

The Advocate of Truth





TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Word Keys That Unlock Truth 3

Our word this month is "apostasy".

*What Is The State Of Our Bodies
As We Leave The Grave To Meet Jesus
Christ At His Second Coming?* 3-4

The Church Of God Is God's Lighthouse 4

A light house guides the traveller.

Satan's Influence Disrupts True Worship 5-8

Satan loves to divide and cause discord in the Church.

The Arab Animosity Towards Israel 9-10

Why is there such strife between the Arabs and Israel?

Search The Scriptures 11-12

God gave us His Book to guide us in His will.

Confession 12-13

If we confess our sins to God through Jesus, His Son,
He will forgive us.

The Signs Of The Times 14-15

How does TV affect our children?

Questions And Answers 16-17

What is the plan of God for the world?

The Church Around The World 18-19

This month we look at the construction of
new church buildings in India.

The Children's Pages 20-23

*Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "Roger, Sue, And The Marbles"
Games and Puzzles*

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: cogsevday@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

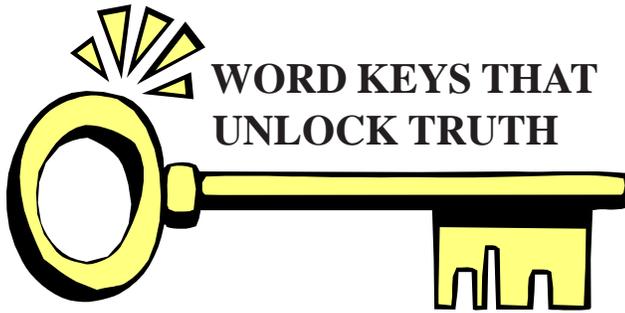
Volume LIV

Number 6

December 27, 2004

The Advocate of Truth

USPS 542-940



APOSTASY

The actual word "apostasy" is not found in the Bible.

Apostasy is defined as a falling away, defection, withdrawal, or turning away from what one has formerly turned to. In the Bible sense, apostasy may involve two separate, though related, aspects:

1. Theological apostasy is a rejection of all or some of the true teachings of Christ and the apostles. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (I Timothy 4:1). "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (II Timothy 4:3).

2. Moral apostasy occurs when the believer ceases to abide in Christ and instead becomes enslaved again to sin and immorality. "Wherefore the Lord said, For as much as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far, from me and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work

and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid" (Isaiah 29:13-14). "For some are already turned aside to Satan" (I Timothy 5:15). "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Galatians 1:6-7). "As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel" (Psalm 125:5).

The Bible gives examples of actual apostasy. "Hear, O heavens and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:2-4). "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom Hymeneus and Alexander; whom I delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme" (I Timothy 1:18-20).

The Bible gives us warning against apostasy. "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12).

WHAT IS THE STATE OF OUR BODIES AS WE LEAVE THE GRAVE TO MEET JESUS CHRIST AT HIS SECOND COMING?

BY GEORGE STACKPOLE

Is it really important to know the state of our bodies when our Lord Jesus Christ returns? The most important thing is that we are ready at all times for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, because if we are already

dead, we should have been prepared, if we are alive we should be prepared.

We are to search Scripture to find that which is necessary to be prepared. Scripture tells us that we are to



put off the corrupted body in order to obtain the uncorrupted! "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (I Peter 1:3-4). We see and understand, that without Jesus Christ being resurrected by the Father, it would all be in vain.

Scripture tells us that all flesh is not the same, there are differences in all created bodies, whether they be celestial, grain, vegetable, fish, mammal, man, or birds, to mention a few. "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption; It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (I Corinthians 15:42-44). You should keep in mind that we, you and I, were born of the flesh, but because Jesus Christ shed His precious blood for us, we will be able to obtain a spiritual body if we are obedient to all that is asked of us in scripture.

The following scripture tells us more. "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption" (I Corinthians 15:45-50). We have noticed that in the above scripture, that flesh and blood can't inherit the kingdom. Why? Because man sinned in the flesh and had blood flowing through his veins, it too, takes the blood of Jesus Christ to save us and to make available to us a spiritual body in the kingdom.

We find the following scripture tells us in what state Jesus Christ was when He appeared to His disciples. "And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread. And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. But they were terri-

fied and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them. Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them" (Luke 24:35-43). As was explained by Jesus to his disciples, a spirit has no flesh, bones, or blood. Jesus gave his blood once for all. A good or evil spirit can take on the form of man, but no blood is present in these beings - blood denotes physical life.

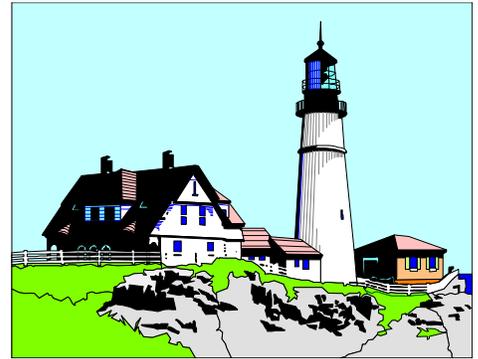
The following scripture tells us that Jesus, after His resurrection, visited His disciples in a private room. Ten (10) disciples were present, Thomas was not. "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be not you" (John 20:19). Notice, Jesus entered the room without having been let in by anyone. The doors were shut. As we learn after verse 19 that Thomas was a doubter, verse 25 and for good reason, this was a precursor for all the Thomases of today. Let us now go to the scripture when Thomas was present! "And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you." (John 20:26). Now here we have two accounts where Jesus enters rooms with the doors being shut! Could you or I enter rooms without entering through doors? Keep in mind the disciples were in fear of the Jews, so they were locked in their meeting place.

When we take of the incorruptible body, then we should be able to do as Jesus did. The physical will not be a hinderence to us. What kind of bodies will we have at the last trumpet? We will find out, if we are obedient to all that is required of us in Scripture including the Ten Commandments, keeping the law of the clean and unclean foods, the Lord's Supper, tithing, etc.

Our salvation is not based on what our bodies will look like at the last trumpet, but by what kind of life we lived through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, but we do know that we will not be in this fleshly body any longer.

THE CHURCH OF GOD IS GOD'S LIGHTHOUSE

BY BOND TENNANT



In these days, too many people do other people wrong and then blame them for not liking it. Too many people disrespect the values they know people have and then act as if the injured are judgemental when they object to being injured.

What happens to people outside the Church also can happen to those in the church. People generally know the values for which the Church of God stands. Too many people, however, live lives that discord with those values, and then get angry because church members notice that they are acting out of harmony with what the church values.

Let us consider the lighthouse and its keeper. Keepers of lighthouses cannot be slouchy in their work, and they must not become sidetracked and fail to maintain their light. Either would cause disastrous shipwrecks.

The Church of God is similar. The Church of God is God's lighthouse which shows the world the right course to follow and how to stay away from obstacles. If the

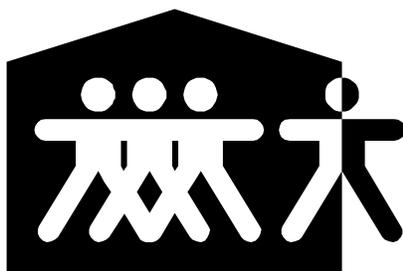
ministers and laity get slouchy or sidetracked, there will be disastrous life wrecks.

People who purposefully don't pay attention to the guiding light of the Church of God, and who live opposed to what it teaches, should not put down the Church because it opposes their behavior.

The Church of God, being true to its calling and service is the true light in this world and must shine for the right and the good. People who want to be right and good will be comfortable with the Church of God. People who neglect it, will find fault with the Church.

Wrongdoers are trapped, and they have a dilemma. They must stop doing wrong, or they must find reasons why the lights that would expose them are disregarded. Most attempt to justify their wrongdoing by attempting to invalidate the church in some manner.

The Church of God cannot compromise! To be true to our Lord, the Church of God has no choice but to radiate righteous values. God promises to bless the Church of God as it does.



Satan's Influence Disrupts True Worship

by Siegfried Maywald

True worship requires genuine respect, honour and praise for what God has done for us to free us from the penalty of sin. Satan tries to hinder or even prevent true worship of the living God during church services. Genuine worship is to the soul what rain is to parched land. It waters it and refreshes. It brings back to life what was ready to

wither and die. Worship and praise encourages and strengthens the believer. It revitalizes body and soul together. Without this type of refreshing "shower" by the word of God, a believer becomes weak and can easily be defeated. It recharges our spiritual "batteries." There is a song that says: "Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go;

Anywhere He leads me in this world below; Anywhere without Him dearest joys would fade; Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid." And another song goes like this; "We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him." This is the way people should gather together to worship and praise God. Unfortunately in many instances, this is not done in reverence. When people attend worship services, they should ask themselves the question: "What is my real purpose for being here? Am I come to truly praise and worship God or do I attend the service for social purposes only?" Let us now begin to address the many ways in which Satan can render a worship service unfruitful and meaningless and how to avoid his influence.

1) **A major problem is preoccupation**

In many congregations, we notice the sickness of coming late for service. It has taken hold because of an apparent lack of interest and or respect toward God as our Creator and sustainer of all life. We see people that come to church to relax and be entertained. Others simply clean their fingernails while their mind wanders elsewhere. Some fall asleep during the pastor's message. While others thoughts linger about the food that they may have left on the stove and whether they had left the stove on or turned off. Some may think of whom to invite for dinner after the service. Again others may have had family quarrels that occurred just before getting ready for church, and the mind is now occupied with finding a solution to resolve the problem. Again others may relate to a video setting to record a TV broadcast or sporting event. And many of the younger folks are sitting together with friends and talk about their special activities for Saturday night. Some people may be preoccupied with what others think or attend to show off their new dress or suit.

Whatever the service time, in many instances, Satan definitely provides something other than worship to engage our minds. Therefore let us always remember that we do not enter the house of the Lord to impress or please people, but that we come to worship and please God. The scriptures tell us that on the day of Pentecost, the people were all together with one accord (Acts 2:11). There were no disinterested or preoccupied people in attendance. Their attention was concentrated on worshipping God and obeying Him in word and deed. They came

to be instructed and learn of God's will toward man. There was no pre-occupational problem of who was present or absent from service. Their attention was not on watching one other, but was directed entirely on the message that the Apostles presented. It is true, we all may fall prey to scan the congregation at times to see who is or is not present, so that we can report the information to others. We also at times may observe others to see their particular reactions to various events that occur in the service - to see if they are listening, singing, talking or sleeping. But for many churchgoers, the favorite preoccupation is to see what others are wearing. This really gets the attention of some folks. How can people like this truly be worshipping God? We see that Satan does his job very well. And by yielding to our own carnality, we become willing participants in Satan's scheme of disrespect.

2) **We see lack of prayer**

If Satan can keep God's people from praying, the worship service will become a mere form and ritual. Many tactics are used by the devil to distract our attention and keep us from praying. In many instances, it also can be connected with inability to recognize that God is our Father, the Creator and sustainer of life. People in our society have it too good. They think that all their accomplishments are their own doing, but forget to realize that God gives them strength, health and many other blessings. They forget that their very existence is completely dependent on God's will toward them. Too much TV, play or sleep likewise hinders the believer's prayer life and may separate us from God. And too much work makes a person tired and unable to comprehend the word of God. God knew that we need rest from our everyday labour to renew the balances of our physical body and also become more receptive to the spiritual realm of God's will. Let us remember that Satan uses whatever works best to lead individuals away from God.

Never forget that prayer prepares us for worship. It turns our mind toward God. We become fully aware and sensitive to His will, and are able to act in accordance to His Spirit. True worship becomes a material part of our being when we communicate with God. A sincere prayer life overcomes the hindrances of Satan, and we get better acquainted with God.

2) **We see pride**

Pride is a strange disease. It irritates and sickens everybody except the person who has it. A proud person is always looking down on other people and thinks of himself as more important. The problem is that as long as the prideful is looking down, he will never recognize anything that is above him and thereby always misses to see the higher or better aspects in the life of others.

Scripture tells us that God hates pride.

"Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:22-23).

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:16).

"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" (Proverb 11:2).

"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom" (Proverbs 13:10).

"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, the froward mouth, do I hate" (Proverbs 8:13).

"Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off" (Psalm 136:6).

Pride builds walls and dislocates the worshiper from the One to be worshiped.

Pride is not easily disposed of and is very difficult to remove from our lives.

Nothing is as hard to do gracefully as getting down off your pinnacle. It takes serious prayer and discipline to control pride and become humble. The only problem is that a person who continues to walk in pride can not truly pray. For God's word tells us that He resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble (James 4:6). The humble can worship the Lord, and their prayer is heard. And we humble ourselves in the house of the Lord, we make glad the heart of God, and He responds. Rejoicing and worship go hand in hand.

4) **Prejudice**

Prejudice hinders worship. To prejudice simply means to prejudge someone or something without sufficient knowledge of facts to make an accurate judgment. Many people

enter the church with prejudice toward them in their congregations - and that not only in regards to racial aspects. We find many kinds of prejudice exercised in a worship service. There are those who wrongfully prejudge others in the church without either cause nor concern.

We see prejudice to those in Church who do not fit into the predetermined mold. They predetermine how worship should be done, and consider their way as the only way. They are very quick to judge the spiritual condition or beliefs of others as being in some way inferior to theirs. When this happens, the result is usually as though someone poured ice water over the congregation. It kills the enthusiasm as well as the Spirit of God in them. True worship ends for all those practicing prejudice. And a congregation that is infected with the carnally diseased, prejudiced spirit, loses the working power of the Holy Spirit of God. Its worship becomes ineffective and meaningless, because people sense the dislike and prejudgmental attitude, become disenchanted and may even leave the congregation. Also the judging should be left to God.

In Matthew 7:1-5 we are told:

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrit, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

In I Samuel 16:7 we are further instructed: "But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart".

We have to realize and accept that different people worship in different ways, not everyone fits the same mold. Each person has his own unique relationship with God. Therefore let us not judge, but encourage one another for we all have to stand in front of the judgment seat of God and give account of our action. We cannot rely only on what the pastor said or what the church in general be-

lieves, but it is up to us to verify if that what we heard is in agreement with the truth or not. For every believer is responsible toward God in what he or she does and says and should enter the house of God with the express purpose and desire to worship the Lord in spirit and in the truth! He should so come to God in trust with the intrust to praise, edify and bless!

5) **Presumption**

Presumption means to presume, to take things for granted. We have to realize the manifestation of God's presence is not an automatic occurrence, but involves the presence of the Holy Spirit of God within our hearts. Satan tries to lull us into an apathetic approach toward allowing God to manifest His presence in our worship service. He wants us not to concern ourselves with such matters as personal conviction and involvement. But God's Holy Spirit must be present to guarantee an effective and enriching worship service. We must invite God's Holy Spirit in a prayerful attitude, but so often we just rush into church at the last minute or even later and take a seat. To invite the presence of God's Holy Spirit takes a purposeful, concentrated effort. A display sign in front of the building does not guarantee the presence of God's Holy Spirit. A building cannot prepare itself. It has no personality, no heart. Therefore people have to prepare themselves to the presence of the Lord with all their heart and mind. It involves self examination, the removing of all evil thoughts from our lives before we come into church. Preparation is also not found in trusting a certain personality or leader to do the right thing, but takes place in each individual believers heart. Preparing the way man is to free himself from evil. Sin must be removed. It may involve soul searching and repentance on the part to the believer.

Many people in our society today are seeking to know God. They want to experience His presence in their lives. Many are hurting and struggle within their efforts to fulfill the tasks in their daily lives. They like to find peace and rest if they can. They need to heed the invitation of God.

In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus tells us: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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 is light."

A yoke is a heavy wooden harness that is usually fitted over the shoulder of oxen with the attachment of equipment for them to pull. A person may be carrying a similar burden on his or her shoulders. There may be sins he committed, it may be demands in his professional life or even pressures in his personal life between family and friends. Jesus invites him to unleash his burdens to Him. His word promises him relief, peace, hope, love and healing within his soul and His load is not heavy. Jesus cares and loves him and wants him to listen to what He has to say to him through the scriptures. Therefore we need genuine and enriching church services wherein people can receive God's blessing and find peace, confidence and relief from the pressure in their every day life. Only the presence of Believers who truly love and care for the well being of their fellow members can accomplish this mission. We must not allow Satan to hinder this work nor the worship of God, especially now when the need is so great, and our Lord's return so imminent.

May God Almighty give you understanding and a humble spirit to worship in truth of heart and mind.

THE ARAB ANIMOSITY TOWARDS ISRAEL

BY DELL STOUT

1. THE ORIGIN

a. The spiritual origin began when Lucifer (Satan)

rebelled against God.

b. The physical origin began with mankind's lack of faith and trust in God when Sarah talked Abraham into



obtaining an heir through her bondmaid, Hagar the Egyptian. The result was Ishmael. (Genesis 16:1-16). God told Abraham that He would make him fruitful and make nations and kings out of him; and that all the land of Canaan would be an everlasting possession and that He (God) would be their God, indicating the Israeli possession of Canaan after the children of Israel's exodus from Egypt. God further told Abraham that Sarah would bear Abraham a son and his name would be Isaac; that God would establish His covenant with him, Isaac, for an everlasting covenant and with his seed after him. God said as for Ishmael, "Behold I have blessed him and made him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly, twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will be established with Isaac." When Isaac was weaned Abraham made a great feast the same day. Sarah saw Ishmael mocking Isaac and asked Abraham to cast out the bondwoman, and her son and God told Abraham to listen to Sarah, for in Isaac thy (Abraham's) seed shall be called. So Abraham went with Hagar and Ishmael away into the wilderness, where God miraculously preserved their lives. Ishmael dwelt in the wilderness of Paran, with his mother and took him a wife out of the land of Egypt (Genesis 21:1-21). Isaac took Rebekah to wife, who bare him twin sons Esau and Jacob. Esau was the first born or the elder of the two. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob (Genesis 26:25-34). Esau took to wife Judith and Bashemath which were a grief to Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 26:34-35). Through the connivance of Rebekah, Jacob stole Esau's blessing from Isaac when Isaac was old. Esau was told by Isaac that he, Esau, would live by the sword and serve Jacob and that his (Esau's) dwelling would be fatness of the earth. Esau hated Jacob similar to the way Ishmael hated Isaac because of the blessing wherewith his father, Isaac, had blessed Jacob (Genesis 27:1-41). When Esau saw that Isaac had told Jacob to not take a wife of the Cannanites and Jacob obeyed him (Isaac), then Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahlath, Ishmael's daughter to wife (Genesis 28:6-9). Esau is the father of the Edomites (Genesis 36:1-43). The descendants of Ishmael and of Esau would not be of the Israeli lineage. So there was animosity between Ishmael

and Isaac as well as Esau and Jacob and their descendants which has continued until the present time.

2. THE BUILD UP

Time passed and things continued on until the appearance of Muhammed. He was born in Mecca around AD 569. Because the climate of Mecca was considered to be unhealthful, he was given as an infant to a wet nurse from a nomadic tribe and spent some time in the desert. At age 6 he lost his mother and at 8, his grandfather. His Grandfather had been head of the prestigious Hashem (Hashim) clan and was prominent in Mecca politics. Muhammed came under the care of the new head of the clan, his uncle About Talib, and is reputed to have accompanied him on trading journeys to Syria. About 595 he met a woman Kahadijah of the clan of Asad, who was so impressed by him that she offered marriage. She was a rich woman of about 40. She bare Muhammed two sons and four daughters.

Muhammed appears to have been of a reflective nature and is said to have adopted the habit of occasionally spending a night in a cave near Mecca. About 610, the reflected Muhammed had a vision of a majestic being and heard a voice saying "You are the messenger of God." This marked the beginning of his career as messenger of God (result Allah), or prophet (nabi). From this time, at frequent intervals until his death he received "revelations" that is, verbal messages, that he believed came directly from God. Sometimes these were kept in memory by Muhammed and his followers, and sometimes they were written down. About AD 650 they were collected and written in the Quran (or Koran, the sacred scriptures of Islam) in the form that has endured until the present time. Muslims believe that the Quran is the very words of God himself. In 613 Muhammed began preaching publicly.

The traditional starting point of Islamic history, the Islamic Era, begins on July 16, 622. About 624 Muhammed changed his general policy in many respects. One important aspect was his break with the Jews. Beforehand, the Muslims had faced towards Jerusalem in prayer, but a revelation now bade them turn to face Mecca.

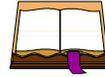
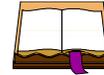
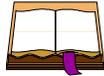
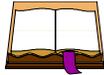
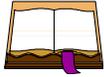
Muhammed's chief significance is as founder of a state and a religion. In his lifetime 567-632, he created federation of Arab tribes, which is less than 20 years after his death defeated the Byzantine and Persian empires, occupied a vast territory from Libya to Persia, and then developed into the Arabic or Islamic Empire. Arab energies would not have achieved what they did had it not been for Muhammed's gifts in handling men and his farsightedness as a statesman. The religion of Islam presently has close to a billion adherents of several different races, and is the basis of Arab unity. All from the descendants of Ishmael and Esau. If you are a Moslem (Muslim) you have to behave according to the rules of Islam which are set down in the Koran and are very different from the Bible.

Islam was born with the idea it should rule the world. The world is described to the Moslem as Dar-al-Islam (the house of Islam) where Islam rules and the other part which is called Dar-al-Harb (the house of war); not the "house of non-Muslims" but the "house of war". It is this "house of war" which is to be conquered at the end time and comes under Islamic rule. This state of war is the norm. Why? Because Allah says so in the Koran. Moslems believe Allah sent Mohammed (Huhammad) with the true religion in order that the "truth" will overcome all other religions. Quoting from the books that are read by every Islamic children in their school "Allah will give mouths to the rocks and the trees and they will say Oh Moslem come here, there is a Jew hiding behind me, kill him". Peace in Islam can exist only with the Islamic world. Peace can only be between Moslem and Moslem. With the non-Moslem world or Non-Muslim opponents, there can be only one solution - a cease fire until Muslims can gain more power. It is an eternal war until the end of days. Peace can only come if the Islamic see wins. Any territory that comes under Islamic rule can not be de-Islamized, even if at one time or another the (non-Moslem) enemy takes over a territory that was under Islamic rule, it is considered to be perpetually Islamic. That is why presently you hear about the Arab/Israeli conflict, you hear - territory, territory, territory.

3. THE ENDING

As previously stated, to the Moslem, the ending will be when all the Jews and Christians are killed. Since God will not allow Israel to be destroyed, let us see what the Bible says about the Arabs at the end time. We are told that all nations will come against Jerusalem to battle; that the spirits of devils working miracles will gather from the kings of the earth an army of 200,000,000 to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Jerusalem will be taken, houses rifled, the women ravished and half of the city (Jerusalem) shall go forth into captivity and the residue of the people will remain. Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations as when he fought in the day of battle and his feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a great valley and half of the mountain shall remove of the north and half to the south. There will be a plague whereby the Lord will smite ALL the people that have fought against Jerusalem. Their flesh shall consume away while they stand on their feet and their eyes shall consume away in their holes and their tongues shall consume away in their mouth. This will occur during the sixth and seventh plagues that the angels of God will pour out on the earth. The saints will have previously been reaped from the earth and be in the New Jerusalem the sea of glass, to only witness all this, not be in it. This is all covered in the Books of Jeremiah, Amos, Joel, Ezekiel, Zechariah and Revelation in the standard King James Version of the Bible. Thus there is a decided difference to what happens to the Arab and the Jew from what is depicted in the Koran. We want to make sure of our relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ such that we will be in the New Jerusalem, on the sea of glass, during the Plagues.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES



"These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honorable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few" (Acts 17:11-12).

The Apostle Paul had been in Thessalonica. Then he went to Berea. According to his custom, he visited a synagogue of the Jews, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them out of the Scriptures (Acts 17:20). The Greek word in this account, which is translated 'reasoned' is *dialogomai*, meaning a dialog, or discussion. This Greek word appears in various other Scriptures. This emphasis that this method of proclaiming the truth was then in common use.

The dialog or discussion method of proclaiming the truth is not generally used today. However, it is still an excellent one because it helps the interested listeners to find answers to their own questions. It was by reasoning or discussing the message of the Scriptures with his hearers that Paul opened up those Scriptures to them.

Doubtless, many important features of the truth were explained to these devout Jews. However the highlight of Paul's reasoning seems to have been, "This Jesus whom I preach unto you, is Christ." A mob formed by the opponents of Paul's teaching in Thessalonica caused a riot, and forced the brethren to send Paul away. Read Acts 17:5-10.

The Apostle Paul always went to a synagogue first in entering a new city, and upon arriving in Berea, he lost no time in locating one. Here he found some who were very susceptible to the truth, and "more noble than those in Thessalonica (Acts 17:11). The Greek word here translated 'noble' seems to suggest persons of noble birth. However, true nobility implies reasonableness, as is distinguished from prejudice. Actually, those of so-called 'noble birth' are often the least susceptible the truth.

The Bereans were reasonable. From this standpoint, they were truly 'noble' because they welcomed the ser-

vants of God who drew their attention particularly to the things written, and showed the Gospel they were proclaiming was the same good news which had been previously expressed by the prophets. With all readiness of mind, these Bereans began to examine the Scriptures not merely on the Sabbath day, but daily to determine how well Paul's reasonings and arguments were supported by the testimony of the Law and the prophets.

Many of the noble Bereans accepted the good tidings. Compared with those of Thessalonica, these Bereans were more generous and noble in their feelings. They were more disposed to inquire candidly into the teachings being advanced to them. They did not reject it as unworthy of examination.

It was proper that the Bereans should search the Scriptures to make sure that the teachings of Paul agree with the inspired record. It is also our obligation now to search the Scriptures, to prove whether the teachings being advanced to us are true or false. We are to, "Prove all things; held fast to that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:121). "To the law and of the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).

The entire testimony of the Scriptures is harmonious, whether it be communicated by the Law, the prophets, the Lord Jesus Christ, or the apostles. This harmony is one of the proofs of the Divine inspiration of the Bible. The testimony of Jesus and the prophets reveal things new and also confirms the old. Therefore, the entire Word of God becomes increasingly stimulating the more we study it in sincerity and in truth.

If we are like the noble Bereans, we also will zealously and daily search the Scriptures. We will have in mind that the full testimony of the word is to be our guide. The Apostle Paul wrote, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good

works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

In order to possess the spirit of truth, we must have a knowledge of the truth. On the other hand, one might have a knowledge of the Scriptures but be sadly lacking in the spirit of the truth which is an essential part of the walk of the child of God. It is necessary to come into heart harmony with the truth. It is necessary to have mental accord and cooperation with God's will as expressed in the Word of God. These things can only be obtained by first accepting the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour, and then consecrating ourselves unreservedly to do God's will.



Confession



Contributed

The word, confession, is a good Bible word! Confession needs to be emphasized.

What do we confess?

We confess our sins. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). John was writing to children of God. He was not writing to sinners. The Amplified Bible defines confession close to its root meaning as "freely admit."

When it comes to confession, Christians are taught everything from automatic forgiveness of every spiritual failure to the other extreme of feeling utterly condemned over every failure. John wrote about sins in I John 1:9. They must be confessed, or there is no forgiveness. If an individual is truly walking in the light of the Lord, he will be aware of his sins that need to be confessed.

We also confess Jesus Christ as our Lord. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9). It is possible that one can believe intellectually that Jesus is the Christ and still not be saved. Even Satan and his fallen angels believe in this way, but they are not saved! They do not confess Jesus to be their Lord. Jesus must become our Lord in order for us to be saved. This means not only confessing him to be the Son of God but accepting him as our personal Savior and Lord. We must be-

In due time, the privilege of proclaiming the truth will come to us. We may find it effective to use much the same method as did the Apostle Paul, the reasoning or dialog method.

Not many have the opportunity of proclaiming the truth in lecture from the public platform. However, we can all find opportunities to reason with those with whom we come in contact. We will set forth to them the good news and encourage them to read the word and meditate upon it. Thus, we will prove ourselves to be "... a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

lieve, but we should also confess what we believe.

We confess God's promises. God's promises are His Word. According to Hebrews 11:13-16, there are established principles for confessing his promises. Let us quote it. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a city" (Hebrews 11:13-16). Notice that they had faith in His promises. They were persuaded of His promises, and they embraced His promises.

But this group did not live to see or experience the fulfillment of God's promises. In this, we are taught not to confess just to get a reward. We confess God's Word because it is His Word. Even when everything seems to fail and we do not receive the promise, we still confess the Word.

Some have endeavored to bypass godly principles by making confession a formula. This twisting of Scripture results in unfortunate experiences. One young man was said to have been confessing a Mercedes,...with a Volkswagon faith!

The difference between the principles of faith and a mere formula is this. If we are using a mere formula, we finalize our confession, and then we lay the formula aside. The faith principle cannot be laid aside, even when they seem to fail. The believers described in Hebrews 11 all died confessing that God had prepared for them a city. They died without seeing it, but they never stopped confessing His promise. His promise was more than just a formula. It was a principle. In the first resurrection, all of God's true children will enter that city, the New Jerusalem.

When do we confess?

Romans 10:9 implies that confession which leads to salvation is done continually. Scholars all agree that the Greek word which is translated confession is a continuous action word. It is not sufficient to have confessed Jesus as Lord yesterday or the day before. We must continually confess His Lordship over our lives. If we would learn to confess Jesus as Lord every day, there would be no backsliders in the church!

We should maintain a positive confession of God's Word even in negative situations. Jesus taught that by our words we shall be justified and by our words we shall be condemned. Children of God can let their light shine in a dark world only by being positive. In fact as children of God, we are the only ones who have eternal hope, and we can share our hope by a positive lifestyle.

There once was a pastor always complaining about how difficult things were in this city. He complained of the shallowness of his church members and of all the problems of his church. He finally said, "It's so bad I don't know what I'm going to do." Someone asked him if he believed God could do all things. He answered in the affirmative. Then someone told him, "But you did not say that! You said you didn't know what you were going to do. A Christian would trust God!"

We confess, admit to, and acknowledge God's Word before the trial ever comes! Speaking God's promises well ahead of any kind of trial will prepare us to go through that situation. If the doctor says you have cancer, that is devastating news. And if you have not already been confessing constantly that Jesus is your healer, it is going to be more difficult to confess Him now! The Apostle Paul said, "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" (II Corinthians 5:7). The five senses will fail us where spiritual truths are concerned. We must learn to go beyond the

senses by speaking God's promises to our minds before we need them. If we will confess God's Word before we need it, God will bless us.

How do we confess?

We confess with praise, with thanksgiving, and with worship. In both Hebrew and Greek, confession has a dual meaning. The Hebrew word *yadah* means "to confess with worship." It means coming to God with an open hand as opposed to a closed one. The word *Judah* means "a confessor, one who acknowledges God and confesses that all good comes from His hand, giving Him praise that is due His grace and mercy." (Adam Clarke Commentary)

We cannot confess for a better job while complaining about the one we have. We must thank God everyday that we have a job! We must stop trying to pray for a better car while constantly complaining about the bucket of bolts we are driving. We cannot confess for better health while being constant complainers.

The salvation of our souls is impossible without confession. Jesus taught that if you confess Him before men, He will confess you before the Father and the angels. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32). "Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8).

Other Scriptures relating to the confession of Christ "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue" (John 12:42).

"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of Antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world" (I John 4:2-3).

Another Scripture relating to the confession of sin

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed: the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

- Contributed



THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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

The following article was taken from the Houston Chronicle.

**Study: TV might 'rewire' the brains
of young children
by Lindsey Tanner
Associated Press**

CHICAGO - Young children who watch television face an increased risk of attention deficit problems by school age, a study has found, suggesting that TV might overstimulate and permanently "rewire" the developing brain.

For every hour of television watched daily, two groups of children - ages 1 and 3 - faced a 10 percent increased risk of having attention problems at age 7.

The findings bolster previous research showing that television can shorten attention spans and support American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations that children younger than 2 not watch television.

"The truth is there are lots of reasons for children not to watch television. Other studies have shown it to be associated with obesity and aggressiveness": too, said lead author Dr. Dimitri Christakis, a researcher at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle.

The study, appearing in the April issue of Pediatrics, involved 1,345 children who participated in government - sponsored national health surveys. Their parents were questioned about the children's TV viewing habits and halted their behavior at age 7 on a scale similar to measures used in diagnosing attention deficit disorders.

The researchers lacked data on whether the youngsters we diagnosed with attention deficit disorders, but the number of children whose parents rated them as hav-

ing attention problems - 10 percent - is similar to the prevalence in the general population, Christakis said.

Problems include difficulty concentrating, acting restless and impulsive and being easily confused.

In a pediatrics editorial, educational psychologist Jane Healy said the study "is important and long overdue" but needs to be followed up to confirm and better explain the mechanisms that may be involved.

The researchers didn't know what shows the children watched, but Christakis said content likely isn't the culprit. In stead, he said, unethically fast-paced visual images typical of most TV programming may alter normal brain development.

"The newborn brain develops very rapidly during the first two to three years of life. It's really being wired" during that time, Christakis said.

"We know from studies of newborn rats that if you expose them to different levels of visual stimuli...the architecture of the brain looks very different" depending on the amount of stimulation, he said.

Overstimulating during this critical period "can create habits of the mind that are ultimately deleterious," Christiakis said. If this story holds true, the brain changes likely are permanent, but children with attention problems can be taught to compensate, the said,

The researchers considered factors other than TV that might have made some children prone to attention problems, including their home environment and mother's mental states.

Jennifer Kotlr, assistant director for research at Sesame Workshop, which produces educational children's television programs including Sesame Street, questioned whether the result in the April Pediatrics would apply to educational programming.

"We do not ignore this research, " but more is needed on variable that could affect the impact of early exposure to television, including whether content or watching TV with a parent makes a difference, Kotler said.

"There's a lot of research that supports the positive benefits of educational programming," she said.

Comment

It is believed that American children watch an average of three to four hours of television daily. Television can influence the development of value systems. It can also shape a child's behavior.

Much of today's programs on television are violent. Many studies of the effects of TV violence on children and teenagers have found that children may:

1. Become immune to the horror of violence
2. Gradually accept violence as a way to solve problems
3. Imitate the violence they observe on television
4. Identify with certain characters victims and/or victimizers

While TV violence is not the only cause of aggressive or violent behavior, it is a clearly significant factor.

Parents can protect children from excessive TV violence:

1. Pay attention to the programs their children are watching. Watch the programs with them.
2. Set limits on the amount of time they spend with the television. Remove the TV set from the child's bedroom.
3. Point out although the actor has not actually been hurt or killed, such violence in real life results in pain or death.
4. Refuse to let the children see shows known to be violent. Change the channel or turn off the TV set when offensive material comes on. Give an explanation as to what is wrong with the program.

Facts About Christmas Traditions Supposedly Found In The Bible Compiled by Bond Tennant

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ was born in December. In December, it is the winter season, rainy and cold. The shepherds do not keep their flocks out at night grazing in the winter. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." It was customary for the shepherds to herd their flocks and take them in after the middle of October

and release them in the early spring. Therefore, the Luke 2 account of the birth of Jesus could not have been in December. No one knows the exact date when Jesus was born.

2. We must observe the birthday of Jesus.

There is no command in the Bible to observe the birthday of Jesus. It is a common belief that the angels and shepherds worshiped Jesus. When we read Luke 2:13-20, we find that when the angels announced this to the shepherds, they, and the angels, said "GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST," in other words-the Heavenly Father. When the shepherds went to Bethlehem, they returned the Bible says, "A GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD", for what they had seen.

Jesus never did glorify Himself. When the rich young ruler came asking Him about salvation and saying, "Good master, what must I do to be saved", Jesus first responded by saying, "..., Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into eternal life, keep the commandments" (Matthew 19:17).

3. There were three wise men.

There is not one record in the Bible of there being three wise men. The Bible says in Matthew 2:1 that there came wise men from the east. The fact is that they brought three gifts-gold, frankincense and myrrh.

4. The wise men brought the gifts to a manger.

The Bible clearly states and records in Scripture in Matthew 2:7-16, that the wise men followed the star, and that is why the Bible says they presented the gifts to Jesus in a house as a young child. Jesus could have been as much as two years old when the men finally arrived.

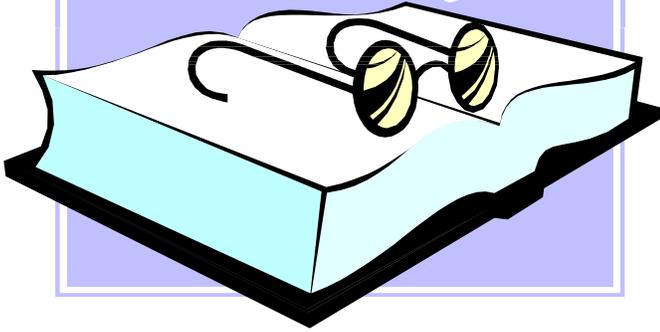
5. The wise men came to worship the child.

The Scriptures says the wise men came to worship the king of the Jews in Matthew 2:2. It was Herod who wanted to worship "THE CHILD". Read Matthew 2:8. True children of God will worship the king, but others will worship the child. Satan wants the eyes of people on a baby, but our Father wants our eyes on the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ!

Very few study the Holy Word of God to see what is true. They just take things that men teach them and grow up learning lies and false doctrine. They crucify those who speak the truth. This is what the Pharisees, the religious men who said their father was God in heaven did. They crucified the Son of God all in the name of God. This is deception, and we must open our eyes!

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: What is the plan of God for the world?

Answer: Centuries ago God caused one of His prophets to write, "And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:7). Nations desire to have peace with security and happiness. However, human wisdom has been unable to deal with the problems of selfishness in a manner to safeguard the peace of nations. The world seems further today than ever before from solving its problems in spite of all the advantages of modern education and enlightenment. Sincere efforts are made by the democracies to defend themselves against aggression. Still no workable formula has been found to deal with the fundamental causes of war. God has a plan while all human plans for lasting peace are failing! Be certain that His plan will be successfully carried out! God's plan is just as certain to be successfully carried out in all its details as that the sun will rise tomorrow morning for the living! God Himself has said, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). God also said, "For the Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? And his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?" (Isaiah 14:27) The Bible records God's plan for everlasting human happiness.

However, some may tell us that the Bible is not very dependable. They may say that it is like an old fiddle on

which any tune can be played. This is not true. Yes, it is possible to find passages of Scripture which can be used to support almost any theory human ingenuity is able to devise. This merely represents a misuse of the Bible, and does not mean that the Bible itself is contradictory and unreliable.

A plan is something that consists of more than just a single element. A plan of an architect for a building consists of drawings and specification descriptive of its several floors, including styles of plumbing, decoration, arrangement of rooms, etc. Unless each floor of the building is to be identical to every other floor, necessarily the drawings and specification for any given floor do not harmonize with the details of the other floors. This does not mean that the architect is incompetent, nor his plans and specifications are contradictory.

Like the plan of a building, God's plan is made up of many parts. God's plan, however, embraces time and ages instead of different floors. God's plan has steadily progressed toward completion through each time and age. Man kind will be able to appreciate the wisdom, justice, love and power of God only when it is completed.

The preparatory feature of His plan have all been related to one harmonious program. However, they have varied in detail. In our study of the Bible, it is necessary to properly apply its promises and prophecies, else there will be seeming contradictions. The part of God's plan which was developed before Christ's first advent was different from that which God has been doing since. His plans for the establishment of His literal kingdom on earth differ from what is being done today.

Let us consider an example to illustrate this point. There is a prophecy which applies to Christ. The Heavenly fa-

ther says to his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, "Ask of me , and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the utter most parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Psalm 2:8-9).

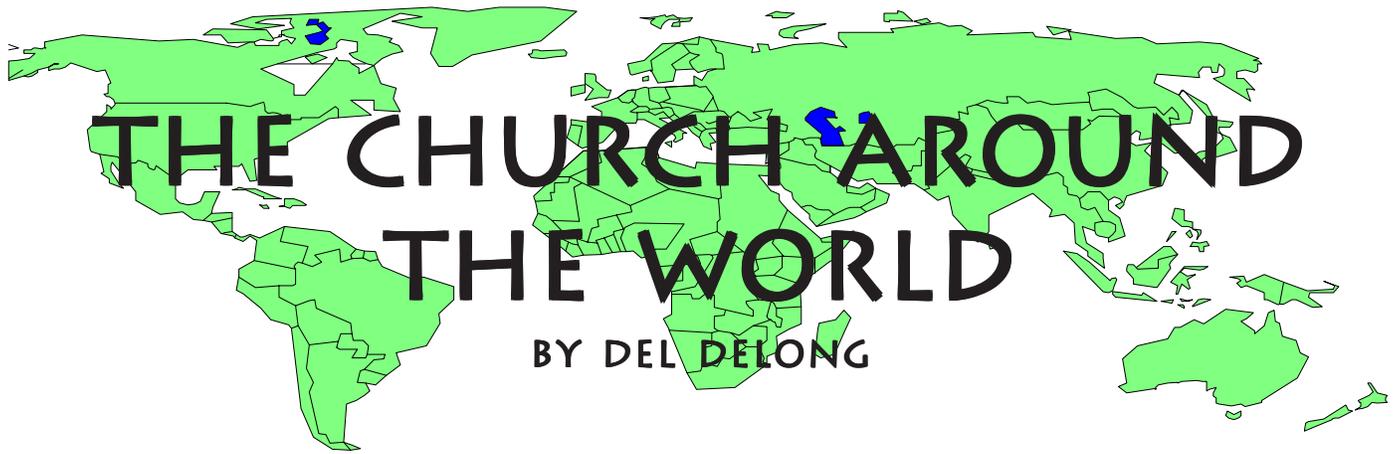
When Jesus was on earth He did not ask for the nations of the world. Contrary to that, He said, "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine" (John 17:9). This does not mean that the prophecy of the second psalm is not in harmony with what Christ actually did!

In Revelation 2:26-27, Jesus quotes a portion of the second psalm and applies it to His church, promising that they are to share with Him in ruling the nations with a rod of iron. "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will give I power over the nations; And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers; even as I received of my Father." Thereof are many other New Testament promises to the followers of the Master which show that they are to be joint-heirs with Him in His inheritance of the nations. Revelation 2:26-27 is in harmony with them. Also read Romans 8:17 and II Timothy 2:12. When the time element is applied to these apparently conflicting Scriptures, they become harmonious. Jesus will possess and rule the nations, but first there is the work of calling and preparing those who will be partners with Him in that rulership. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6). The disciples of Jesus are promised a high reward. That is because they are invited to follow Him at a time when it calls for self-sacrificing effort to do so. Jesus gave His disciples the promise, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). Blessings of health, happiness prosperity, security and peace are the promises that will be fulfilled during the kingdom period. These are earthly promises which will come to mankind. But the promises that are made to the followers of Christ are of a higher and spiritual character. Their fulfillment to the individual child of God of this age is dependent upon his faithfulness in laying down his life in the service of the Master. We are invited to suffer and die

with Christ. Those who will are inspired with the promise that they shall in the future live and reign with Him. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the soul of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4). Christ aided by the faithful, will be the King over the whole earth ruling that thousand year period. He will supplant the present ruler of the world who is Satan. During that time, peace and understanding will be promoted among the nations. Selfishness will not be allowed to reign in human hearts. The motivating power of human activity will become love instead of selfishness. Instead of trying to get the best of one another, man will give their best to one another. Therefore, all cause for this harmony and strife will be removed. Sickness will be destroyed. "And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity" (Isaiah 33:24). These promises have not yet been fulfilled because it is not yet time in God's plan. We believe the time is now near so we continue to pray, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." This is God's plan for the world!

Question: Does the statement found in Philippians 3:19, "whose God is their belly," refer to what we eat and drink, or other things?

Answer: The Apostle Paul is trying to tell the Philippian brethren that their desire for fellowship with other people is dangerous. Fellowship is a good thing if we walk by the same rules. "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be other wise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, where unto to we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing" (Philippians 3:15-16). Paul continues to tell of the necessity for a unity walk, but the truth is NOT to be compromised for the sake of unity. Read verses 17 and 19. Those that say unity is of more value than the truth are doing work that is not glorifying to God but only to themselves. They make their minds at ease for they know the doctrines of God and Christ, and if they create unity with believers and say the doctrines are not necessary are only filling their bellies so that they feel good themselves and cover up the feeling that they are the ones going to be lost.



India

New churches are being constructed in India. The following photographs depict the work that is being done in the different areas.

Church at Pathangaram



Dedication of the Church in Chinna Gopathi



Church under construction in Gangaram



Church under construction at Paloncha



Church under construction at Prashanthnagar



LESSON I

RUTH GLEANS IN THE FIELD OF BOAZ

Scripture Reading: Ruth 2:1-23.

Golden Text: Ruth 2:8.

"Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned that Naomi, her husband, and two sons dwelt in the land of Moab. After the death of her husband and sons, she and Ruth, her daughter-in-law, returned to Bethlehem to live.

1. Where did Ruth work after she returned to Bethlehem? Ruth 2:1-3.
2. Did Boaz see Ruth in the field and ask who she was? Ruth 2:4-6.
3. What did Boaz tell Ruth to do? Ruth 2:8-9.
4. When Ruth asked Boaz why she had found favor in his sight, what was his reply? Ruth 2:10-12.
5. What did Boaz command his young men to do for Ruth? Ruth 2:15-17.
6. Who did Naomi tell Ruth Boaz was? Ruth 2:20-22.
7. Did Ruth continue to glean in the field until the end of the barley harvest? Ruth 2:23.

LESSON II

MARRIAGE OF RUTH AND BOAZ

Scripture Reading: Ruth 4:1-18.

Golden Text: Ruth 4:13.

"So Boaz took Ruth and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her concep-

tion, and she bare a son."

NOTE: We learned in our last lesson how Ruth met Boaz while she was gleaning in the field. In chapter 3, you may read about the courtship of Boaz and Ruth. Their marriage led to the formation of the family that was to produce the Saviour.

1. When Boaz went up to the gate, whom did he meet? Ruth 4:1.
2. How many of the elders of the city sat with them? Ruth 4:2.
3. What did Boaz say to the kinsman? Ruth 4:3-5.
4. Could the kinsman redeem the inheritance? Ruth 4:6.
5. What was the custom in Israel concerning redeeming and changing? Ruth 4:7.
6. What did the kinsman tell Boaz to do, and did Boaz comply? Ruth 4:8-9.
7. Did Boaz take Ruth for his wife? Ruth 4:10-13.
8. Ruth bore a son by Boaz. What was his name, and who was his nurse? Ruth 4:16-17.

LESSON III

THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 1:1-28.

Golden Text: I Samuel 1:20.

"Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord."

NOTE: We have finished the study of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz. Now we will study about another young child, Samuel, and how he was used of the Lord as a prophet.

1. Who was Hannah, and what was her husband's name?
I Samuel 1:1-2.

NOTE: Hannah's husband loved her very much, but she was unable to have children.

2. Did it grieve Hannah because she could not have any children? I Samuel 1:8-10.

3. What was the vow which Hannah made to the Lord in her prayer? I Samuel 1:11.

4. What did Eli, the priest, think was wrong with Hannah as she uttered her prayer to the Lord? I Samuel 1:13-15.

5. What did Eli then tell her to do? I Samuel 1:17.

6. Did the Lord answer Hannah's plea to Him? I Samuel 1:18-19.

7. What did Hannah do when Samuel was old enough to be weaned? I Samuel 1:24-28.

NOTE: God gave Hannah a child and in return Hannah kept her promise to God. It is important to remember what we should also keep any promises that we make to God. God always keeps His promises.

LESSON IV

SAMUEL'S MINISTRY

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 2:1-36.

Golden Text: I Samuel 2:26.

"And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the Lord, and also with men."

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned about the birth of Samuel, and how he was dedicated to the Lord by his mother. Now we shall study about Samuel's ministry.

1. Let us read again verses 1-8. These are beautiful words of praise by Hannah. Tell about some of the descriptions

she gave of God.

2. Eli was a priest of the Lord. Did his sons know the Lord? Samuel 2:12.

3. What was the priest's custom with the people? I Samuel 2:13-17.

4. Did Samuel minister before the Lord, and what did his mother make for him each year? I Samuel 2:18-19.

5. Did the Lord bless Elkanah and Hannah? I Samuel 2:20-21.

6. The sons of Eli were very wicked as you may read in I Samuel 2:22-24.

7. A man of God came unto Eli, and what did he tell him would happen to his house? I Samuel 2:27-34.

8. Who was to be raised up in this place? I Samuel 2:35-36.

NAME GAME

R. C. Craig

Unjumble the biblical names and write them on the correct blanks in the right column. The letters which appear in squares, when in proper order, will spell one answer. Those in circles will spell the other.

1. HIPLIP

2. TREEP

3. AGRAH

4. SOIL

The

was angry; was weak.

"It is not our part to be looking at the little fingers against us, but at the great arm that is of us. Those whose the great arm need not fear ten thousand little fingers."

Answers: 1. Philip 2. Peter 3. Hagar 4. Lord High priest, Pilate

ROGER, SUE AND THE MARBLES

Roger and Sue were always playing together, sometimes in the sandpile in Roger's backyard, sometimes in Sue's little playhouse or sometimes, especially on rainy days, in the basement of one of the houses.

One day, when their mothers thought that they were playing in Sue's playhouse, they ran off down the street and into the "five and ten" store. As Roger walked by one of the counters, he picked up a bag of marbles and put them in his pocket. Sue, very surprised, looked at Roger and said, "Why, Roger, you must pay for that."

"Hush," said Roger, "Why should I bother to pay for it? No one but you saw me take it, so what harm did it do?"

Sue started to protest again, but Roger said, "Be still!" So Sue obediently kept silent.

As Sue went back home with Roger, she said, "Roger, why did you take those marbles? Don't you know that it is really stealing? The Bible says in the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not steal."

"What difference does it make," asked Roger, "As long as no one saw me? Come-on, Sue, Let's play with marbles. We can have lots of fun with them," Roger started rolling the marbles to Sue. At first, Sue started playing with Roger, but then she became all choked up inside. She jumped up and sobbing ran from the house and up to her room. There she threw herself onto her bed and thought and thought about what Roger had done. "I wonder what Jesus thinks," said little Sue to herself, "I wonder if Jesus still loves Roger."

Later that day, Sue went over to Roger's home, and his mother gave them some delicious warm sugar cookies and cold milk. As the two children were eating, Mrs. Terry, Roger's mother, said, "Did you children have fun this morning? What did you do?"

"We played in Sue's playhouse" said Roger very quickly.

"But, Roger-" , Sue started to protest, but Roger looked at her sternly and shook his head very hard. Little Sue was so surprised and confused that she didn't know what to do or say, so she stopped talking.

That night as Sue went to bed, she thought of all that had happened that day. "I wonder why Roger stole and lied today," she said to herself. "Perhaps Satan told him to, because our Sabbath School teacher said that Satan tries to make little children do things wrong so they won't be saved. Tears trickled down the little girls face as she thought what a nice little boy Roger used to be, and how terrible it would be if he became bad and did not see their dear Savior face to face someday, and did not have a home in that joyful kingdom that God has promised to good people.

Then Sue knelt by her bedside and with her little heart aching, she prayed to God:

"Dear Father in heaven, please do not let Roger be a bad boy. Touch his heart and show him that it is wrong to steal and lie. Help him to remember that song we sang in Sabbath School, "Come Into My Heart, Lord Jesus". And please, dear Lord, do not let Satan enter into his heart. Help me also, dear Father to always be good, and please forgive us both of all our sins."

Then Sue jumped into her little bed, and with a joyful heart. "I know that God will take care of it all now, because He truly answers prayer, and Jesus said in the Bible, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not: for such is the kingdom of God."

The next day, Sue and Roger were playing in Roger's sandpile when suddenly Roger said, "Do you think I should take those marbles back, and then tell mother what we really did?"

Sue said, "Yes, Roger, I think you should. You said that no one saw you, but actually the most important one saw, because Jesus watches us all the time, and He knows when we do bad."

"I've been thinking about that , Sue," said Roger, "and I didn't sleep very well last night, either. Let's go tell Mother and take the marbles back right now.

"Okay," said Sue happily, thinking how wonderfully God had answered prayer. Down the street skipped Roger and Sue, hand in hand, singing their song:

"Into my heart,
Into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today,
Come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus."

COLORWISE

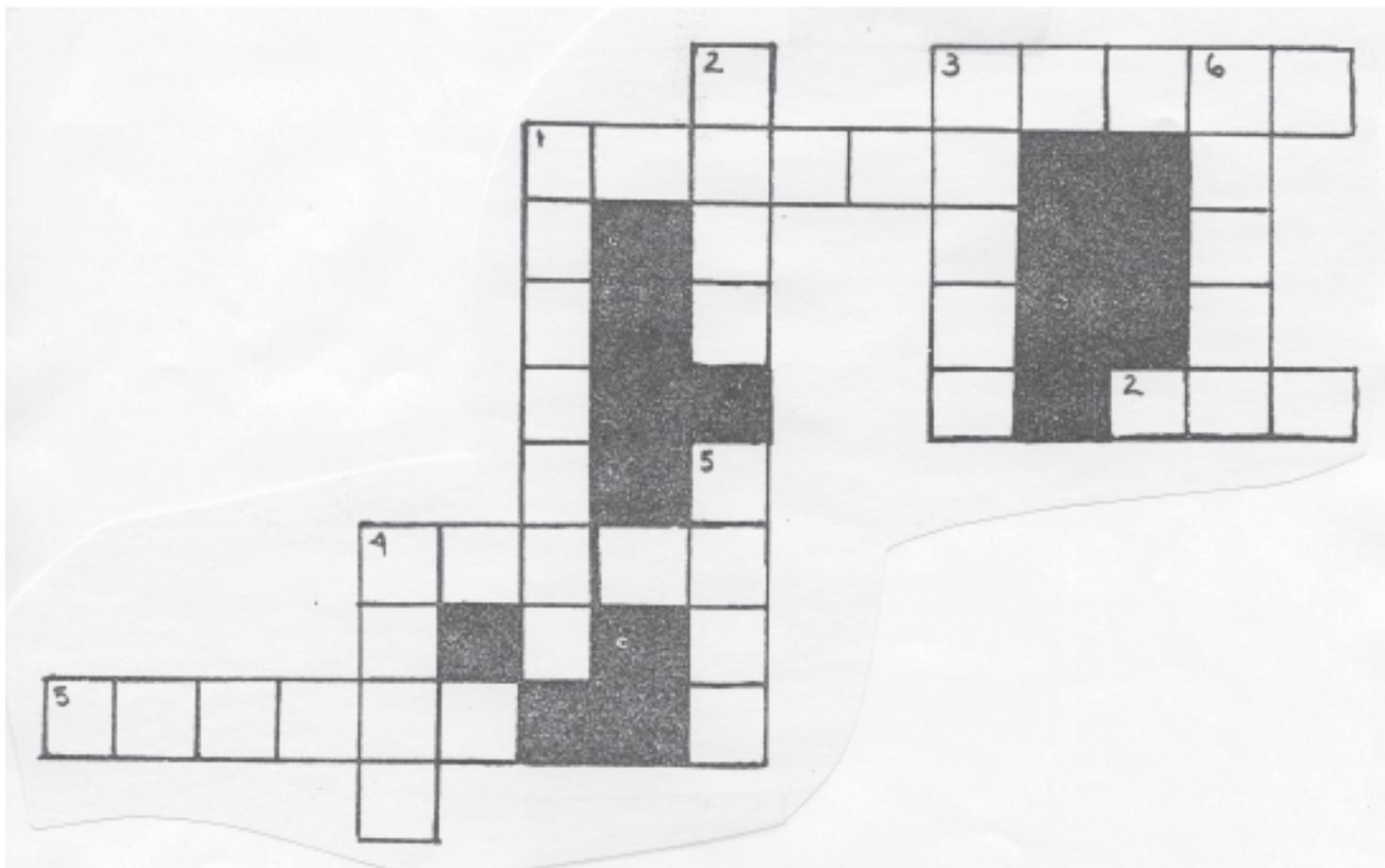
Fill in this crossword puzzle with the names of the colors you find in the Bible verses.

ACROSS

- 1. Exodus 38:25
- 2. Matthew 16:2
- 3. Genesis 30:32
- 4. II Kings 19:26
- 5. Exodus 36:37

DOWN

- 1. Exodus 36:37
- 2. Exodus 36:37
- 3. Exodus 38:8
- 4. Exodus 39:15
- 5. Exodus 35:9
- 6. Joel 1:7





I Am A Christian

By T.V. Lakshmaiah, India

*When I say "I am a Christian",
I am not shouting - I am clean living.
I'm whispering "I was lost"
Now I'm found and I'm forgiven.*

*When I say "I am a Christian",
I don't speak of this with pride-
I'm confessing that I stumble,
And need Christ to be my guide.*

*When I say "I am a Christian",
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak,
And need His strength to carry on.*

*When I say "I am a Christian",
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed,
And need God to clean my mess.*

*When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible,
But God believes I'm worth it.*

*When I say "I am a Christian",
I still feel the sting of pain,
I have my share of heartaches,
So I call upon His name.*

*When I say "I am a Christian",
I'm not holier than thou.
I am just a simple sinner,
Who received God's grace, somehow.*

