covered. Then she sat down and gently pulled on her boots. There were rules for health just the same as there were for a skipping game, and from now on, she would be sure to keep them. But even more important she would remember the words she learned in Sabbath School, and she would do her best to follow them.

-By Janet Craig James

THE ARK OF FAITH

Fill in the blanks using the word clues. (If you need help, see Genesis 7:1-7 and 9:8-15).

Then place the letters that are numbered in the proper places below.

You will find the answer to two things Noah had which we should have also.

 12 Builder of the ark (7:1).

 3 4 Married women (7:7).

 5 6 Water drops (7:4).

7 Fifty minus ten (7:4).

8 Animal (7:2).

9 10 11 An agreement (9:9).

 12 A sign (9:12).

 13 14 Rhymes with read (9:9).

 and
7 1 3 11 2 12 8 4 14 5 13 6 9 10

GIDEON

The story of Gideon in the Bible has led to many other stories that have been told and might be told of other men who like to call themselves Gideons.

The story of Gideon is found in the sixth and seventh chapters of the book of Judges in the Old Testament. Read the story, then choose from (a), (b), or (c) the words that will correctly finish the statements.

1. Gideon threshed (a) barley, (b) wheat, (c) rye by the winepress. (Judges 6:11)
2. The (a) man (b) angel (c) prophet of the Lord appeared unto him. (Judges 6:11)
3. Gideon said he was the (a) greatest (b) oldest, (c) least in his father's house. (Judges 6:15)
4. He put a (a) fleece of wool, (b) goat skin, (c) calf skin upon the ground. (Judges 7:5-6)
5. Only (a) 30 (b) 300 (c) 3,000 men lapped the water like dogs. (Judges 7:5-6)
6. One of the enemy dreamed a (a) sword (b) cake of barley bread (c) a fig cake tumbled into their camp. (Judges 7:13)
7. Gideon's men blew their trumpets, broke their pitchers and held their (a) swords (b) shields (c) lamps in their hands. (Judges 7:20)
8. And they stood every man in this place round about the (a) camp (b) town (c) battlefield. (Judges 7:21)
9. All the (a) Egyptians (b) Midianites (c) Philistines fled. (Judges 7:22-23)



SPRING

By Del DeLong

*God spreads a warmth upon the land,
The Robin starts to sing.
We know the season is at hand -
The one we all call Spring.*

*The leaves reach up into the sky,
And ask the rain to fall,
And from the cocoon the butterfly,
Holds tight against the wall.*

*The flowers start to open wide,
Their colors all displayed.
The breeze then nudges them aside,
But still they're all arrayed.*

*The signs tell us it now is Spring,
And Summer's on its way.
There are signs of the soon coming King,
And a resurrection day.*

*So look for Jesus's soon return,
Just like the signs of Spring -
Make your call and election sure,
Be ready to meet the King.*