

**The Advocate
Of Truth**



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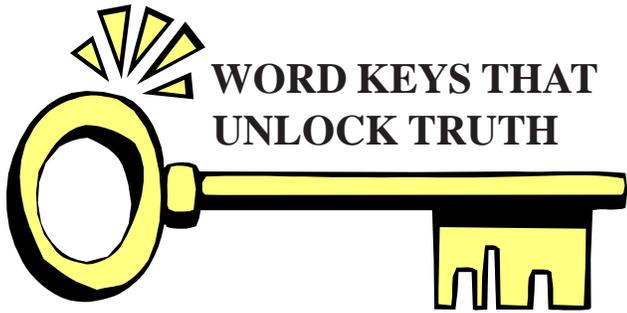
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Happy Mother's Day



UNBLAMABLE IN HOLINESS

The words, unblamable in holiness, occur in I Thessalonians 3:13: "To the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints." The Apostle Paul often prayed with the return of Christ in mind. "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10). He considered it a tragedy if at the Lord's return some within the church were caught living in sin or lukewarmness. Jesus emphasized

this same concern. "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord had made ruler of his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of. And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 24:42-51). The biblical standard is to be "unblamable in holiness" in light of Christ's return. We must wholeheartedly obey our Lord and be separated from all that offends Him.



A MOTHER'S DAY THOUGHT

WHAT CAN A CHRISTIAN MOTHER INFLUENCE IN HER CHILDREN?

By Bond Tennant

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

A. She can influence her children to have a clean conscience.

1. A conscience that is good: "Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly" (Hebrews 13:18).

2. A conscience purged by Christ's blood: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14)

3. A conscience without offense: "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men" (Acts 24:16)

B. She can influence her children to have a clean mind.

1. A mind patterned after the mind of Christ: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

2. A mind not conformed to this world: "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2).

3. A mind without the spirit of fear: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7).

C. She can influence her children to have a clean heart.

1. A heart that is pure: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:7).

2. A heart that is upright: "Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart" (Psalm 97:11).

3. A heart that is fixed on the Lord: "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise" (Psalm 57:7).

D. She can influence her children to have a clean mouth.

1. A mouth separated from gossip: "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not this tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain" (James 1:26).

2. A mouth that speaks words of edification: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

E. She can influence her children to have a clean body.

1. A body offered as a living sacrifice: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1).

2. A body yielded unto God "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:13).

3. A body kept under subjection: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:27).

F. She can influence her children to have clean association.

1. Association saith the people of the Lord: "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25).

2. Association with those who fear the Lord: "I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts" (Psalm 119:63).

3. Associations with those who glorify the Lord: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify of our Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

G. She can influence her children to follow a clean path.

1. A path revealed by the Lord: "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

2. A path that is lighted by the Word of God: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

3. A path in the way of righteousness: "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (Psalm 23:3).

DOING THE RIGHT THING

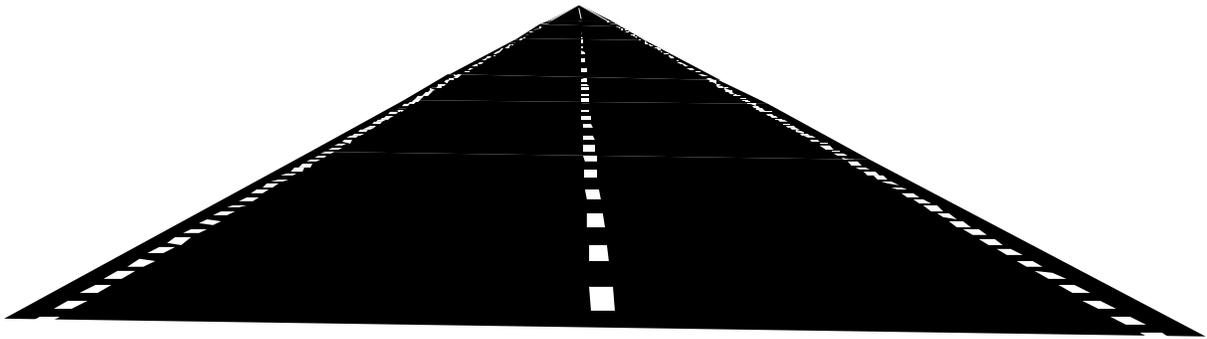
"I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to this ways, and according to the fruit of his doings" (Jeremiah 17:10).

When it comes to truly understanding why we do the things we do, most of us are a mystery even to ourselves. For example, do we help the little old lady across the street because we feel sorry for her, or because we want to be rewarded or be seen doing good deeds? Sometimes all of these motives are present at the same time, and we may not really know why we did a certain act in question. However, we usually know what is the right thing to do, except perhaps in the most complicated cases. Whatever our reason may be for helping the little old lady across the street, we know that it is the right thing to do.

The most important thing is to get into the habit of doing the right thing, and doing it simply because it is the right thing to do when whatever motives may present themselves, we will be inclined to always do the right thing. The heart is often an inscrutable mystery, and it has its own reasons which the intellect may not always understand.

Therefore, just do the right thing, and don't worry about why you did it.

THE PATHWAY OF PROGRESS



"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18). This text treats the Christian life from the viewpoint of progress. However, there is value in looking back, not retracing our steps, but looking back, to see how we can render more unto the Lord for all His benefits toward us.

Spiritual progress is conditional. "The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger" (Job 17:9). Spiritual growth produces spiritual maturity. How can we reach spiritual maturity? In the words of the scriptures, by putting away childish things, cultivating understanding, and striving to have the mind of Christ. Spiritual growth produces spiritual beauty. Spiritual beauty is something related to spiritual fullness in Christ. Fullness in Christ produces the overflowing cup containing blessing, joy, and the fullness of God.

The life of the child of God is comparable to a journey. Therefore, progress is to be made in the way. There can be no standing still as the days, the weeks, the months, and the years soon pass. The child of today soon becomes the youth of tomorrow. The youth becomes the man, and the man soon becomes the veteran. There is another kind of progress to be made by all children of God. It is the pathway of character formation. Our daily experiences and our reactions to them, the thoughts occupying the mind, our companions, all combine in forming character. We must grow in grace and into the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must ever press onward to the mark of the price of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. This can produce weariness, but we must heed the words of Galatians 6:9: "And let us not be weary

in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

There must be no standstill in the Christian life. We either advance or go backward. With a firm grip on faith, it must be forward, onward and upward.

If we ever feel weary, let us think what it was that led Christ to the cross. It was the Saviour's love, His full resignation to His Father's will and His loyalty to an eternal purpose. The child of God must ever be prepared to surmount fresh difficulties on this way homeward, being assuredly convinced that this pathway is leading him in triumph to glory.

Do we have grounds to believe in such a pathway? We were once in darkness, but now we are in the light because we are in the Lord. Once we were ignorant of God, now we can say, "Abba, Father." "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). No longer blinded by Satan, we follow the light of the world, holding forth the Word of life in the midst of a "crooked and perverse" generation. "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15).

This light is progressive. It is like the dawn of day which creeps gradually over the earth. The gray streaks of dawn bite into the horizon revealing at first the outline of the distant hills, and gradually illuminating the earth, completely sweeping away the darkness of night. From the very earliest spiritual dawn which lighted our lives, there is spiritual progress. Hope and love, grow, leading to a mature spiritual understanding, bringing richer com-

forts and consolations, which are the reward of the believer.

There cannot be true progress without prayer. How should we approach God? We should come reverently, yet boldly, to the throne of grace. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Psalm 10:17 says, "Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear."

Prayer brings assurance. Prayer brings every grace of the Spirit into active, holy, and healthy exercise. Prayer is the stream that supplies refreshing vigor and nourishment to all the plants of grace. Prayer is a sacred channel through which He supplies our every need.

For what should we pray? Pray for Gods glory, for the grace in every time of need. Pray for quickening, re-

straining, and sanctifying grace. Pray to be kept from falling, to be held up in slippery paths. Prayer for a lowly mind, a contrite heart, and a close and humble walk with God. Pray that in prosperity we may not forget God, and in adversity that we may not be forgotten. Pray that in our health we may be given grace to use it to His glory, and in sickness for a patient submission to His will. "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8).

We have a throne of grace. This throne is available in a world of woe. God sits on that throne to dispense to us pardon, peace, comfort, light, direction, and help in every time of need. Let us not linger because we feel that we are unfit to approach the throne of grace. God wants us to understand that it is a throne of grace, and not a throne of merit.

Contributed



A WHITED SEPULCHER OR A WARM INVITING TEMPLE

BY CAROL BUECHNER



Envision in your mind a sepulcher. What does it make you think of? What does a sepulcher look like? Ponder your ideas of a sepulcher while you study the meaning of the word. The dictionary states that it is a tomb, funeral mound, vault, chamber or grave for the dead. During the time that Jesus lived on earth, sepulchers, more commonly known as tombs, took much time to construct because they were often carved out of the rock in a hillside. This took many hours of hard labor. It was not just a simple place in which to slide a body, but often had rooms in it with special areas in which to place a body. Does this bring to mind a place that is inviting or attractive?

The Bible has some very descriptive words concerning a sepulcher as found in Matthew 23:27: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful

outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." These are pretty strong words that Jesus is using to describe the people as He had observed them. This is not all He has to say. Jesus continues in verse 28-30: "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets." Jesus is connecting the word hypocrite with a whited sepulcher. What is a hypocrite? In the Greek, the word means an actor or a pretender. The dictionary gives further understanding stating that it is a person who pretends what he or she is not or they may pretend to be better than what is really so or

they may try to appear to be pious or virtuous when actually it isn't so. As you read these meanings, would you want Jesus to point to you and call you a hypocrite? What He is asking is are you pretending to be My follower, in appearance keeping the laws of God and acting as if you are Godly? As Jesus looks into your eyes and asks you this, how would you honestly answer him? Remember that Jesus is challenging you to really analyze your true state. Are you His servant and faithfully doing what is right out of love for Him or is it all an act on your part? Jesus doesn't really have to ask because He knows the answer. He knows all that is in your mind and spirit. You can't follow Him even though you may be following yourself and others, too. How deep is your commitment to Jesus? Are you only putting on a show to impress others or are you a faithful servant of God? Do you want to be like a whited sepulcher that looks fine outwardly but inwardly is full of dead men's bones? Dead men's bones can't produce anything. You can't be a productive Christian, bringing others to salvation if you're dead in your heart, mind, soul and spirit.

There is another type of life that you can study to see how it compares to the description Jesus gave of a hypocrite. What about the word temple? Does it bring a different type of picture to your mind? King Solomon built a magnificent temple for a dwelling place for God. Turn to First Kings and read chapters five through seven and Second Chronicles, chapters two through four and read about the splendor of this building. It was made of the finest cedar trees, adorned with gold, silver, brass, precious stones, golden cherubims, beautiful tapestries and so much more. The cost of building this type structure today would be exorbitant. One can not imagine the beauty of this structure nor the time it took to construct it. Not only did Solomon use the best of materials in constructing the temple, but he hired the greatest workmen to do the crafting. Please continue to read First Chronicles, chapter eight and Second Chronicles, chapters five, six and seven, to understand the impact that the construction of the temple had on Solomon and the Israelites. Solomon's sermon, prayer of dedication and benediction, described in the above chapters are so inspiring to read and study.

What is a temple? Solomon built the temple as a dwelling place or home for God. Today the word church is used, but it means the same as a temple. It is still a place to go to worship God. The Bible, however, has a differ-

ent description of what a temple is. It is found in I Corinthians 6:19-20: **"What, know ye not that YOUR BODY is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."**

Wait a minute! Did the above verse really state that your body is the temple of God? It most certainly did. This means then that YOUR BODY is the dwelling place of God! He actually lives in you through the Holy Ghost. His very power is within you. Other scriptures in the Bible back this up. "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 2:27). "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Romans 8:9-11,14). This passage not only states that Christ is in you, but it is necessary that He does dwell in you. It is the Spirit that will quicken you when Jesus returns. Christ Himself spoke of dwelling in your body. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. ...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:16-17,20,23). Without a doubt, you can be the dwelling place of the Holy God. Make this an extended study to fully understand this concept.

The scriptures say that the human body can be the dwelling place of God, but does that mean that every human person is the temple of God. No, there is a procedure that one must go through. A person must decide that Jesus needs to be the Lord of his life. He must accept Jesus as his saviour, confess his sins and repent of them. Is this all that needs to be done? The Bible states in Acts 19:5-6: "When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands

upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them: and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." The next two steps are clear: (1.) water baptism and (2.) laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit. Something now happens to a person that is very important. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized in Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let no sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof" (Romans 6:3-4,6,11-12). "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..." (II Corinthians 5:17,20). The person has begun a new life. The old life must be put aside and the new one begins to develop through the help of the Holy Spirit which now indwells the person. Changes in the person begin to take place enabled by the presence of God's guidance. They must surrender to God and allow the process to go forward so that they can become a mature Christian. This is not an instant happening but takes place over the years. However, the person that is going through this process must continually read and study God's word and pray for guidance. There must be a willingness to see one's faults and change. Can a person do this on his own? Absolutely not! God must be their constant guide and they can not follow their old ways.

Stop and think about this idea. Once you have been baptized, had the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit, you begin a new life. You belong to God and have become a walking talking temple. If you have been baptized, think back to what your life was like at that time. How have you changed? Have you become a new person with new habits and a new outlook on life? The passage in Romans six, stated emphatically that you **MUST** become a new creature and the old things that ruled your flesh **MUST** be gotten rid of completely. Your new behavior should be obvious to people that know you. Perhaps you worked diligently for a while to make those changes but then you started to slack off and let a few of

the old things come back. There is something important that you can not forget to do. "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves..." (II Corinthians 13:5). This should be an every day occurrence in which you evaluate your own progress or lack of it.

What are you looking for to check to see if you are progressing in your spiritual walk? There are words taken directly from the Bible that will identify which way you are going. These lists may seem long but they can serve as a stimulus to determine how you are doing. Which list do you find yourself following?

LIST 1-angry, negative, bitter, wrath, corrupt communication, lying, malice, grumbling, complaining, holds grudges, selfish, unholy, lazy, dissatisfied, impatient, disobedient, stingy, contemptuous, disorderly, impious, unthankful, covetous, disputing, argues, boastful, prideful, trucebreakers, uncaring, double minded, false accuser, despises good, traitor, high minded, causes strife, gossips, vain, lustful, offensive, rude, speak guile, blind, neglectful, hateful, seeks attention, craves praise, doubtful, etc.

LIST 2-speaks truth, edifies, humble, thankful, tenderhearted, loving, good, forgiving, joyful, faithful, prayerful, contented, merciful, kind, meek, patient, obedient, generous, peaceful, orderly, pure, holy, trustful, caring, righteous, quiet, gentle, faithful, affectionate, exhorts, giving, controls tongue, courteous, temperate, pitiful, compassionate, hospitality, loves life, charitable, sober, steadfast, diligent, virtuous, keeps commandments, respectful, etc.

Now that your mind has been stimulated by the above lists of words, go a step farther and do a more personal inventory of your inner life. Remember that God is not concerned about how you look on the outside but he is very concerned about your inner temple. The following questions can get you started on the examination of your inner temple. How do you greet each day? Do you awaken with thoughts of worry and concern about what you have to do? Do you complain that there is just too much to do and you don't feel like doing it? Or do you wake up thanking God and praising Him for giving you another day? Do you surrender your day to Him and ask for His blessings and guidance? Do you become short tempered with family members that seek your time and attention? Do you ignore them and hurriedly rush off to

work? Or do you take the time to greet family members and give them the attention they need? How do you react while driving in traffic? Do you become impatient and mumble about other's driving habits? Or do you drive patiently down the road singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord? How do you treat others at work? Are you impatient and unwilling to take the time to work out problems? How do you feel on Sabbath morning? Do you grumble because you have to get out of bed to go to church? Do you complain about the sermon, the music, others in attendance, etc.? Do you just warm a seat in church or are you a happy participant using your God given gifts? Would you behave and think differently if Jesus were sitting next to you in church? Did you forget THAT HE IS THERE? Do you want the service to be short so that you can go do your own pleasure? How much time are you spending daily with God? Are you just too busy to find the time to read God's word and communicate with Him in prayer? Are you too busy to spend time with your family or help the needy or visit a shut in? How are you treating your physical body? Are you eating healthy foods or filling your temple with junk? Are you obese? Are you taking drugs that you could do without? Are you drinking a lot of caffeine (It's a drug, too!)? How much physical exercise are you doing to keep your body strong? What is there in your life that is from the "old man" (which was crucified) that needs to go? Are you truly living the "new man" (dead unto sin) and letting God bring you to maturity? Have you grown impatient with the process of becoming a mature saint? Have you allowed your body to become a cold, uninviting whited sepulcher? Have you forgotten the price that was paid for you to become the temple of God? As a representative of God, how should you be acting and what should you be saying? Are you bringing glory to God? How many excuses can you think of to answer these questions? Is it a favorite excuse to say, "That's just the way I am and I have always been that way?" Would God accept such excuses? Don't you think that you can change through the power of God that is in you?

IT IS SO AWESOME!

Knowing that your body is the temple of the Almighty God is an awesome thing! It is unbelievable that the Creator of the earth and all things wants to dwell in a sinner.

When you consider that there are millions of people on this earth and the Great Father comes to abide in you and you can dwell in Him, it is amazing. Just think about the fact that you are privileged to know God, have His word to read and know of His existence. Millions of people on this earth do not have this privilege. They have never heard that there is such a wonderful and gracious God. They have not had the blessing of having a Bible to open and read the truth directly for God. How much you have to thank God for! What more could you want than to have your life in the hands of such a marvelous God? Do not let the fact that you are a finely crafted temple of the living God ever leave your mind. Be determined to keep your temple a warm and inviting dwelling place for the Almighty. Thank Him daily for this blessing and do all you can to let the Holy Spirit work freely in you. Remember that you can do things to cause the power of God to shrink back and become inactive. This will leave you frustrated and struggling in everything you do. You CAN live a life of victory when you remember that your body is the holy temple of God and that everything you do must be done as unto Him.

Study carefully the following verses from John 15. Let them sink deep in your heart because these verses remind you that Christ dwells (abides) in you and you dwell (abide) in Him. The whole chapter of John 15 is describing how you are connected with the power of God and there can be no doubt that you are the temple of God.

"Abide in me, and I in you.. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you, Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (Verses 4,7-8,10-11,14,16).

7 Things You May Or May Not Know About JACOB

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. Jacob is referred to as a plain man.

"And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents" (Genesis 25:27).

Strong's Concordance indicates that this word "plain" means pious, undefiled, upright.

2. Esau said that Jacob had supplanted him two times. Jacob means supplanter or heel - catcher.

"And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them" (Genesis 25:26).

"And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed. And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father. And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing. And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? (Genesis 27:33-36).

3. He was instructed by his father Isaac not to marry "the daughters of Canaan."

"And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother. And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;

And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed, with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham" (Genesis 28:1-4).

4. He worked fourteen years for his wife Rachel.

"And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me. And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her. And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this thou hast done unto me? Did not I serve with thee for Rachel? wherefore then hast thou beguiled me? and Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfill her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years. And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also" (Genesis 29:18-20, 25-28).

5. Besides the twelve sons that Jacob had, he also fathered a daughter.

"And Leah conceived again, and bare Jacob the sixth son. And Leah said, God hath endued me with a good dowry; now will my husband dwell with me, because I have born him six sons: and she called his name Zebulun. And afterward she bare a daughter, and called her name Dinah" (Genesis 30:19-21).

6. Jacob became Israel.

"And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed" (Genesis 32:27-28).

"And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called anymore Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel" (Genesis 35:10).

7. He loved Joseph more than all his children.

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours" (Genesis 37:3).



UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

BY SIEGFRIED MAYWALD

Unity in the body of Christ is very important if we want to grow and prosper in our effort to spread God's Word among other people. Unbelievers must feel the oneness, the unity and harmony among fellow Christians if God's Word is to be spread successfully. Only if we make an unbeliever welcomed and cared for will God's Word leave a lasting impact with the individual.

To be able to achieve this kind of unity, we must consider three questions:

1. On what is it based?
2. How is it expressed?
3. With what differences is it consistent?

To find the answers to these questions, let us turn to the Scriptures to see what they have to tell us. To find the answer to question number one, let us read I Corinthians 3:16-17: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." Let us also read I Corinthians 6:19-20: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

From the previous scriptures, we learn that it is based on the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies become God's temple in which the Holy Spirit dwells. So we have become aware of our actions and behavior toward other people. We have to learn to maintain discipline through mind and body. In II Corinthians 5:17 we read, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." We become a new creature. We experience a change of mind and attitude. The old human or worldly

nature has been put off, and the new Christ like nature has been adopted. We have become reconciled to Jesus Christ. We become newly born in Christ. We must now examine and prove to ourselves that Jesus Christ is in us. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Corinthians 13:5). We see that we have to live in union with Jesus Christ.

People often joke about standing before God and having their lives examined. But the picture to which the Apostle Paul points is anything but funny. HE is very serious about the day of accounting which is coming to all. Wherefore, Paul warns us to examine ourselves and prove ourselves.

Most of us are familiar with the performance reviewers on job sites. But what Paul describes here is the ultimate performance review, the moment we stand before God on the day of judgment, when our life's performance on earth is evaluated not for salvation, but its reward or loss. In I Corinthians 3:12-15, we are warned not to build our trust in worldly values as gold, silver, precious stones, wood or hay which can be destroyed by fire. If we do, we shall suffer loss, but if a man's work abide, he shall receive a reward. Paul refers here to acts of charity, kindness, courage and perseverance in the face of opposition and persecution. He includes humility, the spreading of God's Word to co-workers, honoring marriage vows as well as working diligently and trusting in God's Word will be the real values, the "gold, silver and stones" which will not burn or melt away. The wood, straw or hay here may refer to lies which we may have told, ways we have cheated customers or friends, abuse that has taken place among families as well as manipulations to our advantage

and all kinds of selfishness. A few examples of selfishness are: the squandering of money for luxuries one cannot afford and has difficulty paying for them, the turning away of those who really need help, acts of polluting the air or soil or water, making sure that others are pushed out to ensure advancement of self for powerful positions. We have an arrogance of self-sufficiency in the world and lack of faith in God's Word. What will remain of your life after the fire is burned out and the smoke dissipated?

Let us now consider question number two. How is unity expressed? Let us turn to I Peter 3:8-9, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing." We have seen that we must have unity in the Spirit. We must have unity in faith. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all!" (Ephesians 4:4-6). We must have unity in fellowship and praise to God. "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and giving favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:42-47). We must have unity in concern for one another. "That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it" (I Corinthians 12:25-26). Paul tells us that unity in this body does not just happen. It must be worked on and maintained just like the unity of a marriage has to be maintained continually.

Now we consider question three. With what differences is it consistent?

1. In a physical way as seen in I Peter 3:1-7.
2. In a social way as seen in Ephesians 6:5-9.

3. In a mental way as seen in I Corinthians 1:26-29.
4. According to gifts as seen in I Corinthians 12:4.
5. In differences of administration as seen in I Corinthians 12:5.

6. In diversities of operations seen in Corinthians 12:6.

7. Nationally as well as ethically as seen in Acts 10:35.

Now understanding all these variations, we should be gentle and patient with one another. None of us believers is perfect. We all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, so we must learn to accept one another as Christians in spite of our differences or faults. We should not dwell on someone's weakness or just look for faults, but we must pray for him or her. To maintain and build unity is one of the most important roles within the body of Christ. Let God's Spirit lead us and then do our part to keep peace and harmony. Let us focus on God, not on ourselves or the actions of others. Our oneness does not destroy our individuality. The Holy Spirit has in each of us a special gift to edify and build up the church, the body of Christ. Let us concentrate and identify our God given gifts and put them to work and help the body of Christ to grow.

Unity gives strength and power, while division destroys the same. Those who think that divisions do help the body to grow are badly mistaken. Let us read what the Prophet Jeremiah has to say. "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people: Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 23:1-2). Jesus' words in Matthew 12:25 tell us, "..., Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

In Proverbs 6:6 we are told, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard: consider her ways, and be wise." Proverbs 30:27 tells us, "The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands." As individuals, those insects are harmless and have no power, but by acting in unison, they have strength and power. Likewise, we as children to God individually have no power really to impact the world, but many believers in unison gain strength and power to influence the world or community in which they live. So let us do as the early believers did on the day of Pentecost when they were all with one accord in one place (Acts 2:1).

WHAT IS DEATH?



Webster's Dictionary defines death as "the state of being dead." Webster also uses the word "extinction." The Bible confirms that these definitions are correct. Ecclesiastics 9:10 records, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor devise, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

Severe calamity came upon Job. He thought it would have been better for him to have died as an infant. In giving expression to this sentiment, he clearly reveals that death is a condition in which the 'wicked cease from troubling, and the weary be to rest.' "Why died I not from the womb? Why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly? Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck, For now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have slept: then had I been at rest, With kings and counsellors of the earth, which built desolate places for themselves; Or with princes that had gold, who filled their houses with silver: Or as an hidden untimely birth I had not been; as infants which never saw light. There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest. There the prisoners rest together. They hear not the voice of the oppressor. The small and the great are there; and the servant is free from his master. Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter in soul; Which long for death, but it cometh not; and dig for it more than for hid treasures; Which rejoice exceedingly, and are glad, when they can find the grave?" (Job 3:11-22).

In these verses, Job explains that those who suffer much, and can get no relief, are glad when they realize that death is near, that they find the grave. He says that those who are dead are 'still and ...quiet.' They sleep and are "at rest." This is in agreement with Ecclesiastics 9:5-6: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they anymore a portion for ever in anything that is done under

the sun." We can now see that death is a state of oblivion. The "dead know not anything." Their former loves their hatreds, and their envy, all perish in death.

Adam's transgression of God's commandment brought death not only to himself, but also to his offspring. The first part of Romans 5:18 records, "Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation..." The first part of I Corinthians 15:22 records, "For as in Adam all die,..." Since Adam's transgression, the human creation has been imperfect. The human creation is afflicted by diseases of various sorts. Under normal circumstances, no one wants to die. The expression, "natural death" is often used in contrast to accidental death, or death by violence. In all reality, however, there is no such thing as natural death. Death seems always to be unnatural to humans. The reason may be that people are never accustomed to it. Whether it strikes in infancy, in childhood, in middle or old age, it is always an unwelcome visitor.

However we are assured that this unwelcome visitor will be destroyed! The Apostle Paul says, "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (I Corinthians 15:26). Paul's words confirm the word of the Prophet Isaiah; "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 25:8). This destruction of death will be brought about through our Lord Jesus Christ. When Paul wrote that judgment came upon all men through Adam, he added, "Even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life" (Romans 5:18). Also in I Corinthians 15:22, he wrote, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Let us rejoice in the promise that death will be destroyed!

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.

The Days Of Noah Compared To Our Days

Since the days of our Lord's ministry upon the earth, many have attempted to date the first phase of Christ's return. They have done it and are doing it now in spite of the fact that Christ Himself told His disciples more than one time that the knowledge of the exact time of His return is known by His Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Before He ascended to His Father, one of His last warnings to His disciples is found in Acts 1:7, "And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

Jesus refused to pinpoint the exact hour of the first phase of His return so that people would be ready at all times. However, He did talk of signs and conditions that would exist at this time. These signs and conditions would bring a sense of urgency to God's children and a cry of warning from His watchmen. Listen carefully to our Lord's warning, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37).

What are a few characteristics which marked Noah's day?

It was a time of evil imaginations and evil hearts.

"And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). In Noah's day, they thought evil and imagined even more! At that time, the hearts of wicked people were far removed from God. This is so in our day! Modern media caters to evil thoughts and hearts. Modern advertising promotes the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye almost constantly. It seems as though pornography has become a modern day financial empire. It brings in millions of dollars in consumer products to entice the flesh. People in our day cannot in good conscience look back to the day of Noah

with an air of superiority or self righteousness.

It was a time when violence filled the earth.

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:11). Sin begets violence! The nature of sin is that it affects mind, spirit and body. When a heart is corrupt, the deeds of that body become corrupt.

Acute and malignant violence was rampant in Noah's day. We can only imagine the murder, rape, abuse and maiming that must have taken place while Noah, the preacher of righteousness, warned of the impending flood. Violent parents train their children to become violent. The children of Noah's day, reared by violent parents, no doubt became violent themselves.

Schools whose problems were once minute now deal with guns, knives, assault of teachers, beatings, rape and gang warfare. The streets of many cities are dangerous war zones.

Terrorism has become a word that dominates the newscasts and newspapers, and it is now an integral part of our modern vocabulary. Many wonder when the next explosion or mass tragedy will take place. Will the flow of blood increase, and will violence become even more rampant? It filled the earth in Noah's day. It corrupted the earth until God said, "..., The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth" (Genesis 6:13).

It was a time when the truly righteous were few.

Millions lived in the day of this preacher of righteousness. However, only he and his wife and his three sons with their wives were spared the total destruction that came on the earth with the onset of the great flood.

In our day, God examines the hearts of men and women very carefully. He did the same in Noah's day. No one can escape the scrutiny of the eyes of God. He really knows us! We can commit no hidden sins or carefully covered and disguised iniquities. We may deceive friends, family, church circles and people in general, but we can never deceive God! Ephesians 1:4 says, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

It was a time when people's thoughts were on physical rather than spiritual needs.

"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark" (Matthew 24:38). The people were so busy with everyday living that they did not think about eternal values. How often during the course of the day do we think of eternal values? Probably we do not do it often enough. Can we imagine how the unrighteous become so preoccupied with the day-to-day living that they do not think in spiritual terms?

The Days Of Lot

Another event that our Lord alluded to is found in Luke 17:28-30: "Likewise also as it was in the day of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded: But on the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

It was a time when the economy and materialism governed the lives of people.

Eating, drinking, buying, selling and building are terms used to describe Sodom before its fall. A busy society exists to propagate its existence. Sodom was an example of industrious behavior. They made the ground plenteous with fruit. They built buildings to contain things, to conduct business in and to dwell in. They felt it would last forever. The economic indicators made the people in Sodom smile. The thought of instant annihilation or sudden destruction would bring laughter and charges of religious fanaticism to anyone who would dare prophesy it!

Is our world headed in the same direction? We have become an industrialized, commercial society with no thought of eternity. Do we not think this will end?

It was a time of unparalleled wickedness and sexual immorality.

The perversions of Sodom were of the worst kind. This city of the plain had deviated from natural man-and-

wife sexual relationships into a life-style of homosexuality and abusive perversity. Lust and lasciviousness had become commonplace. They were so spiritually blind to what was right that when the angels of God came to rescue Lot and his family, the men of Sodom sought to sexually assault these visitors. Desperate in his own weakened condition, Lot offered his virgin daughters to satisfy their lusts. This was evil on a grand scale!

Today, the world is much the same. Television, the movies, books, magazines and the theater cry out loudly that there are no taboos and all is accepted regardless of its violation of the Bible and God's moral code. It is believed that there are more homosexuals and lesbians in existence now than lived in all the history of Sodom. God will judge their blatant disregard for His laws!

It was a time when there was no fear of God.

Genesis 19:14 reminds us that when Lot tried to warn his sons-in-law of God's impending doom upon the city of Sodom, they looked on him as a babbler or mocker. They simply did not fear God!

We know that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). We know that "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Why have many people of this modern day forsaken the fear (respect) of God? Can it be because of doubt and unbelief fueled by teachers of evolution, agnosticism and modern science? Perhaps the fear of the Lord has been diluted by the fantasy world of modern media created on television and the movie screen.

This we do know! God is still the ruler of the universe. His Word is still immutable. Lot's generation failed to fear (respect) God, and the speedy judgment incinerated the city into a dust bed of sulfuric ash!

The judgment in Noah's day was swift and sure. The rain began with a vengeance. Clouds burst open with a deluge of water. The sea expanded its boundaries. Springs became creeks, and creeks became mighty rivers.

In Lot's day, judgment came even swifter with horrible vengeance. The city of Sodom became an oven of sudden death. The people perished in a tomb of burning brimstones.

Jesus has warned the world that conditions that existed in the day of Noah and Lot would be very similar to the conditions that exist upon the earth when He returns to catch away the saints!

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Will you please give me an idea of what the ONE FAITH mentioned in Ephesians 4:4-6 is?

Answer: Ephesians 4:4-6 reads, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, ONE FAITH, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

There are many faiths in the religious world. They all claim to be the "one" faith to the exclusion of others; and, so, all must be wrong except one. Perhaps none are right. There is the "faith" of Wesley, the "faith" of Calvin, the "faith" of Luther, the "faith" of Russel, the "faith of the various so-called "Churches of God." All say that they are right, that their particular brand of doctrine, faith and practice is right, and that they have the "one faith." However, we need not to be in darkness about the true faith. We have the sure word of truth to go by! If we are deceived, it is our fault. Let us take heed!

The Apostle Jude says that we "should earnestly contend for the faith which once was delivered unto the saints" (verse 3). Contend for, strive to advance, exert our utmost ability to extend that faith that once was delivered unto the saints of past ages. God has no place in His divine heavenly organization for "rocking-chair" church member. All must be on the war path for God, for righteousness, truth, the way of life-the faith, the "one faith" once in past ages delivered unto the saints. Abel was a saint, and he knew the "one faith"; so did Abraham, Moses, the

prophets, Jesus and the disciples. In fact all saints knew the "one faith", and contended earnestly for it against every wile of Satan. It is not something new. It is as old as the saints, for it was delivered unto them.

The "one faith" can not be the belief of any modern religion, be it ever so sincere and pure and earnest. The faiths of men, women, conferences, or conventions is not the "one faith," for that which was delivered unto the saints is the "faith of the gospel". The Apostle Paul says, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ; that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27).

"The faith of the gospel is not something modern, something new, something just discovered. It is the essence of the glad tidings, the good news, the Gospel story preached in all ages. But you ask, "Was not the Gospel new with the earthly ministry of Jesus?" NO! The Gospel faith was not new in the days of Jesus. The children of Israel heard it as they came forth from Egypt. Paul says, "for unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it" (Hebrews 4:2).

The "one faith", whose shall we call it: Luther's, Calvin's, White's, Wesley's, Eddy's, -whose? The "one faith," "the faith of the gospel," "once delivered unto the

saints" is not the faith of man, or men. It is the "faith of Jesus." Paul says, "... and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1-2). "Our faith" then, if the "one faith," is the "faith of Jesus." There is not need to depend upon men to formulate "faiths," no need to wait for new leaders to arise. The beginner of the "one faith" is ever with us, the finisher of "our faith" is the leader of all ages. Praise God for the faith once delivered unto the saints.

Now, since we know of the "one faith", what shall we do? Shall we continue to follow some men? No! We must follow the example of Paul. He confirmed "the souls of the disciples," and exhorted "them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). There is no "rocking chair religion" for the saints! The faith has been delivered unto them for action. They must contend for it! They must continue in "the faith," even unto the end, through this means tribulation, sorrow, anguish,. If you do not believe Paul was right, if you do not believe the road into the kingdom of God by the "one faith" is strewn with tribulation, just arise and stand upon the word of God. Pattern your life after the saints of God of past ages, the holy ones unto when the faith was once delivered, and then you will truly know the bitter reality of "tribulation" for the faith's sake.

Now the sincere child of God should take warning from the following scripture for the time is now that it is being fulfilled. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their consciences seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth" (I Timothy 4:1-3). The "one faith" never changes. Just as it was when preached to the spirits in prison in the day of Noah by the Spirit of Christ; just as it was when preached to the children of Israel as they marched toward the promised land; just as it was when it was "once delivered unto the saints. The "one faith" continues to be the same. Though modern theologians arise, sects increase, creeds be formulated, doctrines adopted, the "one faith" changes not because it is the faith of the ages. It changes not. However the Spirit warns that in the last days some

will depart from it. Let us take heed.

For three hundred years after the ascension of our Lord, the Christian Church adhered to the "one faith." Then Rome came upon the scene, and he began to modify, to change, to alter, to "nail to the cross" anything and everything they did no care to do. They paganized the "True faith" and they Romanized the "faith of Jesus" until it no more remained the "one faith", but another faith altogether. May the sincere truth search realize this!

Then came the long Dark Ages to a close. Although the saints had stood firm throughout these long dark days, contending for the true faith, grounded and settled in the way that had been delivered unto them by their father of fold, their life's blood had been the price for their faithfulness The Word of truth was watered with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. Then came the dawn of a better day. Reformers arose and began to seek the "old paths", but when God's ways were to straight, and the road too narrow, and the life too restricted, they haltered and wavered. They failed to go on back to the "faith once delivered unto the saints." Because of this hesitation, we now have hundreds of sects, creeds, denominations and many faiths instead of the "one faith" we all should love.

Students of the word, who desire salvation, should be on their guard in the face of such a text as I Timothy 4:1, wherein the Spirit has expressly warned them that the "faith delivered unto the saints" would be departed from. We should be careful, we should take inventory, we should try our ways to see if the faith we profess today is the old faith of the saints of old. We can do this by praying for wisdom. "If any of you lack, wisdom, let him ask of God, that fiveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21). These things we are commanded to do in this test, "Examine yourselves, whether ye being the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Corinthians 13:5).

It is time to awaken. It is inventory time for the professed followers of Christ. Many have and now are departing, until today the Christian world is filled with "faiths" of man and women instead of that which the Revelator mentions, saying, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).



The Philippines

This photo was taken at the time of the Lord's Supper in Dumaguette City



India

Dedication of the church in Palavancha



LESSON I

SAUL'S COMPLETE DISOBEDIENCE
(PART 2)

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 15:12-35.

Golden Text: I Samuel 15:28.

"And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned that King Saul disobeyed God again. He was to destroy the Amalekites and all that they had. But he kept King Agag alive and the best of their animals. We will now learn what happens to King Saul.

1. What did Samuel tell Saul when they met the next morning? I Samuel 15:12-15.
2. In I Samuel 15:18 and 19, Samuel asked Saul why he had not completely obeyed the voice of the Lord. What was Saul's reply to Samuel? I Samuel 15:20-21.
3. Which would have been better for Saul, obedience or sacrifice? I Samuel 15:22.
4. What will the Lord do to Saul for his disobedience? I Samuel 15:23.
5. What did Saul ask of Samuel in I Samuel 15:24-25?
6. What was Samuel's reply to Saul? I Samuel 15:26-28.
7. Did Samuel then destroy King Agag? I Samuel 15:33.
8. Did Samuel see Saul again before his death? Did the Lord repent that He had ever made Saul king over Israel? I Samuel 15:35.

LESSON II

DAVID SECRETLY ANOINTED TO BE KING

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 16:1-13.

Golden Text: I Samuel 16:12.

"And he sent , and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he."

NOTE: In our past lessons we learned that Saul at first had gotten success, but his success rapidly went to his head. Humility gave place to pride, and through disobedience to God, God rejected him. Now, we shall learn who is to take king Saul's place.

1. What did the Lord instruct Samuel to do in I Samuel 16:1?
2. What was Samuel to do when he went to Jesse the Bethlehemite? I Samuel 16:2-3.
3. Did Samuel obey the voice of the Lord? I Samuel 16:4-5.
4. When Samuel looked upon the first son, Eliab, did he think this was the one who would be king? I Samuel 16:6.
5. How did the Lord tell Samuel he was to look on a person? I Samuel 16:7.
6. How many more of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel? Were any of these chosen? I Samuel 16:8-10.
7. Were there anymore sons and were they brought before Samuel? I Samuel 16:11.
8. Describe David. Did the Lord want his son for Israel's king? I Samuel 16:12-13.

LESSON III

KING SAUL MEETS DAVID

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 16:14-23.

Golden Text: I Samuel 16:21.

"And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armour-bearer."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that David was anointed King without Saul's knowledge. We will now learn what happens when Saul and David meet and what they did do for each other.

1. After David is anointed king, what happens to Saul? I Samuel 16:14-15.
2. What did Saul's servants suggest he do? I Samuel 16:16.
3. Did Saul agree to what his servants suggested? I Samuel 16:17.
4. How did the servant describe David in I Samuel 16:18?
5. Did Saul send for David? I Samuel 16:19.
6. Did David go to see Saul, and what did Saul think of him? I Samuel 16:21-22.
7. Did David play his harp for Saul, and what happened to Saul? I Samuel 16:23.

LESSON IV

GOLIATH-GIANT OF THE PHILISTINES

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 17:1-11.

Golden Text: I Samuel 17:4.

"And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span."

NOTE: In I Samuel 16, we learned that David was anointed king of Israel. It could not have been done openly for Saul would have killed David. Its purpose was to give David a chance to train himself for the office. Now, we shall begin our study of David and the giant, Goliath.

1. With whom was Saul engaged in battle? I Samuel 17:1-2.
2. Where did the two armies stand? I Samuel 17:3.
3. Who was champion of the Philistines? I Samuel 17:4.

NOTE: Goliath was 9 feet tall.

4. Describe Goliath's armor. I Samuel 17:5-6.
5. What was his spear like, and what did it weigh? I Samuel 17:7.

NOTE: A weaver's beam is a large heavy piece of wood that is on the back part of a loom.

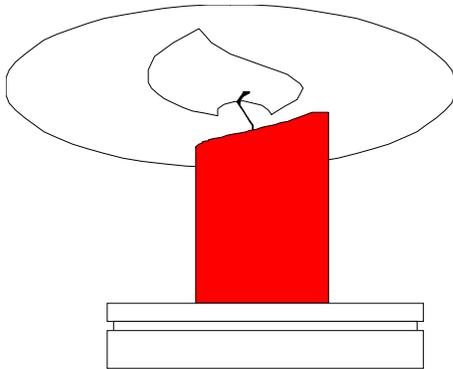
6. How did Goliath challenge the Israelite armies? I Samuel 17:8-10.
7. Were the Israelites afraid of Goliath? I Samuel 17:11.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Fred is playing with a friend at home when a vase gets knocked over and broken. His friend says, "Tell your mom the cat jumped onto the table and knocked it off." Fred remembered what his Sabbath School teacher said about lying. God is never pleased when we lie.

1. Should Fred tell his mother the cat broke the vase?
2. Should Fred tell his mother the truth?
3. What would Jesus want him to do?





MOTHER'S LIGHT

I once heard a story about a father and his little daughter in a boat on the sea. As they were steering for the shore, they were overtaken by a terrible storm which threatened to destroy them. The coast was dangerous. The mother, realizing that they would find it almost impossible to find the shore because of the storm and the darkness, placed a lamp in the attic window and then knelt beside it and prayed.

Out in the storm the daughter saw a glimmer of gold at the water's edge. "Steer for that," the father said. Slowly but steadily they came toward the light, and at last were anchored safely in the harbor. "Thank God!" cried the mother, as she heard their glad voices and came down the stairway with the lamp in her hand.

"We steered by mother's light," answered the daughter, "although out there we didn't know what it was."

Dear young friend, let us remember the words of the fifth commandment, "Honour...thy mother." For those who remember to obey this commandment are blessed.

Some mothers will be remembered with flowers on Mother's Day, others with candy or some other appropriate gift. However, there is a way even more effective than any of these whereby we can tell our love for our mothers and that is by our conduct. So, in closing, I would say, if you are fortunate enough to have a Christian mother and would like to honor her through all life's experiences- its temptations, its joys, and sorrow- "steer by mother's light."

-Selected by Janet Mayfield.

WE PLEASE GOD WHEN WE ARE WILLING TO LISTEN AND OBEY HIS WORD.

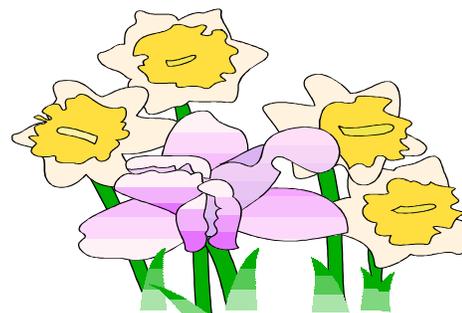
MORE TO DO:

God wants you to listen to Him through His Word. Look up each Bible verse listed. Fill in the missing letter in each portion of Scripture. The letters in the slots will spell an important word. Write this word in the blanks at the bottom.

1. Pray _ne for another (James 5:16).
2. Children, o_ey your parents (Colossians 3:20).
3. Give thanks unto th_ Lord (Psalm 92:1).
4. Hear the wor_ of God (Luke 11:28).
5. Trust _n the Lord, and do good (Psalm 37:3).
6. See that ye lov_ one another (I Peter 1:22).
7. Ye shall not...lie o_e to another (Leviticus 19:11).
8. Keep my commandmen_s (Exodus 20:6).

"He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still" (Psalms 107:29).

Happy
MOTHER'S DAY



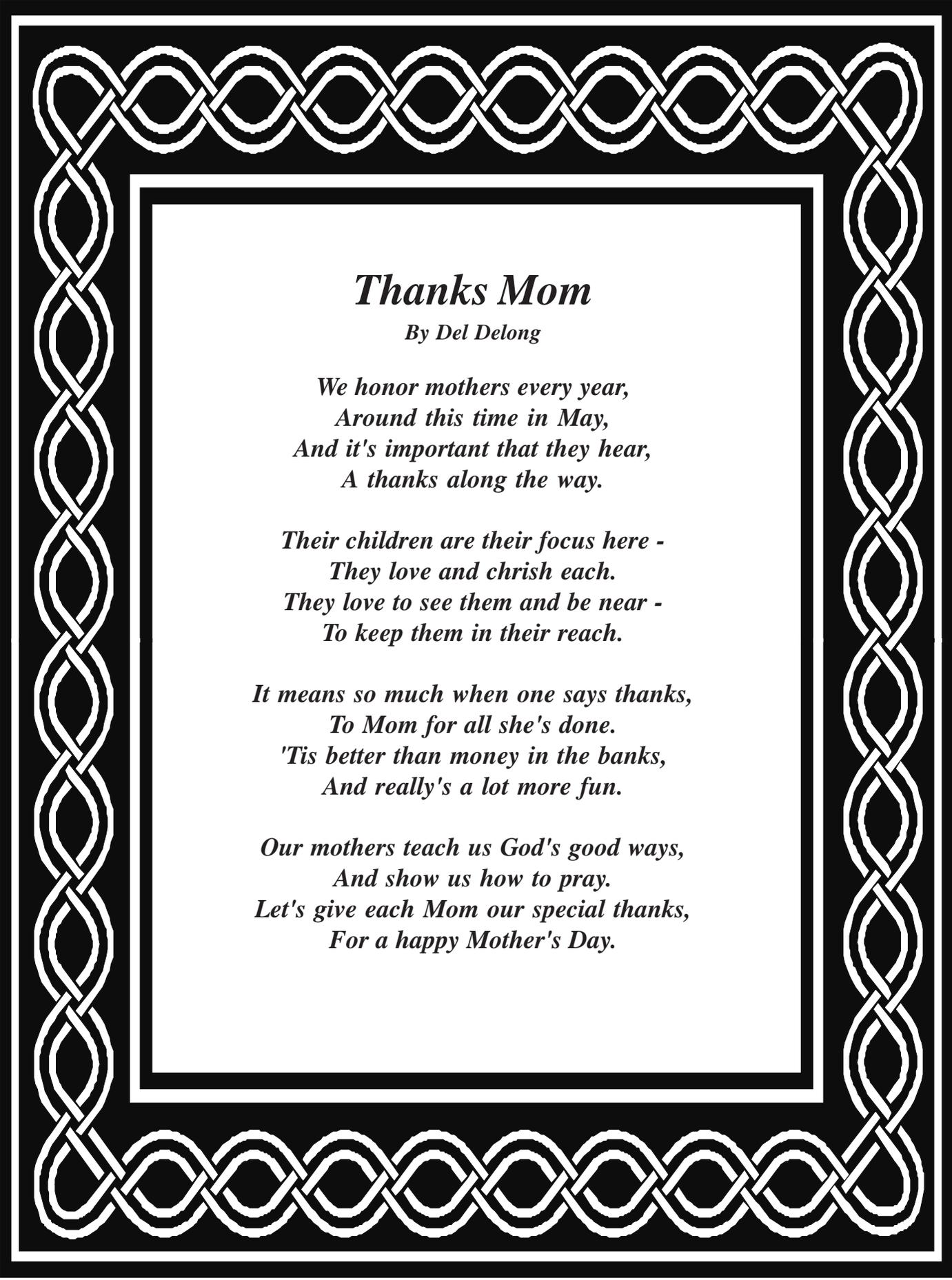
HOW WE SHOULD BE AS CHRISTIANS

S. A. Leobold

Below are a list of words which describe how we should behave as children of God. Find and circle them in the puzzle. They may be found horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

loving submissive trustworthy forgiving joyful compassionate peaceful gentle pleas-
ant patient meek content zealous prayerful honest





Thanks Mom

By Del DeLong

*We honor mothers every year,
Around this time in May,
And it's important that they hear,
A thanks along the way.*

*Their children are their focus here -
They love and cherish each.
They love to see them and be near -
To keep them in their reach.*

*It means so much when one says thanks,
To Mom for all she's done.
'Tis better than money in the banks,
And really's a lot more fun.*

*Our mothers teach us God's good ways,
And show us how to pray.
Let's give each Mom our special thanks,
For a happy Mother's Day.*