

The Advocate of Truth



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Word Keys That Unlock Truth 3
Our word this month is "aceldama".

7 Things That You May Or May Not Know About Grace 3-4

Help For The Humble 4-5
Humbleness is an attribute found in the beatitudes.

How To Remain Saved 5-6
We can not rely on the statement "once saved always saved".

The Place Of The Father In His Home 7
A father's influence is greatly needed by his children.

Discerning Our Motives 8
God does not only look at our outward appearance.

God Is Our Refuge And Strength 9-10
God strengthens those who put their trust in Him.

God Wants Us To Remember 10-11
God does not want us to have memory problems.

The Storms Of Life, How Can We Survive Them? 11-12
How can we withstand the many tribulations that we must endure?

Parents' Values Are Reflected In Children 12-13
Have you ever heard the saying "like father like son"?

Questions And Answers 14-16
Is forgiveness necessary?

The Signs Of The Times 17

The Church Around The World 18-19

The Children's Pages 20-23

The Advocate of Truth is the official organ of The Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at Salem, West Virginia.

It is published once a month on the fourth Monday of each month by The Advocate of Truth Press, Inc. PO Box 328, Salem, West Virginia 26426. Entered as Second Class Matter on January 22, 1990 (now periodicals) at the Post Office in Salem, West Virginia under the Postal Act of March 3, 1879. The magazine is mailed under the periodicals rate.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Your subscription is free. It is paid for by people who are concerned about the truth.

Your contributions are sincerely appreciated. You may request this periodical by sending your mailing address to this address.

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
PUBLISHING HOUSE
P.O. Box 328
Salem, WV 26426-0328**

Telephone: 304-782-1411
Fax: 304-782-2248

E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

Fred Hardman Printer

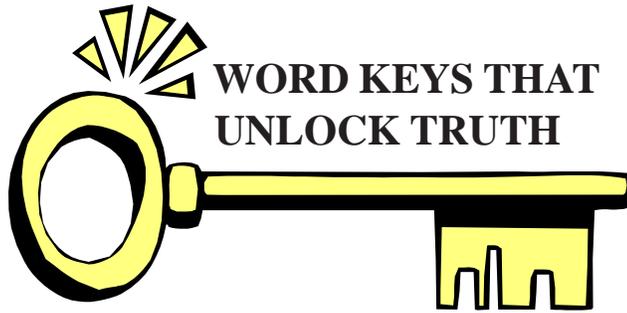
Volume LIV

Number 12

June 27, 2005

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940



ACELDAMA

Aceldama means "the field of blood." It is of Syro-Chaldaic origin applied to the field purchased with the money for which Judas betrayed our Lord, and used as a burial place for strangers.

A field on the slope of the hills beyond the valley of Hinnom, south of Mount Zion, near Jerusalem, is pointed out as the original Aceldama. A ruined charnel-house occupies a part of it. However, there are no marks to point out its exact bounds.

"And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day" (Matthew 27:6-8).

"And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood" (Acts 1:19).

FAMILY

Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, we could easily be replaced at work? But the family we leave behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. So, why do we pour ourselves more into work than into our own families? Invest your time wisely.

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

(F)ather (A)nd (M)other (I) (L)ove (Y)ou

7

Things You May Or May Not Know About

GRACE

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

NOTE: Grace means favor.

1. Grace came by Jesus Christ.

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

2. The upright will receive it.

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

3. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he" (Genesis 6:8, 22).

4. We are under grace.

"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (Romans 6:14-16).

5. The lowly (humble) receive it.

"Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly" (Proverbs 3:34).

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed

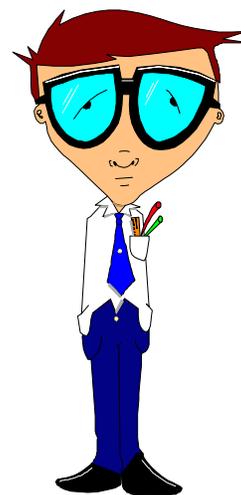
with humility: for GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, AND GIVETH GRACE TO THE HUMBLE" (I Peter 5:5).

6. Our high priest, Jesus, has a throne of grace. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but

was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 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 4:14-16).

7. Peter encourages us to grow in grace. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen" (II Peter 3:18).

HELP FOR THE HUMBLE



"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:18-19).

The first part of Proverbs 24:16 tells us, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again." From this we gather that an unjust man is one who falls but does not attempt to arise and make amends for his shortcomings. There is no profit in making mistakes. However, there is profit in acknowledging them, and seeking God's grace to help us overcome our weakness and shortcomings.

If we are truly brokenhearted over our weaknesses and shortcomings, the Lord will be near to help us. "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, BUT GIVETH GRACE UNTO THE HUMBLE" (James 4:6). The Lord has not promised to prevent us from making mistakes, because He knows that we need such afflictions to break our hearts, and to make us contrite. For the same reason God permits afflictions of other kinds. He knows that they are good for us as new creatures in Christ. They are among the "all things" which are bound, under His overruling, to work together for our best interests as children of God. "And

we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified" (Romans 8:28-30).

What God has promised to do is to have, or deliver us, from our various afflictions when He sees that it is for our best interests, and there are some needed lessons for us to learn. The Apostle Paul had a great affliction from which he earnestly sought deliverance. This affliction was a "thorn in the flesh." However, God did not deliver him. Instead Paul received the assurance of God's peace to help him bear that affliction." And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infir-

mities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Corinthians 12:7-10).

This is the way it is with us. We may have a blemish of some kind, perhaps a physical weakness, which we feel is interfering with our service and if freed from it, we imagine we could serve the Lord so much better. Perhaps our "thorn in the flesh" is some weakness of character that

causes us to err repeatedly along some particular sin. The Lord may permit us to fall seven times, or even seventy times seven, yet He picks us up each time. He delivers and forgives us! The secret of obtaining God's blessings through all our afflictions is to have a humble heart and a contrite spirit. God may permit us to fall in order that we may be kept humble He may permit other afflictions for the same purpose. When we humbly cry to Him in our distress, He will deliver us. We can depend on this! In this assurance, we can go on traveling in the narrow way.

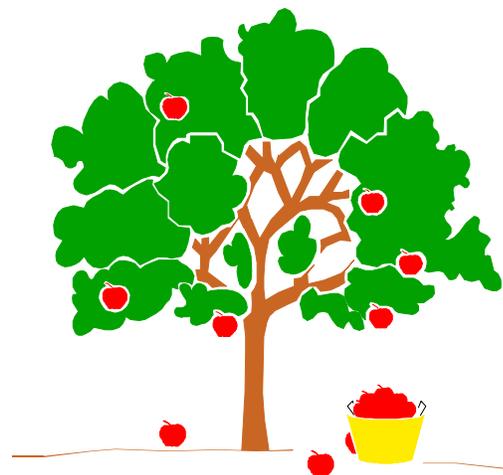
Contributed

HOW TO REMAIN SAVED

BY SEPTIMUS JOHN

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men" (Titus 3:8). It is a very good feeling for one to know that he is saved from sin and is walking the way that leads to eternal life. However, such a one must be very careful to follow the principles that serve as guidelines which leads him to his eternal home. It is very true that no man is able to pluck us out of our Father's hand, but our own behavior could cause us to be removed from His firm grip. Hebrews 10:26-27 says, "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." John 10:27-30 also reads, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."

Remaining saved means bearing fruit while connected



to the true vine. John 15:1-6 states, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."

Luke 13:6-9 also gives us some information concerning the fig tree, "He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: and if it bear fruit, well: and if not,

then after that thou shalt cut it down." It seems very clear that in order to remain saved, one must maintain his connection to Christ and remain planted in our Lord's vineyard. Bearing fruit is a must!

To remain saved, one must continually obey all of the Ten Commandments, the law of liberty. James 2:10-12 reads, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, said also, DO NOT KILL. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

Emphasis is also placed upon the doing of the Word, and not just the hearing. James 1:22-25 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: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the word, this man shall be blessed in his deed." It is wonderful if one could keep his attention continually upon the doing of the work and his feet firmly planted upon the solid Rock. No matter what disaster may happen to him in this evil world, he would be assured that his soul is firmly rooted and his anchor bedded deep within the veil. Matthew 7:24-27 tells us, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

Confessing Jesus before men is expected of every child of God. Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33). Also Romans 10:9-10 tells us, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

One of the most important things the Christian must

guard against is the grieving of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30 says, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Any yet the sin one commits will cause the Holy Spirit to grieve. If the practice of sinning continues, the Spirit will eventually depart. In Romans 8:35-39, the Apostle Paul gives us a list of trials which we all have to overcome in order to enter the kingdom of God. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, FOR THY SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG; WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor life, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Matthew 10:28 says, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**FOR WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE
NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED"
(ROMANS 10:13)**

Everyone likes to hear good news especially when it concerns them. We should especially keep in mind the good news that God is always with us.

When Jesus was born, it was prophesied in Isaiah that He would be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." After Jesus went to His father in heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us.

However, having God with us does not mean that we will never have problems. It is simply the assurance that God will never leave or forsake us. We have only a short period of time upon this earth. Our life is like a test to see how we each live our lives and how we react to all the happenings of this world.

The Bible tells us, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). However, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This is truly good news because we are assured that those who love and trust in the Lord and do His will will have eternal life.

THE PLACE OF THE FATHER IN HIS HOME

BY BOND TENNANT



A. The father is responsible for setting an example in the home.

1. The responsible father must set a worthy example for his children. "I am the Lord your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgments, and do them" (Ezekiel 20:19).

2. He who sets bad examples have children who follow his example. "And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin" (I Kings 15:25-26).

3. He who sets bad examples brings hardships to his children. "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Exodus 20:5).

B. The father is responsible for the spiritual welfare of his family.

1. He is responsible for the training of his children. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

2. He is responsible for bringing his children to worship. "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of his law: And that their children, which have not known anything may

hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it" (Deuteronomy 31:12-13).

3. He is responsible for bringing his children to Christ. "And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:13-16).

C. The father is responsible for the material welfare of his family.

1. He is commanded to provide for his children. "Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you: and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children" (II Corinthians 12:14).

2. He who does not provide for his family has denied the faith. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Timothy 5:8).

3. He is to provide for both his sons and daughters. "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren" (Job 42:15).

Discerning Our Motives

The Lord children. He face view; for knowledge work done, or held by our ing merely at although they portant. God is



is proving and testing His is not taking merely a sur-example the amount of we have, or the extent of the esteem in which we are brethren. He is not look-these outward conditions are very fit, proper, and im-looking down into our hearts! He knows our inner most thoughts, our desires, our intentions and our wills. He is judging from our hearts, whether we are fit for a place in His kingdom.

As we think on this fact, we may find a great many things that would be perfectly right of themselves that will be condemned by Him because there was not the right motive behind them. Proverbs 21:4 expresses this thought: "A high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin." The plowing of a field is perfectly right and proper. It isn't the act that makes it sin, but the man who plows the field with a wrong spirit, with wrong intentions, thinking angry thoughts, working in his field to get money to spend selfishly - no matter how this would affect others - that man's plowing is sin.

Therefore, we see the importance of having our hearts, or motives, right before God in all matters. If we do something that is perfectly right in itself, something that would receive the commendation and approval of all around us, and yet there is a wrong spirit behind it, then it wouldn't receive God's approval. When it is difficult to discern our motives clearly, we do well to go frequently, carefully, and prayerfully to the Word of God which He has provided for our learning and instruction. It teaches us to discern our intentions - the thoughts of our hearts. We read in Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The Lord makes it clear that we cannot judge correctly the motives of others. We cannot read their hearts.

We are to judge ourselves! We are to examine our motives in the light of the Scriptures, not merely guess at the matter. We shouldn't conclude, "Well I am as good as so-and-so, and if he is a child of God, so am I."

We are deceiving ourselves if this is our attitude. We must realize that our own personal ideas and imaginations, our own judgments, apart from the Word of God, are not only unreliable but very misleading. We must have the cleansing and corrective powers of the Word of God. The Apostle Paul wrote, "(For the weapon of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations (reasonings), and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:4-5). We must demolish our human reasonings, ideas and imaginations because they are so very unreliable.

Contributed

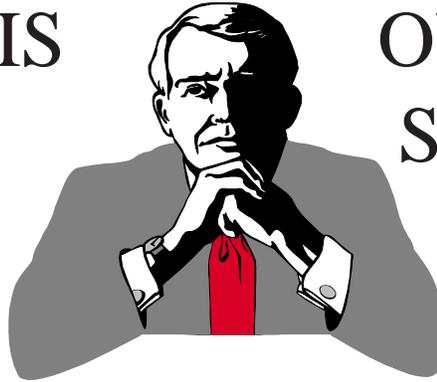
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun" (Ecclesiastes 11:7).

When people become depressed, they habitually frown, slump their shoulders and keep their chins down, forcing them to look and feel depressed. Their outward appearance reinforces their inner feelings. Happy people are much more likely to smile and laugh, to have good posture and literally keep their chin up. It has been noted that putting a smile on your face, keeping your chin up, and keeping your overall body posture positive will make you feel better simply by sending signals to your brain that you are happy.

If you don't believe this, try this experiment on yourself. Spend a few minutes frowning, slumping your shoulders and moping around. Then smile and walk around energetically with good posture and keep your chin up. It's contagious! People will be happy to see you and will smile back at you. Finally, the view is far better with your chin up than with your chin down. So keep your chin up!

"GOD IS
AND



OUR REFUGE
STRENGTH"

BY BIBI S. ALLICOCK

As we study the words of God carefully, we can see how He strengthens those who put their trust in Him. Many people believe that their positions, degrees, and possessions give them strength. However, strength comes directly from God. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be arrived into the midst of the sea." (Psalm 46:1-2).

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? Who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God" (Psalm 53:1-4). "Thy tongue diviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Thou lovest all devouring words, Oh thou deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall laugh at him: Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness" (Psalm 52:2-7). "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Revelation 3:17).

David, a man after God's own heart, proved the

strength of God when he was delivered from a lion and a bear. He had the confidence that God would deliver him from Goliath. "David said moreover, the Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee. And Saul armed David with his Armour, and he put and helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail" (I Samuel 17:37-38).

David was only a youth. He was honest enough to tell Saul that he could not go armed because he could not prove the armour. He took it off." And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistines" (I Samuel 17:40). "And the Philistines said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistines cursed David by his gods. And the Philistines said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. Then said David to the Philistines, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied" (vss 43-45). "And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth" (vss 48-49). God was David's refuge and strength.

Even though Almighty God helped David to prevail against the Philistine, King Saul was jealous of him because the women sang, "..., Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands" (I Samuel 18:7). "And Saul

was very worth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice" (vss 8-11).

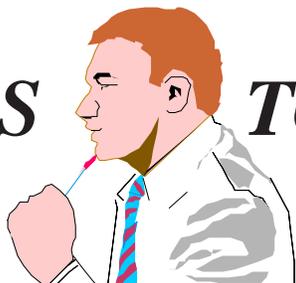
Although Saul was eager to kill David, David had mercy and compassion toward him because Saul was the Lord's anointed, and David did not want to lay his hands upon him. "And David said to Saul, Wherefore hearest thou men's words saying, Behold, David seeketh thy hurt? Behold, this day thine eyes have seen how that the Lord had delivered thee to day into mine hand in the cave; and some bade me kill thee: but mine eye spared thee; and I said, I will not put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the Lord's anointed. Moreover, my father, see, yea, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand: for in that I cut off the skirt of thy robe, and killed thee not, know thou and see

that there is neither evil nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it" (I Samuel 24:9-12).

When the Apostle Paul was converted and began to preach Christ, all who heard him were amazed. "And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem; and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket" (Acts 9:20-25).

The Bible encourages us to trust in the Lord! "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil" (Proverbs 3:5-7).

GOD WANTS US TO REMEMBER



God doesn't want us to have memory problems, and we are secure in the certainty that God will never have memory problems.

When we have memory problems, we drift into giving our energy and selves to the fleeting pleasures of sinning, and we begin to ignore God.

God doesn't want us to get hurt by the consequences that always come packaged with sins. He doesn't want to be rebelled against by default, and He doesn't want to have His relationship with us damaged. Therefore, He doesn't want us to have memory problems.

This rings clear as God teaches Moses how to lead

his people in the Old Testament: "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God. I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be

your God: I am the LORD your God." (Numbers 15:37-41)

God's people made serious mistakes, They ignored him at times, and pursued the opposite of his righteousness (rightness).

Consequently, prophets like Isaiah, proclaimed messages of warning. Here is one example: "Ye shall remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that ye have committed" (Ezekiel 20:43).

Are we not in a similar place today? This question can be answered simply by observing the fall lineup of TV shows. What has been the list of the advertising: "It's going to be naughty so be sure and tune in!"

At this very moment in time, God wants us to stop having memory problems. At every historical incident where a nation drifts away from God, that nation has suffered horrific consequences.

God, in his long-suffering mercy and love, doesn't want us to bring plagues on ourselves. He wants us to access our memories and wise up before it is too late. Read these two verses from Revelation:

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and behold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Revelation 3:3).

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and to do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Revelation 2:5).

Yet, God not only wants us to learn from history, he wants to reassure us in the present. He does so by speaking about the divine qualities of His own memory (for our sakes) in Scripture.

There is both an Old Testament prophecy and a New Testament counterpart.

Isaiah quoted God, saying, "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins" (Isaiah 43:25).

And an update in the New Testament: "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

The summary for this column on how essential are our memories and learning from history is perfectly provided by the Psalmist David. He wrote: "The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him (awesomely respect Him), and his righteousness (perfectly doing His will) unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all" (Psalm 103:17-19; parentheses are mine).

THE FACTS
Clute, Texas

THE STORMS OF LIFE HOW CAN WE SURVIVE THEM?



We all have times when we experience storms in our lives! How can we survive these storms?

We may get some answers from the account of the most violent storm experienced in the New Testament. It is told in Acts 27. It threatened the ship transporting the Apostle Paul to Rome. What are the four skills we need

to survive the storms of life. Let us list them.

1. Lighten your load.

"And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship" (Acts 27:18).

We can lighten our load by throwing out some bad

attributes which we have accumulated. There may be jealousies, there may be pride, and there may be ugly things in our lives. We don't need to accumulate them, and we don't want them around. Any one of them taken separately hurts us. Together they are just too much.

2. Concentrate on things that matter.

"And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship" (Acts 27:22).

In Paul's situation, the ship was to be wrecked, but that did not matter. Every life would be saved. Our families, the project, the schedule, the budget may get lost on the rocks. Priorities are important. We have to keep our minds on what really is important!

3. Have a healthy routine.

"And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you" (Acts 27:33-34).

As Paul's ship was about to go aground, he urged the

crew to eat. When a storm batters our lives, we sometimes forget our daily routines. We miss sleep, we miss meals, we miss time with God, and we start to sink. Healthy routines keep us strong both on sunny days and stormy days.

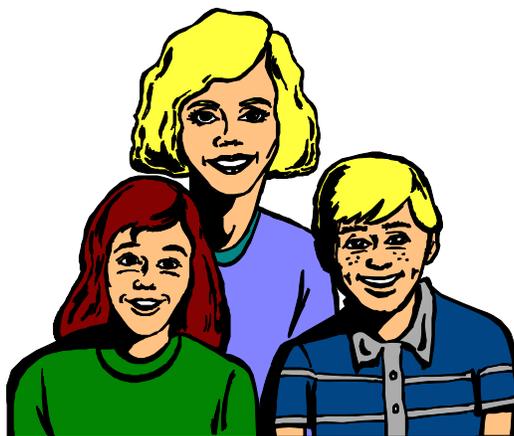
4. Pray!

When we keep with God, and God has a purpose for us, He is only a prayer away! We do not need to fear the storms of life when He is on our side. "For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee" (Acts 27:23-24). The Apostle Paul was not alone through that shipwreck. When he took command of the situation and told everyone what to do, he was not going on his own. He faced the disaster with assurance and confidence because God's angel was with him.

Yes, there will be storms in our lives,. We must expect them. The sun doesn't always shine. Our plans may be interrupted by storms, but God's plans never are!

Contributed

PARENTS' VALUES ARE REFLECTED IN CHILDREN



An old litmus test that people have applied to the intention of their family members, co-workers, and friends is this question: What good will that do?

Imagine my intrigue when I found a similar question in the Holy Bible. Here are the verses: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwith-

standing ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (James 2:14-16).

Often times, we allow deciding moral values to become too complicated.

The simple question - "What good will that do?" - tests most of what needs to be considered by most codes of morality.

As the psalmist David affirmed of God" "Do good, O Lord unto those that be good, and to them that are

upright in their hearts" (Psalm 125:4)

Again in James, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17).

A few thousand years late, the same theme is observed in relation to the final judgment: "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10).

In counseling children and adolescents for example, I notice that even the kids have a mostly accurate concept of what is good or bad.

That's in spite of the contrary-to-good messages with which they are bombarded via TV, the movies, the Internet, video games and other media.

In fact, in families where mom and dad are living less than responsibly, the children often start trying to parent their parents. They plead with them to do good.

Responsible parents of defiant children, on the other hand, often experience failure feelings, thinking that they haven't adequately taught them to do good and avoid evil.

To relieve them, I ask the teen in their presence questions like these:

What do your parents think about helping people in need doing good rather than bad, underage alcohol use, drug abuse, shoplifting and sex outside of marriage?

What do your parents think about making good grades in school and going to college?

Kids are always able to reproduce their parents values in their answers.

Relieved parents are less inclined to feel the need to offend their children with incessant reviews of their wrongs, trying to be sure they have communicated their values to them. (What good does nagging do?)

Tensions relax and parents do good to their kids while they require their kids to do good to them, school associated, and people within their own communities.

Being at home together they have a better opportunity to be peaceful and enjoyable to all family members.

In summary, we all know what good is and we all know to do good. The Bible says, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power

and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:19-20).

-THE FACTS
Clute, Texas

HIGHER GROUND

I've always wanted to visit a lighthouse and climb up to the top.

This last week I did just that. It was a beautiful sunny day and the view was great --- miles of coastal waters of Laguna Madre on the very southernmost tip of Texas at Port Isabel. I was thinking about the function of a lighthouse.

A lighthouse is important to seafarers because it serves as a landmark--tall, strong, and immovable, a navigational aid along the shoreline.

Its beacon must be maintained, cleaned and polished, to guide ships to safety. As long as sailors can see the light, they know which way to plot their course and hopefully avoid danger.

I can think of a couple of "lighthouse" people in my life whose beacon always shines brightly on the shores of righteousness. They serve as a landmark, keeping me on course, but most of all look to Jesus as your constant light.

Have you ever considered that you may be the "lighthouse" that someone looks to for guidance? You may be unaware of the strength of your beacon if God's spirit is living in you.

Others may look to your example to keep them off the rocks and out of peril.

So, just in case, we should maintain our beacons, keeping our lights shining to show others the way. This strong and steady glow may be the light that leads someone to Christ.

SCRIPTURE: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

-THE POST, Santa FE, Texas



Questions and Answers

Question: Is forgiveness necessary?

Answer: When Jesus taught His disciples (and us, too) how to pray, he included in that prayer the need for forgiveness. We call that prayer The Lord's Prayer. It is recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. This prayer states very simply, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." We may be amazed to note that after presenting this model prayer, Jesus made a further commentary in Matthew on the subject of forgiveness. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15). When we consider that practical approach to fulfilling this admonition, many questions may be asked. How do we go about doing this? Is it difficult? Or is it easy? Is there some way that will make it easier? How can we be sure that we have truly forgiven our debtors, and, in turn, are forgiven? Some of the answers to the questions are simple, others need elaboration. For example, when considering the question, "Is it difficult to forgive?" The answer is, "Yes, it is difficult." However, by applying Christian principles, we can learn how to forgive.

Forgiveness is an important quality of Christian character. It is not a natural quality that any of us possess. It

needs development in every child of God. It was the Apostle Peter who asked a question that led to Jesus's telling of a parable which bears directly on forgiveness. When Peter asked the question, he had a desire to do what was right. However, he also revealed his own human tendencies. This incident is found in Matthew 18:21-22. "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him: till seven times? Jesus saith unto him I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."

Peter's viewpoint was that there must be a limit to forgiveness. This is typical of most human viewpoints. This would be applied when a genuine effort was made to tolerate and forgive transgressors. After a time, human reasoning would say, one should be justified in cutting off all relationships with that individual. It would be proper to ignore him, shun him, perhaps even return evil for evil. Certainly an apology would be in order, and some reparation should be received for the wrong done. Peter had been with Jesus long enough to know that forgiveness is essential. Jesus even included the need for forgiveness in His prayer. He also emphasized the need to be reconciled to one another when wrongs were committed.

Just prior to this incident, Jesus made this very point: "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 has gained brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the

mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican" (Matthew 18:15-17).

Peter wondered how far-reaching forgiveness must be. It could not mean that we are to go on and on receiving transgression without taking some positive action. Knowing this, Peter knew that he would have to try. The only question in his mind was, "How long did he have to try?" Peter thought that seven times was being liberal. Jesus did not think so and made it 490 times.

We do not think that Jesus had in mind that 490 was a top figure and that 491 times would permit one to stop forgiving. Jesus knew that if we were to keep records of wrongs by any individual (with 490 times a goal), long before we reached that point in our record keeping, we would there tire of so doing, or our curiosity would be alerted as to why such behavior occurred in that person. It might even lead to self-examination as to whether we were the one responsible for the behavior. This procedure might lead to the realization that the irritation was an integral part of our friend (an idiosyncrasy). We would therefore need to make an adjustment so that it would not trouble us.

In Matthew 18:23-35, Jesus gave us a parable on forgiveness which is both ironic and pathetic. This parable also has an almost forceful lesson. Please read it!

In this parable, the king may represent our Heavenly Father. The servants may represent his servants during this age. This parable does not go into detail about all the servants and how the king reckons with them. It picks one who, through possible carelessness and neglect, had become indebted to the great sum of 10,000 talents. (It is said that some years ago this sum was estimated at \$10 million - today it is likely to be \$40 or \$50 million.) Although it is possible that all the servants were indebted, the lord picks this one of great debt, who could represent anyone of us. When the king commands that this servant and his family be sold into slavery and all his possessions be taken, to bring back some return for the debt, the servant pleads for mercy and is forgiven his entire debt.

There is no sum of money that can be used to represent what we owe to God. Hence, we must all daily give thanks to God for His mercy and forgiveness of our sins. How can we repay God for His great favor?

Perhaps this is why Jesus told the unbelievable part of this story. This man, upon leaving the king after having been forgiven his huge debt, happened upon a fellow servant who owed him a thousand pence. (It is said that several years ago this would have been equal to \$20 - today it is likely to be \$80 or \$100.) He seized him by the throat! Let us note the violence. He then demanded payment. This fellow servant begged for mercy and time to pay, just as the unmerciful servant had begged before the king. However, the servant refused him mercy and had him cast into prison till the debt should be paid.

There is a great contrast in the amount of the debts-\$50 million versus \$100. Jesus wants us to see by this contrast how small the offenses of our brethren toward us are when compared to our offenses toward God. Yet in the parable the unmerciful servant would not pardon his fellow servant. When these actions were reported to the king, the king summoned him and asked, "Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?" (Matthew 18:33). The result was that this condition was reversed, and he was jailed until he could pay his debt. The meaning of our Lord's words is more emphatic at the conclusion of the parable, "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses" (Matthew 18:35). Any one of us can be abandoned to his sins if there is not a real HEARTFELT (genuine) forgiveness of our brethren when they trespass against us.

Many questions may come into our minds as we study this parable. How could this unmerciful servant so quickly forget the great mercy he received from the king as to behave so abominably toward his fellow servant? How could he have such a distorted sense of values as violently to demand payment of a debt so small in comparison with his-a ratio of 1 to 500,000? If we see the possibility of ourselves being pictured, when we fail to carry out the simple contract of our Lord's Prayer, we have learned the lesson of the parable. None of us must think that the situation described in this parable is so absurd that we would never be represented by this pathetic figure of the unjust servant.

There must be a desire to be forgiven before forgiveness can be granted. The parable teaches this point. Everyday there is much wrong committed for which the perpetrator does not desire forgiveness. Because of a

seared conscience, some are unaware that they have committed wrongs. Also the desire to avenge a wrong (the "getting even" principle) is so strong that wrongs come under the cloak of vengeance. However, we know that we must change from "rendering evil for evil" to becoming forgiving. Let us guard against forgiving others and not realizing our own shortcomings and seek forgiveness from God. Only pride of heart would make one believe he is incapable of doing wrong. The Apostle John wrote, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (I John 1:8-10).

The Scriptures tell us that when God forgives, He forgets. "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34). This is speaking of the reign of Christ. Does it make sense that God would forget or not remember sin during that period and not do the same today?

Let us cultivate forgiveness even as admonished by the Apostle Paul. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Question: I have two questions pertaining to God's will. What is the reward for doing God's will? What is the consequence of disobeying God's will?

Answer: "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (I John 2:17).

Doing God's will adds permanency and completeness to life. It brings fulfillment and suggests progress. There is nothing static or stationary in this type of obedience. Today's best becomes tomorrow's starting point. The reward and upward thrust of this quality of obedience climaxes in Christ commendation: "His Lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21).

Let us now consider the consequence of disobeying

God's will.

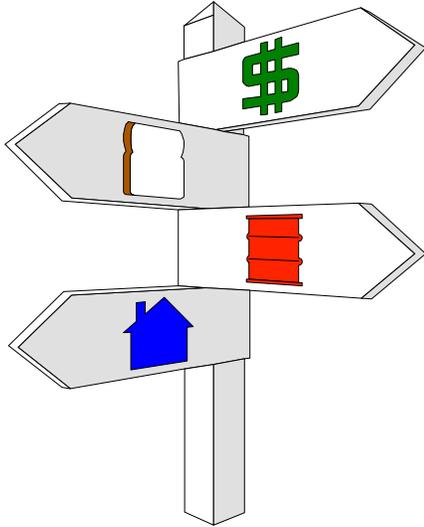
Part of God's perfect will is that He is not willing that any one person should perish, but that all should come to repentance. The fact remains, however that those who refuse to repent will perish. There are some things which God permits that He does not will. He has given each person the right and power of moral choice. So far as the freedom of will is concerned, God regards us as wise enough to choose the right way to travel. He leaves with all persons their choice of destiny. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). The choice is ours. The consequences of our choice are with God.

Question: Please explain what is meant for the "Day for a year theory?"

Answer: We are frequently asked if we teach the "Day for a Year" period. There are some that follow after this theory in order to set the date of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Those that follow this theory have a very wide divergence of opinion among themselves and can never seem to agree on a date or the dates of a day for a year period.

What we know of the day year theory is sort of a contradiction in terms to begin with and is based chiefly on a perversion of two passages of Scripture, "I have appointed thee each day for a year." See Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6. Israel had been forty days in spying out the Promised Land, and because they brought back an evil report concerning their land, God made them wander forty years in the wilderness until the obdurate and obstinate generation died that came out of Egypt. Ezekiel is asked to bear a forty year penalty again for Israel's transgression.

Now notice also if the passages on which people say you must wait a year for a day system just prove the reverse and show that a year is a literal year, and a day is just a 24-hour period. Ezekiel actually did not lie forty years on his side, but forty days to typify years the terms relatively remaining precisely the same as they had been before, and which are the same today. This should be a wholesome lesson for us all to see how far men will attempt to carry out a fancy and to what barriers they will try to scale in order to arrive at their objective.



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.

**Discarded or a sign?
Jesus statue enthalls
Theories flow as the faithful throng to figure
found in the Rio Grande
By John W. Gonzalez
San Antonio Bureau**

EAGLE PASS - Weeks after it was found floating face up in the Rio Grande, a lifelike statue of a crucified Jesus Christ has attracted hundreds of curious and devout Christians who arrive in a steady stream to touch it and pray.

When the meditating and gawking are done, the questions start gushing forth.

Where did it come from? How did it get in the river? Is it a miraculous sign or blessing for the illegal immigrants who brave the Rio Grande's dangerous waters?

And where is its cross?

The mystery hasn't been solved in the month since U.S. Border patrol agents spotted what appeared to be a body floating in the river in late August. Closer examination revealed the nearly life-size figure that ran aground on the Texas banks of the river as a vivid depiction of a suffering Jesus.

"He lives," proclaimed Dr. Carlos de la Pena, a devout Catholic who is one of numerous people, churches and religious groups offering to enshrine the statue.

"It's kind of like when Moses was found in the river. It's a tremendous blessing for the entire community," the local dentist said. "The fact that he stopped here in Eagle

Pass is big. It's very touching."

Made from lightweight fiberglass, the artwork floated because it was hollow and had no punctures in its smooth paint surfaces. When it was retrieved, its only unusual marking was slight staining from river water, suggesting to some that it hadn't floated for long.

Local Catholic clerics offered few clues to its origins.

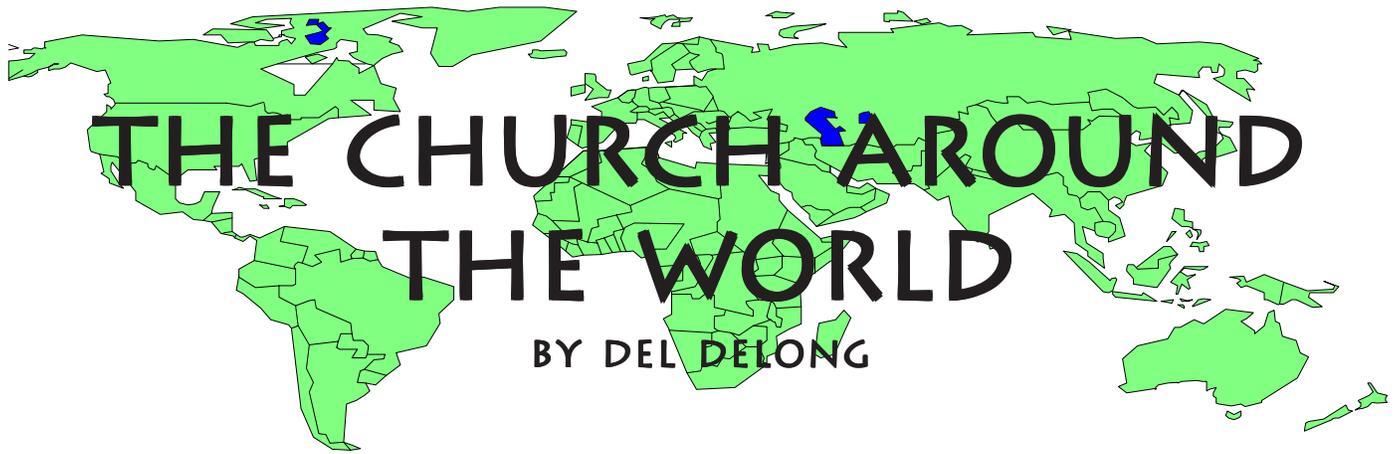
No artist's mark was found, and even with widespread publicity in South Texas and northern Mexico, no one has come forward with knowledge of the statute.

On August 31, about three days after it was found, the statue was turned over to local police, who plan to store it in their property room until a decision is made about its disposal. Since then, more than 500 people - including a bus load of senior-citizen pilgrims from Laredo who arrived Friday have come to visit the "Floating Jesus," also known as the "Christ of the immigrants."

"We heard about it on the radio," said Alberto Munoz of Eagle Pass, who visited the statue last week with his wife, Maria. "It's a surprise - a favorable one."

COMMENT

The admiration of the Jesus statue will not make the observers more holy or spiritual. In fact, one of God's Holy commandments tells us, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:4-60).



India

The bottom four photographs show the beginning stages of construction on the church building in Garikapadu.



The next five photographs show the congregation in Palvancha.

The final three photographs show the congregation in Peddagopathi.



LESSON I

DAVID ACCEPTS GOLIATH'S CHALLENGE

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 17:12-37.

Golden Text: I Samuel 17:32.

"And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Goliath was a giant of a man and challenged the Israelite armies. The Israelites were afraid, but we will now learn of David's courage.

1. How many of Jesse's sons followed Saul into battle, and where was David at this time? I Samuel 17:12-15.
2. What did David's father instruct him to do? I Samuel 17:16-19.
3. Did David obey his father? I Samuel 17:20-22.
4. When David reached the army, did he hear about the challenge made by Goliath? I Samuel 17:23.
5. Were the men of Israel afraid of Goliath, and what did the king promise the man who killed the giant? I Samuel 17:24-25.
6. What question did David ask when he met the Israelites? I Samuel 17:26-27.
7. Who became angry with David when he spoke to the men of the army? I Samuel 17:28.
8. Saul sent for David. What did Saul say to him? I Samuel 17:31-33.
9. How confident was David that he could slay the giant? I Samuel 17:34-37.

LESSON II

DAVID'S VICTORY OVER GOLIATH

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 17:38-58.

Golden Text: I Samuel 17:50 (first part).

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him;..."

NOTE: The Philistine army with Goliath has challenged the Israelites. All the men of Israel are afraid to fight Goliath even though the king has promised great riches and his daughter in marriage to the one who killed the giant. David is confident that he can slay the giant. Let us see if he is successful in doing so.

1. How did Saul arm David for battle? I Samuel 17:38-39.
2. David did not wear the armor. What does he get to prepare to fight Goliath? I Samuel 17:40.
3. When the Philistines looked upon David, what taunting remarks did they make to him? I Samuel 17:41-44.
4. What was David's reply to their remarks about him? I Samuel 17:45-47.
5. When the Philistines arose and came nigh to David, what happened? I Samuel 17:48-50.
6. After he has smitten the giant with the stone, what did David do next? I Samuel 17:51.
7. Did the Philistines flee from the Israelites after this? I Samuel 17:52-53.
8. What did David do with the head of the Philistine? I Samuel 17:54-57.

LESSON III

SAUL'S JEALOUSY OF DAVID (PART I)

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 18:1-16.

Golden Text: I Samuel 18:12.

"And Saul was afraid of David, because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we studied how David was successful in defeating the giant who was with the Philistine army. David trusted fully in God, and he knew the Lord would help him to slay Goliath. David is now before Saul. Let's study more about the life of David and how Saul becomes jealous of him.

1. Who became a good friend to David? I Samuel 18:1-3.

NOTE: Jonathan is Saul's son.

2. What did Jonathan give to David? I Samuel 18:4.

3. What prompted Saul to become jealous of David? I Samuel 18:5-7.

4. Did this displease Saul? Did he watch David closely after that? I Samuel 18:8-9.

5. An evil spirit came from God upon Saul. How did he say he would smite David? I Samuel 18:10-11.

6. Was Saul afraid of David? I Samuel 18:12.

7. What position did Saul give to David? I Samuel 18:13.

8. Did all Israel and Judah love David? I Samuel 18:16.

LESSON IV

SAUL'S JEALOUSY OF DAVID (PART II)

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 18:17-30.

Golden Text; I Samuel 18:29.

"And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson that Saul was jealous and feared David because the Lord was with him. As we continue this lesson, we find what Saul tries to do to David.

1. Why did Saul want to give his eldest daughter to David for his wife? I Samuel 18:17-18.

2. Did he marry Merab? I Samuel 18:19.

3. Which one of Saul's daughters loved David? I Samuel 18:20.

4. Why did Saul willingly offer Michal to David for his wife? I Samuel 18:21.

5. What did Saul command his servant to do? Did they tell David? I Samuel 18:22-24.

6. What did Saul want David to do and why? I Samuel 18:25.

7. Did David slay the Philistines as Saul desired? I Samuel 18:26-27.

8. Why was Saul yet more afraid of David? I Samuel 18:28-30.

Answers for Just For Fun:

1. *Four uncles and 50,000 ants*

2. *Grass*

3. *Because each player raises a racket*

4. *Ten is*

5. *Just before the drip dry era*

6. *A coat of arms*

7. *Chip on shoulder*

8. *Swallow*

9. *A bed*

FATHER'S DAY

Many times we do not realize how much our dear Daddy does for us. He works all the time and does hard work so the rest of us can eat and live. Daddys are really wonderful people, aren't they? Let's see just how much we can do for our Dad so that he can rest when He comes home from working all day for us. We could keep the lawn mowed, keep the porch cleaned off, feed the animals (if we have any to feed) and many other little chores which we could do to help him.

You must remember, too, that you have not only an earthly father, but also a Heavenly Father, who watches over and cares for you at all times. He even does more for you than Daddy does because He is with you and protects you wherever you go, even if you don't know it. We might call every Sabbath Father's Day because it is the Lord's Day. On this day, we should try to do all we can for our Heavenly Father. We can read Bible stories, sing little hymns, etc. for this truly pleases God.

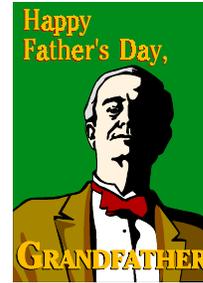
Wouldn't it be fun to see just how much we can do for our Fathers to make them happy and to make us better little children.

A good memory verse to learn is Exodus 20:12, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

JUST FOR FUN

The Lord made us different from animals in that we have the capacity to think and reason. Use the powers God gave you to solve these riddles.

1. How many relatives were at the family picnic?
2. What is it that grows by the yard, and dies by the foot?
3. Why is tennis such a noisy game?
4. What number is a sport?
5. When was the Iron Age?
6. What coat has the most sleeves?
7. What wood is most highly inflammable?
8. What is the name of the bird that if you do not do it, you die?
9. What has four legs, but only one foot?



MY DADDY

Daddy is the dearest man-
Find one like him if you can.
Yours may be a nice one, too;
But for ME he would not do.

I love Daddy best, you see,
'Cause he is so good to me.
He's MY daddy, don't you know?
That is why I love him so.

IF YOUR daddy he should be,
You would love him bet, you see.
Now I guess you understand,
Why I think he is so grand.

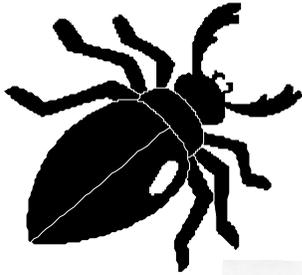
OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE COUPLES

Can you match these Bible couples?
If not, look up the Bible verses for help.
Draw a line from the names in the first column to the correct names in the second column.

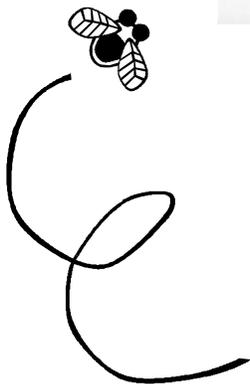
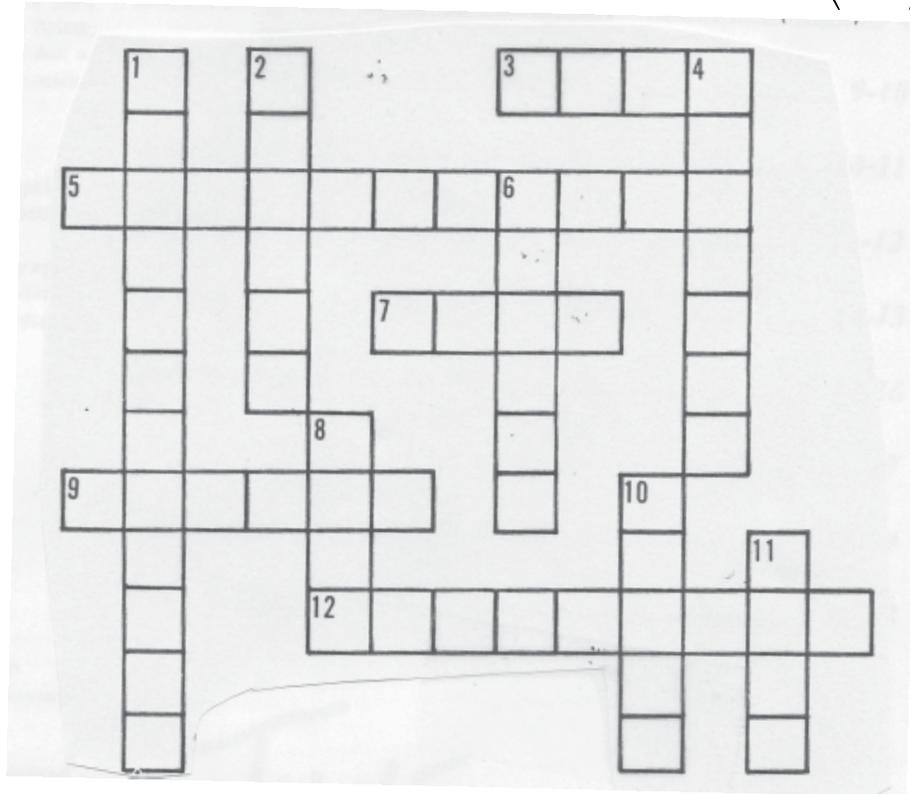
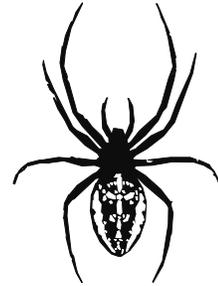
- | | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| ISAAC | BATH-SHEBA (II Samuel 12:24) |
| JACOB | EVE (Genesis 3:20) |
| ABRAHAM | RUTH (Ruth 4:13) |
| MOSES | REBEKAH (Genesis 25:20) |
| ADAM | JEZEBEL (I Kings 21:25) |
| AMRAM | HANNAH (I Samuel 1:8) |
| ELKANAH | RACHEL (Genesis 46:19) |
| AHAB | ZIPPORAH (Exodus 18:2) |
| DAVID | SARAH (Genesis 23:19) |
| BOAZ | JOCHEBED (Numbers 26:59) |

INSECTS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

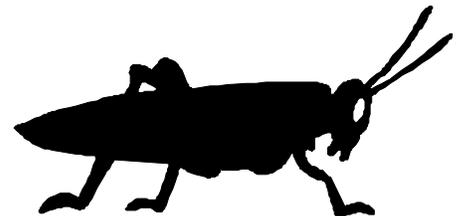
Look up the following verses in the Bible and find the names of insects that are in the verses. Place the name of the insect in the appropriate squares in the puzzle.



- ACROSS
- 3. Matthew 6:19
 - 5. Joel 1:4
 - 7. Exodus 8:17
 - 9. Proverbs 30:28
 - 12. Revelation 9:10



- DOWN
- 1. Judges 7:12
 - 2. Leviticus 11:22 (second one named)
 - 4. Exodus 23:28
 - 6. Deuteronomy 28:38
 - 8. Judges 14:8
 - 10. Ecclesiastics 10:1
 - 11. Proverbs 30:25



Ever wonder about the abbreviation

A.S.A.P.?

Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

*There's work to do, deadlines to meet;
You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry an scurry -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.*

*In the midst of family chaos,
"Quality time" is rare,
Do your best; let God do the rest -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.*

*It may seem like your worries
Are more than you can bear
Slow down an take a breather -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.*

*God knows how stressful life is;
He wants to ease our cares,
And He'll respond to all your needs,
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.*

*There is no cost but a lot of rewards,
let's continue to pray for one another.*

