

**The  
Advocate  
of Truth**



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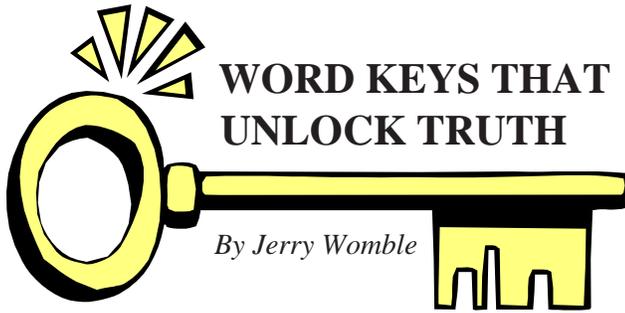
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## WORD KEYS THAT UNLOCK TRUTH

By Jerry Womble

# DIVINE

As I was reading the Scripture reading found in Micah 3 on a recent sabbath school lesson, I noticed the word divine used twice, and at first thought it had a holy meaning; but, then noticed it was not used in that way at all. It seems that the prophets were giving prophecies and messages to people that they were making up and even doing them for money. In verse 11, the prophets even used a statement that means what we are doing is not wrong because we are God's prophets. Of course, this displeased God and He said that He would turn Jerusalem into a plowed field. In researching this word, I can not find any use of it in the Old Testament where it is used with a holy meaning. The first time it is used is in Genesis 44:15 after Joseph had put his cup in Benjamin's bag with the plan of causing his brothers and his father to come back to him. He told his brothers "wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine?" The cup that was put into the bag was a divining cup and the seer would fill it with water then sprinkle in gold, silver or jewels and claim he saw a future event, etc. for some ones life. Joseph used this situation to make his brothers think that his was this way of finding out who had taken his cup.

If we want to see divine used in a holy way, we need to turn to II Peter 1:3-4. Peter talks about God's divine power and our divine nature, and through verse 10 he tells us what this nature should be. Read about this divine nature and make it your every day life, then you will not only have the mind of Christ but His actions also.



# Rain

Too Busy!!!

A little girl had been shopping with her Mom in Wal-Mart. She must have been six years old, a beautiful red-haired, freckle-faced image of innocence. It was pouring outside-the kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout.

We all stood there under the awning and just inside the door of the Wal-Mart. We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day. I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so care-free as a child, came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.

The little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in "Mom, let's run through the rain," she said. "What?" Mom asked. "Let's run through the rain! she repeated. "No honey. We'll wait until it slows down," Mom replied.

This young child waited another minute and repeated: "Mom, Let's run through the rain." "We'll get soaked if we do," Mom said. "No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning," the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm.

"This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?" "Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, "If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything."

The entire crowd stopped dead silent. I know you couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes. Mom paused and thought about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it would bloom into faith. "Honey,

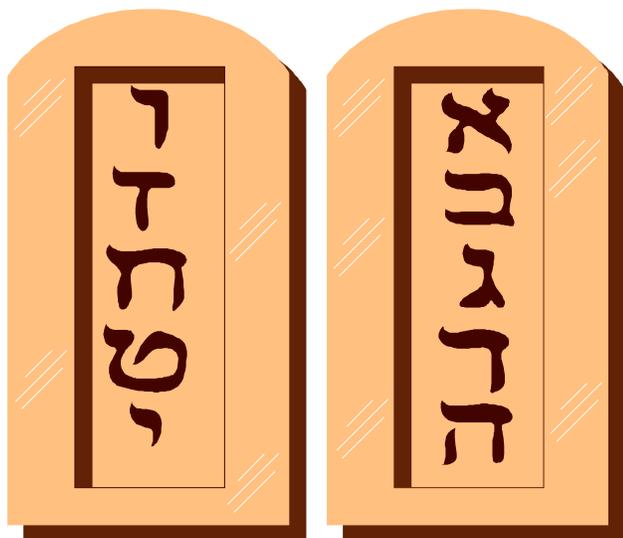
you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If God lets us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing," Mom said.

Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles, They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case. They got soaked. But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars.

And yes, I did. I got wet. I needed washing.

Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions. They can take away your money, and they can take away your health. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...so, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday. To everything there is a season and due time to every purpose under heaven.

Adapted from the Internet



## *The Ten Commandments*

The subject of the Ten Commandments is one of the greatest subjects of the Bible. By them we receive a knowledge of sin. "...for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20). "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law; for I had not known lust, except the law had said, "THOU SHALL NOT COVET" (Romans 7:7).

David tells us that God's commandments are "righteousness." Also God's law (commandments) is the truth (Psalm 119:142, 172). He also tells us that these commandments wills and "for ever and ever" (Psalm 111:7-8). James tells us that if we offend in one point of the law we are guilty of all (James 2:10).

Some say that this law is not binding now, but Paul says, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a

man as long as he liveth?" (Roman 7:1) By this, we can see that the law is still binding. The remnant church that the dragon is wroth with, "...keep the commandment of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17; 14:12). Only those that do God's commandments will have an entrance into the city of God (Revelation 22:14).

Dear friends, may we all, as it were, wake out of sleep and confess our sins and choose whom we will serve. We cannot serve God unless we keep His commandments. Whoever or whatever we obey, the same we serve. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servant ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto debt, or of obedience unto righteousness? (Romans 6:16)

The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20.

He said to the children of Israel, "I AM THE LORD THY GOD..." "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." There are many things that people can worship, and do worship. God in His Word warns against worshipping other Gods. Jesus said to the devil, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." If we love God, we will serve Him in spirit and truth.

The second commandment is against making graven images and bowing down to them and worshipping them. By keeping His commandment, we recognize the Father in heaven as the only true God. He shows His mercy to those that keep His commandments. See verse 6.

The third commandment is against taking God's name in vain. We should exalt God's name and at all times hold His name in revenue. As king David, and is, "...let us exalt his name together." His name means much to His people. Dear friends, let us hold God's name in high esteem and exalt Him.

The fourth commandment is given in such simple language, and the only one that says to "Remember." Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God...For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

When we keep God's Sabbath, we remember Him as the Creator of heaven and earth. Just any day will not do: for the commandment says "the seventh day." Teaching any other day for the Sabbath is the teaching of man. Let us believe God and obey Him. We know that it pleases Him when we keep His commandment.

The fifth commandment tells us that we should honor father and mother, and who would deny that commanding not binding? We are sure that no one would deny it. A large per cent of the children today dishonor their parents, and it causes lots of grief. To the true Christian, father and mother are the dearest to them than anyone else on earth.

The sixth commandment says, "Thou shalt not kill." The world is full of bloodshed and violence because people have it in their heart to kill. No murderer will ever get into

the kingdom of God. Jesus tells us that if we have hate in our heart for anyone, we are murderers. Hatred breeds murder. It takes love to keep God's commandments

The seventh commandment says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Only a pure heart, and love unfeigned, can keep any of God's commandments. Love is the fulfilling of God's law. True love wants to see girls and boys live a pure virtuous life.

"Thou shalt not steal," is the eighth commandment. What an awful crime it is to take something that doesn't belong to us. This command is broken as much and maybe more than most of the commandments. An honest heart will not steal from his fellow men. If everybody kept this commandment, all of our belongings would be safe. We would have no need to lock our cellar, houses, barns, or anything else.

The ninth commandment says that we should not bear false witness. Bearing false witness has gotten many an honest person in trouble. False witnesses are a curse. Falsehoods of any kind are not pleasing to God. War is brought on by breaking the commandments, and the ninth one is violated as much as any.

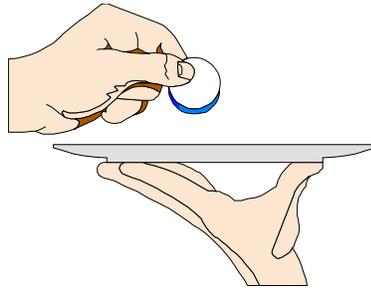
The tenth commandment is against coveting. We have no right in the sight of God to covet. We are commanded not to covet our neighbor's wife, house, manservant, maid-servant, ox, ass, or anything that belongs to our neighbor. It was the tenth commandment that convinced Paul of sin. He said, "...I had not known sin, but by the law; for it had not known lust, except the law had said, THOU SHALT NO COVET" (Romans 7:7).

The words of Solomon are to the point, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastics 12:13).

Christ said, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

From the Salem BIBLE ADVOCATE  
June 19, 1944

# COMMITMENT IN TITHING



Dedicated children of God neither stagger nor are hesitate when it comes to obeying God in tithing. They know it is the Word of God. They know it is His will! Commitment, which is the make or break point in consistent tithing, has already been learned by them in many other habits of Christian living. They have and are developing this trait through holy thoughts and deeds, prayer, reading the Bible, faithful church attendance, and the like.

Tithing is no special nor unusual requirement among God's standards. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Matthew 11:29-30). The dedicated child of God would no more miss tithing than he would miss prayer. He has found that tithing is worship, tithing is service, tithing is obedience. Children of God find joy in tithing. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Corinthians 9:7). Tithing is spiritual, and it has earthly as well as eternal consequences. The hungry thousands were not fed until the boy gave his lunch. The church cannot grow without our support. The difference will be the souls saved or lost as a result of our tithing or not! We are the key. God uses us. In Psalm 50, God tells us that He does not need our money for Himself. Jesus founded the church, and we are to fund it.

Tithing does also the eternal consequences. Jesus taught, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth or rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:20-21).

God makes it easy for us to tithe for He gives us victory over ourselves. We are our own worst enemy. Debt, which causes us to live on a lower level in life, is our own making. However, God heals our inner self, the source of

our nervous quest to accumulate more things.

The greatest statement on material possessions in all the world is Jesus's statement, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Our quest is not really for more possessions or things in life, but for happiness and peace of mind. Only God can give us that. "Peace I'll leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither it be afraid" (John 14:27). Let us obey God in tithing and in all points so that we may be happy as He desires for us to be. We can always afford to do God's will. He makes it possible. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13).

Even our government makes it more advantageous for us to give our tithes to God when we deduct what we give to the church from the income tax report. Wouldn't we rather know our money was going to support the church than to see it to produce more guns and ammunition for heathen nations to use in their wars?

The devil wants our tithe. He wants to keep God from getting it, and hearts to sue it for evil purposes. We owe our tithes to God. It is He who blessed us, prospered us, provided food, rest, air, health, and strength for us to earn income. God wants to use it for the ultimate good. He pays great dividends. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (Hebrews 11:24-26).

Tithe faithfully. God will take care of the rest.

Contributed



# ***THE TRUTH AND KINGDOM MESSAGE OUR RESPONSIBILITY***

***BY BOND TENNANT***

"...But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" (Jeremiah 20:9).

The prophet Jeremiah is here using very forceful comparison. He had a burning zeal in his heart. He had a consuming sense of the importance of the message given him to deliver. His previous declaration of the Word of God concerning Israel had been so despised and rejected that he had become disheartened. He declared, "...the word of the Lord was made a reproach unto me, and a derision daily. Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak anymore in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and was weary with forbearing, and could not stay" (Jeremiah 20:8-9). However, his message had to be spoken. The Lord had instructed him to tell Israel that they were about to be given over in the hands of their enemies.

This Word of the Lord to the Prophet Jeremiah was given prior to the seventy years' captivity of the Jews. There were false prophets among them who declared that the King of Juda has to gain a victory over their enemies. The people were also to hear this assurance. They despised the true prophet of the Lord, who gave them the real message from God! Jeremiah told them that they had failed in their responsibilities to their God. They had professed to be His people, but they had not been faithful in their covenant to serve Him. He warned them that it was too late for any who would repent to be delivered. The nation was sure to be overcome by their enemies, and carried away into captivity.

Jeremiah knew that the false prophets would encourage the King, and that he himself would bring the king's wrath upon his own head by reiterating the message which God had commissioned him to deliver. He shrank from the infamy, the reproach, and the persecution which, by experience, he knew would result from loyalty to the lord

However, he overcome temptation to withhold his peace. He would speak as God commanded him. Let the cost be what it would. He would tell Israel again the words which had been given him. He would give them further warning.

If Jeremiah had allowed his fears to overwhelm him, and had withheld the message, undoubtedly he would have been set aside as the mouth piece of God, and another would have been commissioned to deliver the message. The burning within the ear of the prophet would have grown feebler and would ultimately have died out. When a fire is kept shut off from a draft for some length of time, it will become extinguished. This is as true in the realism of moral and spiritual forces as in that of physical nature. In I Thessalonians 5:19, the apostle Paul urges us "and Quench not the Spirit." We might let the Holy Spirit of God die out in our hearts by a failure to do our duty. The light within us, the holy fire, would smoulder for a time, and finally become quenched. The Prophet Jeremiah could not withhold that which God had commanded him to speak. He could not quench the fire within his soul without losing his relationship with God.

It is the same within us today. He has granted to us an understanding of the truth. He has given us a message of the utmost importance to deliver to the people. We are informed that a get change is coming. We are told the times of the Gentiles will end and the Millennial kingdom will be established on the earth. We are told that all false religious systems will be destroyed. We are told that the kingdoms of their world will become "the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." See Revelation 11:15. This message is not to be stated in a rude manner. Nevertheless, it is to be stated.

We are glad that our message is not now the overthrow of God's kingdom but just the opposite. It is the

overthrow of the kingdom of darkness. We are to tell forth this glorious message. We are to spread it in our actions, in our words, by the printed page, by pictorial presentations to the eye, and in every way the Lord shall give us opportunity. If through fear of persecution, of losing prestige in the eyes of men, for love of ease, or for any reason whatever, we shall fail to give forth the message of God, it will be taken from us and given to one who is worthy. The Lord is seeking those who are valiant for him, for righteousness, for truth. If we prove ourselves weak, we are not fit for the kingdom.

Is this wonderful message burning within us? Are we speaking it forth, that its inspiration may cause other hearts to take fire? Can we sing the words of this song:

"I love to tell the story,  
It did so much for me!  
And that is just the reason  
I tell it now to thee."

If we refrain from telling the Kingdom Message, the result will be that the fire of God's Holy Spirit will become extinguished within us. And if the light that is within us becomes darkness, how great will be that darkness! The possession of the truth brings with it great responsibility. Shall we prove faithful to it? Let us show to God our

deep appreciation for His loving kindness in granting us the knowledge of His wonderful message of salvation and His glorious plan.

Here is a thought: There is a difference between the operation of the Lords Spirit in His children now and in the operation in the days of the Prophet Jeremiah and the other holy prophets. During the Jewish age, the Holy Spirit acted upon the servants ad out pieces of God in a mechanical manner. Now the people of the Lord have both His message in His written word and the begetting of the Spirit, which gives them a spiritual understanding impossible to His people of past ages.

We are also told by the Apostle Paul, that, "now all these things happened unto them for ensembles; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Corinthians 10:11). "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (II Peter 3:11). Let us be faithful in proclaiming the message of our lord. Let us tell forth the words which He has put into our mouths, whether others hear or whether they forbear-whether our faithfulness bring us the favor or the disfavor of the world.

## DON'T LOOK BACK! LOOK BEYOND!

By Carol Buechner



Looking back into the past can be detrimental to your life as a Christian. What has happened in the past can not be changed and it should not dominate your life. There are, of course, the good times to savor in your heart and remember. For example, the special vacation that brought you much joy, the visit from a friend that was so special, many fond memories or childhood times, etc. These kinds of things can enrich your life and help you to learn from them the way to live that will help develop more special

times. You may hold on to the thoughts of a special person in your life that meant so much to you. Perhaps it was a grandmother that taught you how to live for Christ and gave you the love that you needed. It may be a friend that helped you through many trying times There are things from the past that must not be allowed to dominate your life because they hinder your growth as a child of God. These are the negative things that have happened to you that can cause you to develop anger, bitterness and re-

sentment. They can cause you to hold unforgiveness in your heart. Someone may have done something to you several years ago that hurt you deeply and this has stayed with you. It has grown in your spirit like a cancer. Your mind will not release the feelings and your anger continues to grow toward this person. This causes a domino affect that brings more anger, bitterness and resentment into your life, causing you to become unhappy and unable to live your life completely as a Christian. It actually is a sin and separates you from God. Therefore, it is important to think about the past and consider what it is doing to your life right now.

The Bible gives excellent advice to consider concerning what to do about the past. "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand the plough, and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:61-62). "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14). "Wherein time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2). "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). The conclusion that can be formed by examining these verses is that once you are a child of God, you don't want to look back to the past. Your past was controlled by Satan. If you concentrate on this, you will slip back into the same life-style as before your change to becoming a servant of God. Jesus indicated that you can not push forward and look back because you will not follow the right path. Jesus further instructed, "enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). The right way is a narrow path and you must concentrate and look forward to stay on the straight way that leads to eternal life. When you are looking back, you wonder all over the place and you lose your way. Furthermore, be reminded that you became a new creature

and you must move forward by developing new habits and keeping your mind renewed and refreshed in the word of God. You can not allow yourself to slip into the old ways, You now have a special goal. You are pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." As you read further, you will discover what the prize will be.

You know that looking back into the past is not good but what does it mean to look beyond? Paul most certainly was looking beyond the present to what awaited him. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Timothy 4:7-8). Paul was looking for that "crown of righteousness." He states that he and all other saints will receive it "at that day." "That day," is explained in I Thessalonians 4:16-17: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord," "That day" is when the Lord returns to gather His saints to be with Him forever.

This is only the beginning of what you have to look forward to beyond this present life. "For there have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Hebrews 13:13). That city which some day will be your inheritance is magnificent." And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, come down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And he (an angel) carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were of precious stones...And the twelve gates were twelve pearls...And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which

are saved shall walk in the light of it and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day; for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:2, 10-11, 18-19, 21-27). What a magnificent place God has prepared for His saints! There is no way that the human mind can comprehend the beauty of the city. "But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

If you are a child of God, you have probably drawn the conclusion that you have much to look forward to, beyond this present life. While you are still a resident of their earth, how should you be living to insure that you will one day walk in that beautiful city, the New Jerusalem? The answer is found in Revelation 22:14: "**Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city**" The answer is simple, KEEP THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD. Many will say that the Ten Commandments were done away with when Jesus died. Jesus gives His answer concerning the commandments in Matthew 22:36-40: "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.** This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, **Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." The original Ten commandments found in Exodus 20 are no different. The first four commandments deal with loving God and the other six deal with loving your neighbour. So nothing has been done away with or changed. Had the commandments been done away with, sin would be even worse than it is because there would be no law. Carefully and prayerfully study the Ten commandments that God gave to Moses in Exodus 20:3-17. Then begin relating everything you reading the Bible to one of the commandments. You will find that there is agreement with what God commanded all throughout the Bible.

Reflect on the beginning phrase of Revelation 22:14: "Blessed are they that DO his commandments," and actually do them. You may have them memorized and speak

them frequently but that does not mean that you are doing them. Action is the key. "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" (James 1:22-24). You can repeat the Ten Commandments and go out into the world things if they do not exist. It is vital that you look carefully at all the commandments to see if you are doing all of them. God did not say to keep eight of them or just certain ones that you want to keep, He said DO THEM ALL. God expects you to keep all that He has instructed in His word, including paying tithe, doing good for others, using your talents and gifts, walking in the fruit of the Spirit and so much more.

Joshua gives good instructions that will help you keep God's word and walk "the straight and narrow way" that leads to eternal life in that beautiful city. "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whither so ever thou goest" (1:9). He is telling you to keep your mind and heart focused on God at all times. If you do, you will realize that He is there for you regardless of what your situation is. You will have the strength you need. You do not have to be afraid, worried, discouraged, alarmed, apprehensive, fearful or anxious. You will have the faith you need to go on and you will trust God in every situation.

Hopefully, the message in this article has sunk deep into your heart. You are not going to look back and let the past rule your heart. You are now looking beyond to what is to come, and you will live what time you have left on this earth for the glory of God regardless of what is happening in your life. Colossians 3:1-4 and Psalm 23:6, summarizes thoughts to dwell on concerning looking beyond. "**If you then be risen with Christ, seek these things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS OUR LIFE, SHALL APPEAR, THEN SHALL YE ALSO APPEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY.**" "**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**"

# 7

## Things You May Or May Not Know About

### ABRAHAM

By Warren H. Randall Jr.

1. He was Abram before he became Abraham.

"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shall thy name anymore be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee" Genesis 17:1-5".

2. He was a descendant of Shem.

"These are the generations of Shem: Shem was an hundred years old, and begat Arphaxad two years after the flood: And Shem lived after he begat Arphaxad five hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran" (Genesis 11:10,11,26).

3. Scripture refers to him as a Hebrew.

"With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nation, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five. And the vale of Siddim was full of Slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and want their way. And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in

Sodom, and his goods, and departed. And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram and the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner; and these were confederate with Abram" (Genesis 14:9-13).

4. He lied to Abimelach about Sarah his wife when he said she was his sister.

"And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadeash and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, she is my sister: And Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah" (Genesis 20:1-2).

5. Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

"And the Lord visit Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. And Abraham as an hundred years old., when his son Isaac was born unto him." (Genesis 21:1-5).

6. He made his servant swear that he would not take a wife unto his son of the daughters of the Canaanites.

"And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: And I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:" (Genesis 24:1-3).

7. He remarried after the death of Sarah.

"Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Keturah. And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah" (Genesis 25:1-2).

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# CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH

## A LESSON STUDY



"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all things be done with charity" (I Corinthians 16:13-14).

The Apostle Paul's concern for the Lord's people is manifest in his devoted and dedicated service to them. As he was an inspired apostle of Jesus, his messages of truth have been profitable for the brethren in Christ throughout the Gospel Age. Those exhortations have been a source of rich blessing. We may study the admonitions from his epistles today and still receive much enlightenment from them. Our opening text is worthy of our consideration, for it is especially applicable. The consecrated child of God who is striving to grow in the ways of truth and righteousness. Those who so strive to develop their characters along these lines of thought, words, or actions must heed the admonition to watch, to stand fast in the truth, to mature and to grow in strength in the ways of the Lord. Paul points out that all things must be done in the spirit of love.

There are varying degrees of devotion among the followers of Jesus. Some may be less mature in the school of Christ and may therefore need more encouragement than others. Each, however, should be alert to examine his own heart condition and endeavor to make the progress necessary for an abundant entrance into the kingdom of God. In this letter to the Ephesians brethren, Paul stresses that Christian grace and knowledge are essential "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, not the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

The privilege of assisting and of building one another up in the most holy faith is one that should receive immediate and close attention by every child of God. As we grow in knowledge and faith, we should begin to share

that strength for the benefit of others who may, because of inherited frailties, be less developed spiritually than ourselves. God has bountifully supplied the spiritual food of which we freely partake and has also clearly indicated the manner in which that spiritual food is appropriated for our nourishment and talent given for the nourishment of others who may yet be babes in Christ. The Lord's consecrated people should be constantly growing in grace and knowledge and usefulness in the service of the Lord. We should recognize it as our privilege and duty to be strong in the days of the Lord, even as Paul says, "Quit you (act) like men, be strong." The apostle's exhortation is toward greater maturity.

Our personal progress in the school of Christ depends in large measure upon ourselves, although it was God who called us to for darkness into His marvelous light of truth. He is abundantly able and willing to assist us, but we must seek His guidance and follow His leading. It is our responsibility to see what God has so freely given us that we might have an abundant entrance into His kingdom.

There are many things in the Bible that are difficult to understand. Even after careful and patient study, we cannot always be sure about some of the deep and hidden truths. We can be sure about the fundamental truth, however, and should be able to give a scriptural reason for the hope and understanding that we have in regard to them. When it comes to assisting others in the ways of truth, we should stress the fundamentals. Some in the apostle's day were evidently negligent in this connection. We note this in the letter to the Hebrew brethren, where it points out that "...we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teacher, ye have need that one teach you

again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of mild, and not of strong meat" (Hebrews 5:11-12).

As we grow in the knowledge of the truth, we leave the elementary principles of the doctrines of Christ, not in the sense of abandoning them, but as allowing them to stand as foundation stones of our faith. From there we must press along on our consecrated journey toward maturity in Christ.



## GOD EXISTS

The Bible says to have an answer for why you believe to those who ask you.

This is a good example of an answer to one of the most common reasons people give for ignoring God and His goodness.

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair and his beard cut as always. He began to have a good conversation with the barber who attended him. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

Suddenly, they touched on the subject of God.

The barber said: "Look man, I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, it's so easy, you just have to go into the street to realize that God does not exist.

Oh, tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick, people?

Would there be abandoned children?

If God exists, there would be no suffering nor pain.

I can't think of loving a God who permits all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but he didn't respond because he did not want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barber shop, he saw a man in the street with long hair and a beard. It was very long, and a long time since he had his hair cut. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber:

"You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say they don't exist?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here and I am a barber. Why I just worked on you!"

"No!" The customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist, because if they did there would be no people with long hair and beard like that man who is outside."

"Ah, barbers do exist, what happens is that people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God so does exist. What happens is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

From the Internet



# THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

*If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit to this segment, please send them to The Church of God Publishing House, PO Box 328, Salem, WV 26426-0328.*

*The following articles were taken from the Houston Chronicle.*

## THE JOYLESS CLUB

**Driven to succeed, more kids ending up unhappy**

**by Patricia Dalton**

Earlier this month, I received a panicked call from a mother asking whether I could see her son, a high school senior. She said he was irritable and was having trouble getting to sleep. He was refusing to talk about what was on his mind at home or with his friends. It was the kind of call I have come to expect at this time of year. I am seeing more high school juniors and seniors than ever before who come into my office complaining of symptoms such as stomach pain or family tension. The common denominator? College application stress.

I wonder how some of these kids will fare during the next phase of their lives. Their reactions to good or bad news can be poorly modulated; many will be fit or thin packages that are beginning to arrive in the mail. And easy. Sure, some kids take it all in stride; some even thrive on the process. But my colleagues and I are finding that there are growing numbers of young people today who think of it in terms of their fate, that their college acceptance either assures them success or condemns them to failure. And they are too young to think in terms of such finality.

Underlying all this apprehension is the parent's conviction that getting into a prestigious college is the ticket to personal fulfillment and financial success - two mea-

asures in extractable linked in the minds of many. Babyboomer parents, one of the most prosperous generations our country has ever seen, are communicating no unprecedented degrees of anxiety to their kids about their future, micromangaging each step forward. Add that to the competitive attitudes of kids' peers, and you can see why major metropolitan areas have become pressure cookers for young people today. In offices like mine, therapists are trying to release pressure before the lid bursts right off.

High school counselors as well as independent consultants agree that competition to get into elite colleges has increased dramatically recent years, and that many state colleges also have become more selective. Many parents could not get in their alma maters today. Sheer numbers are part of this issue: There is a population bulge in this age group; students are also applying to more colleges than they used to, partly because for the ease of the common application and partly to cover more bases. Participation in SAT prep classes is at all all-time high. College confidential.com., a Web site I was tipped off to by a high school senior, reports that the Ivies reject many applicants today with combined SAT scores of 1550. (Compare that with this reported during the last presidential election campaign: Bush's SAT score of 1206 was good enough to get him into Yale; Gore's 1355 took him to Harvard.)

Young people absorb this pressure from the air they breathe. They soak it up at home, at school, in books and magazines. It comes from parents, relatives, teachers and now even from their peers. And it can start at frighteningly young ages, like the 10-year-old girl who worried to

me that she was not smart enough to get into a really good college. Then there was the 11-year-old whom I asked what she wanted to be when she grew up. She replied in a second: a law clerk, and then a partner, and then a judge, then a member of the Supreme Court.

Here's the recipe for success these kids have learned: Get high SATs and high GPAs you can go to this college so you will get this kind of job (and perhaps find a partner with a comparable job) so you will make a lot of money and live happily ever after. The part that's never spoken - and would be disavowed if put into words - is that money will make you happy.

These children's parents (and I count myself among them) are the first generation to have grown to adulthood in the largely carefree economic times. We have not lived through world wars or a national financial catastrophe. Many of us saw our families go from frugality to fairly prosperous. Lately, however, we've seen reversals of fortune in industries from automotive to steel to high tech, local business failing to compete with big conglomerates, and blue- as well as white-collar jobs being outsourced overseas. Economic changes have been hard to predict. As one of my friends has asked, "What career do you advise your child to go into today?"

It is certainly possible that today's young people could be the first U.S. Generation in which they may not do as well economically as their parents. Adults, on whom children rely to interpret the word, behave as if this would be disastrous. When parents go into overdrive, they often justify single-mindedness with the argument that an excellent education is what they had - or, alternatively, did not have - and therefore want for their children.

Sometimes what I hear is almost eerie: Young men and women who seem incapable of separating their own aspirations from those their parents hold for them. There are Americans who no longer make a distinction between needs and wants, even between expectations and entitlement. I have heard young men in my office express anxiety about their buying potential, especially in the eyes of their future mates. And I sometimes have to wonder whether their concern is not neurotic, but rooted in present-day American reality. Perhaps they are perceiving in their contemporaries an inability or unwillingness to adapt to whatever life holds for them.

Parents, mean while, are making real sacrifices to try to guarantee the perfect future for their kids. A local col-

lege consultant once told me he sees some parents "impoverishing themselves" to pay for expensive college. I heard recently that a counselor at a big suburban high school has been making a point of asking parents whether they've put enough money aside for their own retirement - a common oversight today.

Parents like these claim that they just want that best for their children; they want them to be happy and prosperous. But as one young person said to me during last year's college go-round, "who are they kidding? My mother is miserable, and my dad works all the time."

Another change comes in the form of increasing pressure from peers. One father whose child had been excited about her early - decision acceptance to an excellent, but not Ivy League, college in November told me that his daughter was having second thoughts, safe hang a rained go on an on about getting into more "prestigious" school. I have heard high school students make disparaging comments about community college. One counselor described seniors collecting acceptances and then advertising them to their peers "as an ego trip." As he rightly observed, "One kid's safety school is another's first choice."

There is another price that relentless striving can exact, and this is perhaps the most pernicious one: a joylessness and weariness that shows up in children as young as middle school and can last the rest of their lives. In many of these situation, a disturbing under current develops in the parent-child relationship. Even from very young ages, kids can smell a rat. They know if they are being called upon to realize their parent ambitions and make them look good regardless of the price.

Whatever happened to young people charting their own courses marching to a different drummer? As fellow therapist Neil Schiff said when we were discussing this issue recently, "Whatever happened to ordinary? To just making a way through life?" These days, ordinary is equated with failure. Yet only a small percentile (in SAT terminology) will be the superstars that many parent have trained their kids to expect to be the majority of us and our children are destined to be ordinary, normal, regular fold. In superstar-thin, this means being loser. Maybe we need to resurrect that long lost virtue, humility.

At a time in their lives when teenagers need to learn who they are and who they aren't (and hopeful to preserve some vitality to bounce back come what may), large

*(continued on page eighteen)*

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**Question:** Please comment on THE WILL OF GOD. What is it?

**Answer:** Our understanding of this wonderful topic will help us to be fit for the kingdom to come. The Bible tells us and urges us, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17).

You ask: "What is the Will of God?"

Well, here's the answer true;

"The nearest thing that should be done,

That God can do - through you!

### **THE NATURE OF GOD'S WILL:**

God's will is perfect and sovereign. Because of our human limitations and our imperfections, it is difficult for us to comprehend that which is perfect. The ideal is there, however, and the possibility of reaching this level of understanding is set forth in God's Holy Word. A price is to be paid for such knowledge. *"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).

### **HOW DOES GOD REVEAL HIS WILL:**

He reveals it through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus came to save sinners. In this effort, He revealed the will of God. Countless of times Jesus reminded His disciples and the multitude, to whom He was preaching, that He came to do the will of His Father *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him*

*that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again to the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and will raise him up at the last day"* (John 6:38-40). The Family of God is made up of persons that do the will of God. *"For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother"* (Mark 3:35). Every child of God must do the testimony of Jesus. The faith of Jesus was to proclaim His Father's Will. Jesus said, *"..., My meat is to do what will of him that sent me, and to finish his word"* (John 4:34). *"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me: and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me"* (John 17:8). God's will is continued today through you, a saint of the Lord.

God reveals His will through His works of creation, His mighty acts in history, the inspiration of the Word and the revelation of Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. His will is not so mysterious that it cannot be understood. Ours is a problem of self-sufficiency, the substitution of our wills for God's will.

### **THE REWARD FOR DOING GOD'S WILL:**

*"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever"* (John 2:17). Doing God's Will adds permanency and com-

pleteness 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 onward and upward through of this quality of obedience climaxes in Christ's commendation, "..., *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 the Lord*" (Matthew 25:21).

### **THE CONSEQUENCE OF DISOBEYING GOD'S WILL:**

Part of God's perfect will is found in II Peter 3:9, "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any 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 that seemeth right unto many but the end thereof is death. The choice is ours. The consequences of our choice are with God.

**Question:** When is the time of the Gentiles?

**Answer:** Jesus spoke of the times of the Gentiles when He said that "...Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." See Luke 21:24. It would be good to note that Jesus said "times" rather than time when speaking of Gentile rule. The Gentile times began with the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar as king. These Gentile times are the fulfillment of God's promises against Israel for Israel's captivity period and further described how Israel would eventually be "besieged" and almost destroyed because of sin. It is these Gentile nations, in their succession, who have continuously "trodden down" Israel through the centuries beginning with Babylon. The prophet Isaiah saw in a "vision" these things coming to pass upon Israel. The Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman Empires are the times of the Gentiles. The Roman Empire was in power when Jesus walked the earth. Israel was subject of Caesar of Rome. History reveals to us the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. This event only fulfilled what Moses foretold in Deuteronomy 28:53.

In Leviticus 26, Moses is telling the Children of Israel that they would be overrun four times by the Gentiles. Each time that Jerusalem was destroyed the siege was seven times more severe. They were punished "seven times more for their sins" (Leviticus 26:18,21,24,28-30).

The prophet Jeremiah wrote of the beginning of Gentile times when he prophesied; "it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which shall not are the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the Lord, with the sword and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by this hand." Jeremiah even foretold about the vessels in the temple at Jerusalem when he prophesied; "...concerning the vessels that remain in the house of the Lord, and in the house of the king of Judah and of Jerusalem; They shall be carried to Babylon..." (Jeremiah 27:21-22). The record of the fulfillment of the prophecy states: "Nebuchadnezzar also carried off the vessels of the house of the Lord to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon" (II Chronicles 36:7). These Bible texts inform us of the beginning of Gentile times when Jerusalem began to be trodden down of the Gentiles, (606 B.C. to 70 A.D.) four times.

The Apostle Paul wrote of the fullness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:25) when prophesy of Jesus's Second Coming. When Jesus returns with His saints, the times of the Gentiles will be ended at the battle of Armageddon.

A thought to consider comes from Jesus's words in Luke 21:24 when He said; "...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down on the Gentile until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." The word "shall" would mean that the over running of Jerusalem shall continue until Gentile times are fulfilled.

Let it be understood that the Lord Himself brought about the various "Gentile times", or empires, because of Israel's sins. This is one of God's promises and is being fulfilled in every detail.

**Question:** Can we sin after we are baptized?

**Answer:** Yes. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (I John 2:1). "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:21).

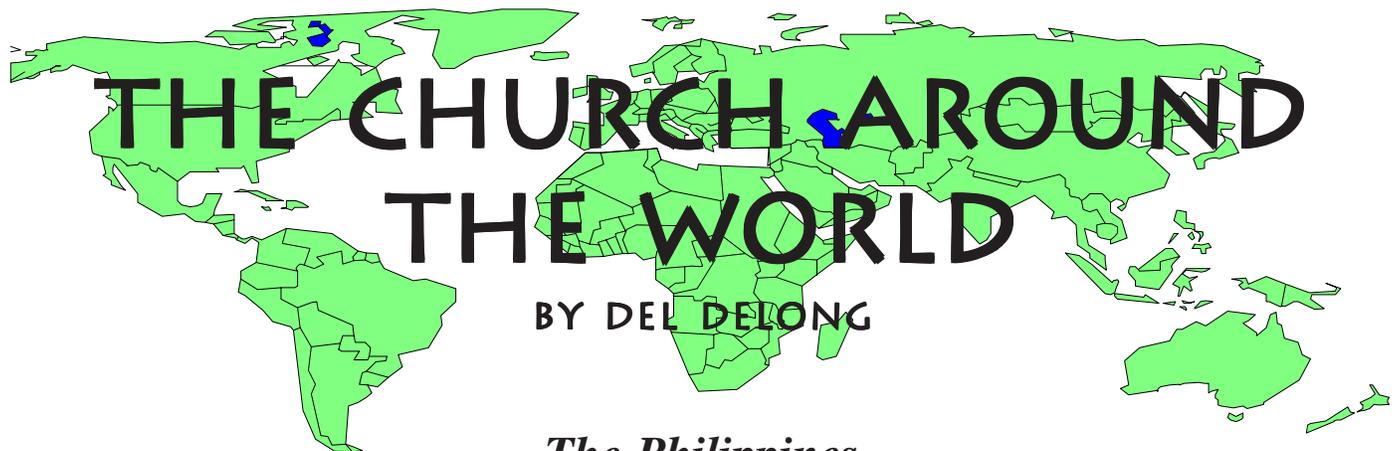
(continued from page fifteen) numbers suddenly feel that they may just not be good enough. Many parents had the luxury of almost no college pressure. Some were sent to what kids refer to as "no-name" schools - I did- and we're here to tell the tale. Even parents who went to selective schools experienced nothing close to the stress that the children should have. We need to focus on our kid's overall well-being not just on their success in the eyes of the world.

Several months ago, an older woman gave me some words of wisdom that have echoed in my mind ever since. She raised a son and a daughter who are now both grown and gainfully employed. When they were in high school,

she said that she had been suggesting to her husband about their study habits and college prospects. He said to her, "Dear, just let them be. Let them land where they land." Now there's a concept.

### COMMENT

God wants His children to be themselves, all He demands is for them to live for Him and obey His commandments. He does not care about the physical and social level of a person. Without a doubt, this is the age of social pressure, but one's social standing will not have any bearing toward gaining eternal life!



### *The Philippines*

*Below is pictured the dedication of a new church building at Araibo, Pantukan in Comval Province.*



*Pictured below are brethren from the church in Badas, Mati, Davao Oriental*



*Pictured below are brethren from the church in Biayon, Sergio Osmena, Zamboanga del Norte, Mindinao.*



## LESSON I

## THE MARVELOUS FEATS OF SAMSON

**Scripture Reading:** Judges 15:1-20.

**Golden Text:** Judges 15:15.

"And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith."

**NOTE:** We have learned how Samson was appointed by God to be Israel's deliverer from the Philistines, even before his birth. We have also learned that Samson had great strength. Now let us see how he used this strength to deliver his people.

1. What happened to Samson's wife in Judges 15:1-2?
2. What did Samson do to the Philistines as a result of this? Judges 15:4-5.
3. After Samson destroyed the Philistines' corn and vineyard, what did they do to Samson's wife and her father for causing this trouble? Judges 15:6.
4. Was Samson pleased by this act? What did he do in return and where did he go? Judges 15:7-8.
5. The Philistines were still angry and wanted to destroy Samson. What did they do to him? Judges 15:9-13.
6. After Samson was bound and taken to Lehi, how did he slay the Philistines? Judges 15:14-17.
7. Samson slew 1,000 men with the jaw of an ass. He then called on the Lord because he was athirst. Did the Lord hear his pleas? Judges 15:18-19.
8. How long did Samson judge Israel? Judges 15:20.

## LESSON II

## SAMSON AND DELILAH

**Scripture Reading:** Judges 16:1-21.

**Golden Text;** judges 16:17.

"That he told her all his heart and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazaritete unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

**NOTE;** In our last lesson we learned of the great strength of Samson, and now we shall see how his great strength was broken.

1. Samson went to Gaza, and when the Gazites found that he was there, what did they try to do? Judges 16:1-3.
2. Samson went to the valley of Sorek and there he met Delilah. What did the Philistines want Delilah to do, and what did they promise her? Judges 16:5.
3. Delilah did as the Philistines wanted her to, but did Samson tell her the truth about his strength? Judges 16:6-7.
4. How did Samson prove his strength in Judges 16:8-9?
5. Delilah realized that Samson did not tell her the truth, so she tried again to find out wherein his strength did lie. What did Samson tell her the second time? Judges 16:11-12.
6. What was the third story Samson told Delilah about how his strength could be broken? Judges 16:13-14.
7. Delilah pressed him daily and urged him to tell her how he received his strength. Did he finally tell her the truth? Judges 16:17-18.
8. After Samson fell asleep what did the Philistines do to him? Judges 19-21.

## LESSON III

SAMSON'S TRAGIC DEATH

Scripture Reading: Judges 16:21-31.

Golden Text: Judges 16:28.

"And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned how Delilah betrayed Samson, and how he lost all his strength when his head was shaven. Now we shall see how Samson gained back his strength long enough to take revenge on the Philistines.

- 1. What did the Philistines do to Samson after his strength was gone? Judges 16:21.
2. Did Samson's hair grow back as it had been? Judges 16:22.
3. What boasts did the Philistines make after they had put him in prison? Judges 16:23-24.
4. Why did the Philistines call Samson out of prison? Judges 16:25-26.
5. What was Samson's request of the Lord in Judges 16:28?
6. Did the Lord grant Samson's plea and what was the result? Judges 16:29-30.
7. Where was Samson buried? Judges 16:31.

LESSON IV

NAOMI AND RUTH

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:1-22.

Golden text; Ruth 1:16.

"And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou

goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

NOTE: We're beginning a new study in this lesson about a Behlehem family who sojourned in the land of Moab. Moabites were descendents of Lot; thus distantly related to the Jews. They were, however, heathen.

- 1. What was the name of the man and his wife who came to Moab, and for what reason did they journey there? Ruth 1:1-2.
2. What happened to Naomi's husband? Ruth 1:3.
3. Who did his two sons marry and how long did they dwell in Moab? Ruth 1:4.
4. Then what happened to Naomi's sons? Ruth 1:5.
5. Where did Naomi and her daughter-in-laws go after the death of her husband and sons? Ruth 1:6-7.
6. What was Naomi's request for her daughter-in-laws? Ruth 1:8-9.
7. Did both daughter-in-laws return to their own families? Ruth 1:14-15.
8. What did Ruth do after Orpah left? Ruth 1:16-17.
9. Into what land did Naomi and Ruth go? Ruth 1:19-22.

Write the memory verse in the spaces below

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Proverbs 3:5a

## THE TALE OF A BLESSING

## TODAY'S MENU

LOVE JOY PEACE LONGSUFFERING  
GENTLENESS GOODNESS FAITH  
MEEKNESS TEMPERANCE

The sun was hiding that Thursday as the wind and leaves danced their last fling before winter, whirling around the snug little homes on Mulberry Street.

Tilda Hawkins stood squinting at the television set as the picture stopped rolling and the clowns and huge balloon figures came into focus. She smiled, "Well," she said briskly, "it is going to be a different Thanksgiving for us but a nice one."

Her eyes went to the framed photos on the piano. Her own dear Bill was gone now and the children were married and scattered across the country. "NO, it won't be a big celebration, but it will still be Thanksgiving!"

Her remarks were directed to the only other occupant of the room, a large gray-and-white cat dozing contentedly in a chair. "I bought," Tilda continued, "a deluxe TV turkey dinner for myself, and for you, King Rupert, a can of turkey and liver. Rather expensive, but this is Thanksgiving."

She beamed at the cat. "Smell that bread, h-m-m?" She hurried to the kitchen just as the timer buzzed. Humming a favorite old church song, Tilda put on ovenmitts and lifted out a the large pan of light brown rolls. She sniffed and smiled. Still humming, she turned out the steaming rolls and piled them in a large bowl. Leaving two for herself, she spread a napkin over the heaped rolls and taking a breath, began to speak.

"Dear Father, thank you for allowing me to continue our customs of giving. Bless this food and bless the ones who receive it. Fill their home and their lives with love so you have filled mine. Bless everyone, everywhere, on this day. "Tilda pushed, trembling a bit. "Thank you, Father. In Jesus' name, Amen."

For a moment she stood there held by emotional pull of her concern for others. Then she pulled on a sweater, picked up the bowl and called "I will be right back ,

Rupert."

She darted out her back door and crossed to her neighbor's back door. As she knocked, she heard children's voices, the TV, a dog, and a man's voice. The door was opened by little Nancy Freeman, and Tilda wondered how such a tiny woman could have six husky children.

"Mrs. Hawkins!" The little woman cried. "How nice!"

"I cannot come in dear. Just like to share on Thanksgiving." She gave her the rolls. "I hope you enjoy them." With a wave she said, "Happy thanksgiving, and left.

Nancy pushed the door shut with her foot as she lifted the napkin. "H-m-m, homemade bread."

Dick Freeman walked in, "What did you say?"

"Homemade bread. Mrs. Hawkins brought us some fresh baked, homemade rolls. Take a whiff."

"That was nice of her. Maybe you should have asked her to eat with us." Then he frowned. "NO, on second thought, she would probably rather be alone."

Nancy was not listening. "Trouble is," she muttered, "the kids will not eat brown bread. Why not take out enough for us and your folks, and you take the rest to the Millers? I could save them but somehow, I would rather share."

Dick nodded, leaned forward to peck his wife on the cheek.

"That is because you are a very nice person."

A moment later, Dick Freeman was crossing the street to the little brick house. Lettie Miller answered the door but Mel was right behind her. Two white-haired persons peered through two pairs of found glasses. "Why, hello, Dick! Do come in," Lettie spoke happily.

"No, thanks. I just brought you something to go with your dinner." Dick handed her the bowl and stepped back. "Happy Thanksgiving...from all of us." He turned to jog home.

"Oh Mel, look here! Yeast rolls." She held the bowl.

Mel nodded. "Delicious!"

She frowned, so he frowned. "But, I made bred pudding and that is too much bread for us," she said. Then she brightened. "But, we will share, too! We will take our pudding to the Sedbrooks!"

Together they marched to the closet, helped each other with wraps, and walked rapidly next door.

Freckle-faced Jimmy answered the door, followed

by Janie, Joel, Junie, Judgy, and Irving. Irving was the dog. Judy was Mrs. Sedbrook. "Why, hello," she called, "come in!"

The Millers stepped inside. Lettie began, "The Freemans were nice enough to give us some homemade bread. I had made a bread pudding and thought.

Mel picked up the story. "And that is too much bread for us so we want to give you our pudding."

A deep, male voice said, "Did someone say, 'bread pudding'?"

Jim Sedbrook appeared.

Judy laughed. That is his favorite."

Lettie's eyes twinkled. "Do you like it with raisin and some chocolate syrup dribbled through it, and then the egg and milk mixture to pour over it?" She held out a pitcher.

Jim sighed, "Oh boy, do I!"

The Millers both nodded, said "Good," and turned to leave adding quickly, "Happy Thanksgiving."

That was nice of them." Judgy paused. "You know sometimes you begin to wonder." She did not finish the sentence but just looked at her husband.

He nodded. "You wonder if there are any nice people left in the world."

"Yes, people seem so wrapped up in themselves." She took a breath and chewed her lip. "You know actually I have an extra pie." Her eyes were questioning.

A moment later, young Jimmy was on his way to the old, two story house on the corner where the Rodgers sisters lived. And the night was not long until Lucinda Rodgers was going around the corner with a covered dish in her hands while her sister Durinda was going the other way with a pot of bright yellow mums.

It kept spreading. Each show of kindness produced more kindness. In the 1400 block of Mulberry Street, a certain landlady who had just acquired a pot of yellow mums, invited all of her renters to bring the new renters and share her dining room.

Over on 21st Street, a retired teacher was so inspired by the gift of a fruit salad that she took her special cranberry nut salad to the newlyweds who had just moved next door from another state.

That is not the end of the tale, of course. An end can never be written because a blessing once shared never stops.

**QUIZ KID**

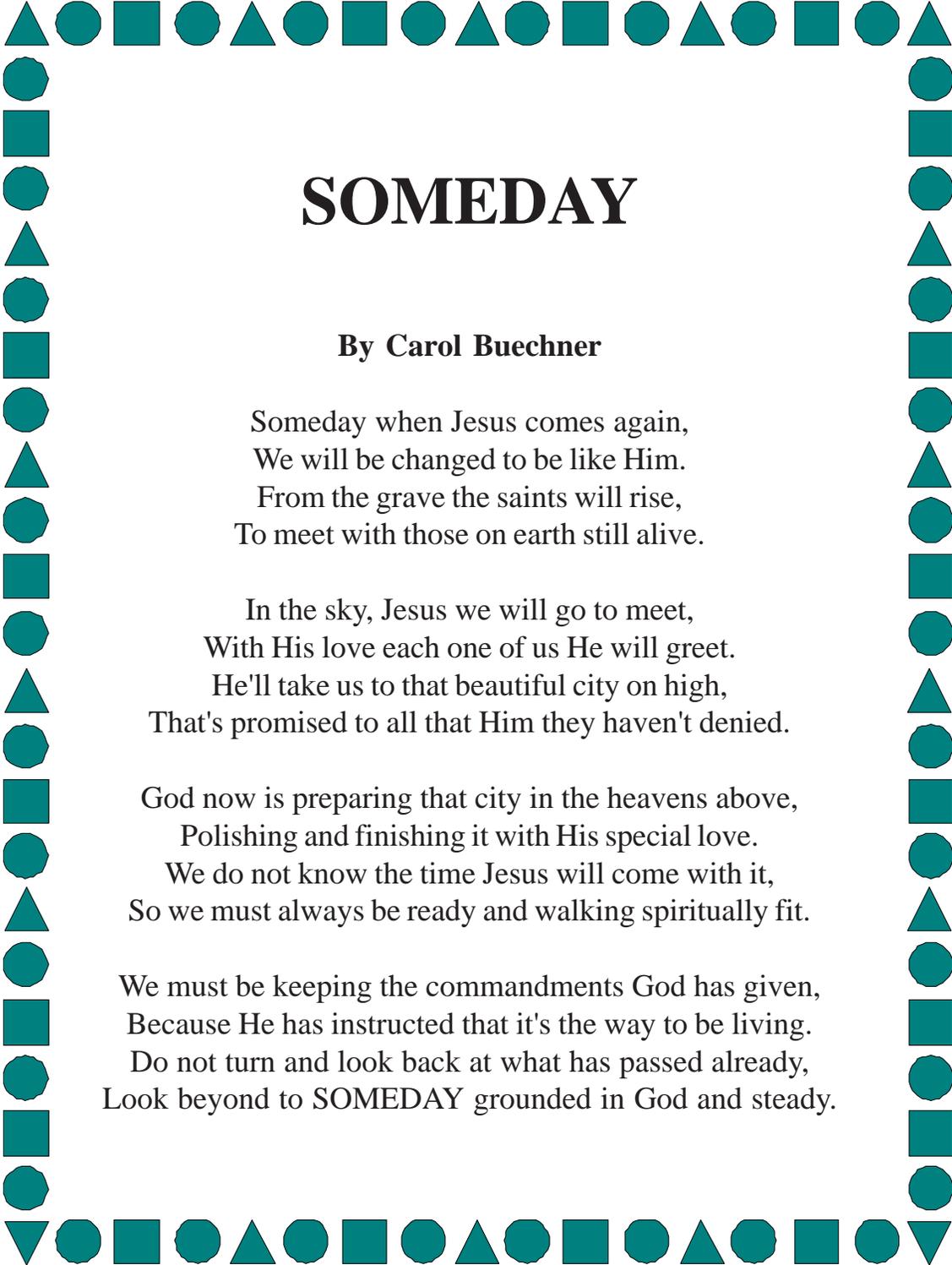
by Nadine Wear

**Unscramble the books of the New Testament and then find them in the puzzle.**

**They are backwards, forwards, up and down.**

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





# SOMEDAY

By Carol Buechner

Someday when Jesus comes again,  
We will be changed to be like Him.  
From the grave the saints will rise,  
To meet with those on earth still alive.

In the sky, Jesus we will go to meet,  
With His love each one of us He will greet.  
He'll take us to that beautiful city on high,  
That's promised to all that Him they haven't denied.

God now is preparing that city in the heavens above,  
Polishing and finishing it with His special love.  
We do not know the time Jesus will come with it,  
So we must always be ready and walking spiritually fit.

We must be keeping the commandments God has given,  
Because He has instructed that it's the way to be living.  
Do not turn and look back at what has passed already,  
Look beyond to SOMEDAY grounded in God and steady.