

*The Advocate
of Truth*



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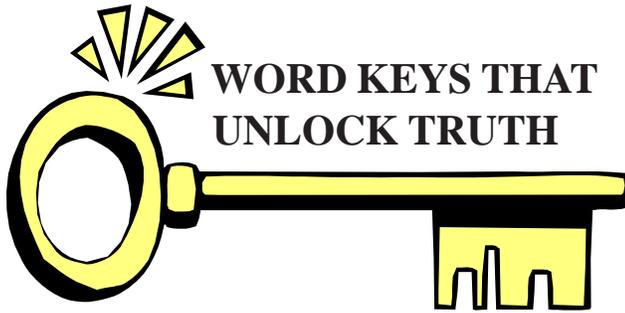
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PERSUADE

According to Webster's New World Dictionary, the definition of the word "persuade" is: 1. To cause to do something, esp. by reasoning, urging, or inducement; prevail upon 2. to induce to believe something; convince. This dictionary also says, "Persuade implies an influencing of a person to an action, belief, etc. by an overt appeal to his reason or emotions."

Acts 19:1-20 records a time that the Apostle Paul came to Ephesus. We want to focus on verses 8-10, "And he went into the synagogue, and spoke boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks." The use of the word "persuading" makes it clear that not only did Paul seek to

prove his message, but he also sought to persuade his hearers to accept his message. Paul preached for a decision. He was not interested in mere debate.

As a child of God, how are you doing in persuading those with whom you come into contact to live for Jesus and believe the truth that is found in God's Word? You persuade others by your words, deeds, and actions.

Jesus associates salt and light with our words, deeds, and actions. "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16).

As God's children go about trying to persuade others, many obstacles will be in the way. The ways of the world, which others may only know, are great enemies. Others most likely will be unable to give them up. It is written of Paul, "...this fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law" (Acts 18:13). The child of God persuades those about him to believe the gospel and live contrary to the ways of the world.

We know that most will not likely be receptive. A great many will think like King Agrippa when he said to Paul, "...Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28).

Children of God are only interested in persuading others to make a decision to also become a children of God.

A CHALLENGE FOR YOUTH

YOUNG PEOPLE WILL YOU TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?



It has been said that one of the problems that young people face is a lack of security. They look to the future and see war and the rumors of war. They see industry mechanized and computers taking the place of real live

people. They see the instability of government and the threat of terrorism. They see their homes broken down and morality and faithfulness being laughed at. They see vile people committing crimes. Some get caught, and

others go "scot free." They notice that there is no equity and proper law enforcement. They hear many say, "What is there to trust in and to look forward to?"

But young people down through the ages have faced what, to them, are the same insecurities. Invention and change have always brought uncertainties. The pilgrims lacked the promise of living through each winter. The explorers lacked the equipment to assure a safe arrival. The wagon trains moving west lacked the communication ability to make contact with each other. There never has been security for the youth apart from God. It is not just THIS time and age; but ALL times and ALL ages.

The rich young ruler of the Bible had everything one could desire in security. However, things do not make security! He faced life's meaning and saw a great emptiness in things. He saw Jesus and a hope for life eternal and asked "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

With all that he had, he did not have enough to satisfy his longing. He experienced a void, a futility inside himself because God made us all with a mechanism inside that calls out for fellowship with Him. We are so made that there can never be security, peace or real achievement apart from becoming His child and finding the place He intended for our life's work and service.

One reason young people feel so much insecurity is that they place too much emphasis on their world and the things that happen to them here and now. The crowd, power, things, status and sex can become gods to them. But when they go the route that each one of these requires for success, they find that they are left with nothing - nothing but bad memories.

Young people, it is time to ask yourselves this question: "What is this all about, and what are we going to do with it?" Then remember - this is the only life you are allowed. Are you going to mess it up and end up with only regrets? Your lives are in your hands today. You can go the way of wealthiness, greed, lust and financial accomplishment, or you can go God's way.

You are important to God. He created you in His image and gave you certain talents and abilities for His Divine purpose. He also gave you the power of choice. You can choose His way or your own way, but peace is only along the route He has marked out for you. By becoming His child, your whole world can look different. You can know who you are and where you are going.

After the rich young ruler asked Jesus, "what shall I do to inherit eternal life?", Jesus said to him, "thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother" (Luke 18:20). The rich young ruler re-

plied, "..., all these have I kept from my youth up" (vs. 21).

However, we see that the rich young ruler did not accept the instruction of Jesus. "Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich" (vss. 22-23). He coveted the riches of this world, therefore he could not completely keep the commandments. He would love the riches of this world more than his Lord! He would have to be satisfied with the void and futility inside himself.

Young people, God wants you to be obedient! By being obedient to God's Holy and perfect Law, you will receive a definite and new meaning for living. You can feel secure knowing you are living your best for Jesus Christ and His glory! Your greatest challenge today is to follow Jesus Christ. You want to do something that will outlive you, something worthwhile and accountable - follow Him! Your challenge today is to live up to the best that is in you. Do not accept the way of the crowd, the way of least resistance and group thinking. This is your life! Give it the very best, and that is God. Then your life will be secure and full of meaning.

Adapted from the August 11, 1969
Advocate of Truth

TBC TODAY: "NO DOUBT WE'RE IN THE LAST DAYS" NEWS

Bible School To Use Harry Potter Theme

Carlisle, Pa. - A church in Carlisle has decided to use J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" tales in its Bible school. Saint John's Episcopal Church has doubled vacation Bible school enrollment since doing this.

This summer the theme is "Wizards and Wonders: The Journey with Harry Potter," as preschoolers take flying lessons on miniature broomsticks at a makeshift Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft. Older students play a game of Quidditch, and more than 100 youngsters get Bible verses in their daily owl mail.

A minister said the Bible and the Harry Potter stories have what she calls "a slew of parallel lessons" (AP, August 17, 2005).

The Berean Call
From the Internet



THE IMPORTANCE OF TIME

BY SHANNA WILLIAMS



Ecclesiastics 3:1-8 informs us, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, and time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war; and a time of peace."

For every task we undertake there is a time to do it. We have a specific time to go to church, to go to work, and also to sleep. The sun has its time to set, and the moon and stars have their time to shine forth. To the child of God, time is important.

In Genesis, chapter 1 and 2:1-2, we find the creation of time by God. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day" (Genesis 1:1-5). These verses also tell of the various things which God created on the first six days. It is important to note that God rested on the seventh day. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Genesis 2:1-3). God requires His children to rest on the seventh day also. "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour,

and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 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" (Exodus 20:8-11).

It is also important to note that God created the time pieces. "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also" (Genesis 1:14-16). God is the originator of time. He wants His Children to use it wisely. Just imagine if we were to do things without regarding time. There would be total and absolute chaos in our lives and in the world.

Let us search the scriptures to find more mention of time.

In Genesis, chapters 6 and 7, we note that as man began to multiply on the face of the earth, the wickedness of man was great. God then told Noah to make an ark of gopher wood and how to do it. God said that He would bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh. God told Noah of the number of clean and unclean animals that were to be taken into the ark. Then He told Noah and all of his house (family) to enter into the ark. Scripture records that the flood was forty days upon the earth, and the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days

Time is also mentioned in Exodus 12:1-20. This is when the Lord instituted the Passover to be observed on the fourteenth day of the first month. This was when the children of Israel were protected from the death angel that passed through Egypt. The children of Israel were to abstain from leaven for seven days.

In Exodus 16, we find that the Lord rained down bread from heaven to the Israelites when they came unto the wilderness of Sin. They were to go out to gather a certain amount each day. They were to gather twice as much on the sixth day.

We find an element of time in Joshua 10:1-15. Joshua requested the Lord to make the sun (one of God's time-pieces) to stand still so a certain battle could be completed. The sun did not go down for a whole day.

There are numerous instances in the Bible where time is used to satisfy God's mission. However, the amount of time that Jesus was to be the heart of the earth after His crucifixion is most important. This period of time proves His Messiahship! **"Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"** (Matthew 12:38-40). Had Jesus not died and risen, we would not be able to obtain eternal life!

When Jesus comes to gather His saints to the sea of glass, we will rule with Him for a thousand years. **"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them: and I saw the souls 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). That will be a wonderful and glorious occasion! Therefore, it is of great necessity that all the time we make proper adjustments in our lives to meet our Lord when He comes.

The time that Jesus is coming is not given in the Bible. **"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come"** (Matthew 24:42). **"Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even,**

or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:33-37).

PANCAKES

Six year old Brandon decided one morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove, and he didn't know how the stove worked!

Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs getting his pajamas white and sticky.

And just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming. Maybe even a spanking, but his father just watched him.

Then walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him, and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process!

That's how God deals with us! We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky, we insult a friend, we can't stand our job or our health goes sour.

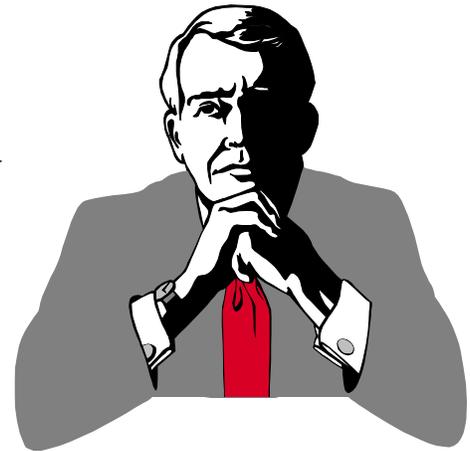
Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us.

But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying to "make pancakes" for God or for others. Sooner or later we'll get it right, and then we will be glad we tried.

Adapted from the internet

OUR CONSCIENCE - THE DETERMINATION FACTOR

By Siegfried Maywald



Your conscience determines your spirit and relationship with God. The spirit therefore is the compass of the soul. It gives us the direction. The body is physical and combines feeling, learning, hearing, smell, sight and taste. The conscience works from the inside out. Our heart becomes right with God if our conscience is attuned with God.

Humanitarianism, on the other hand, works from the outside in! It is selected hearing. It tries to destroy our conscience with words that are of human will and understanding. Therefore, we must stop following man made rules. Pain in our conscience tells us that we did something wrong, that we left and acted against God's will. When we ask for mercy, it is our conscience that gives us the warning just like it was in the case with Adam and Eve who were hiding from the presence of God after eating the forbidden fruit. It was their conscience that warned them and made them feel ashamed!

In the New Testament, we read that the Apostle Peter wept after he heard the cock crow three times. Again, it was his conscience that told him that he had denied Jesus! In Acts 23:1, Paul stated: "..., I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." In Acts 24:16, he stated: "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men." When the Pharisees brought the woman they had found in adultery to Jesus to be accused by Him of her act, He said: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

Read of this incident in John 8:3-11.

"For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law

are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves; Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;" (Romans 2:12-15). In other words, people are condemned not for what they do not know, but for what they do know. All who know God's written word will be judged by what they know. All those who never heard nor have seen the Bible, will receive an opportunity to accept Jesus, yet they still know right from wrong.

We are not saved by our good deeds, but through grace by our faith in Jesus Christ and our obedience in faith to His word. But now, in our modern society, the teaching of the worldly educated is that the word of God, its laws and judgements are outdated and not applicable to our modern society. Man now has replaced God's laws with his own humanitarian standards, laws and political correctness.

If we really think about and look at all the cultures of the world, we will find evidence of the existence of God's law as the basis in every society. For example, all cultures prohibit murder, theft, lying, etc. However in all those societies these laws are still broken. Man belongs to a stubborn race. We all know what is right and what is wrong, but we still do the wrong. It is not the knowledge that prevents wrong, but our actions in relationship to our knowledge. We must do what is right. We must submit to the standards of God and do the same. Knowledge and faith alone do not serve us because faith and actions work together.

"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned" (I Timothy 1:5).

"Holding forth the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience" (I Timothy 3:9).

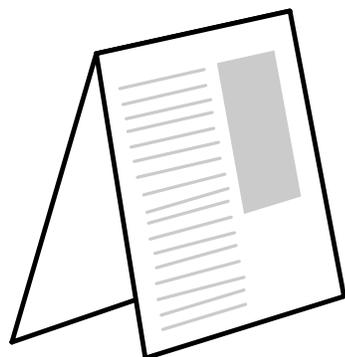
"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14)

"For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our con-

science, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward" (II Corinthians 1:12).

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

"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:21).



A SHORT NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

BY BOND TENNANT

As we launch into a new secular year, let us consider the reasons for doing the things that we do. What are they?

1. We do things because of habit. Our habits cause us to do things, because we have always done them before. When we do this, we are not really thinking. We are merely functioning.

2. We do some things out of fear or urgency. The results of not doing certain things may motivate us to action. For example, a student may try very hard to make superior grades in school because he fears the rebuke he will receive at home if he does not.

3. We enter into certain activities simply because we enjoy them. Pleasure can be a great motivation which is often quite irrational. The danger here is that we may not want to listen to reason.

4. We may do somethings which are not in our best interests, but we do them anyway. By practicing expediency, we take a temporary advantage, even though we will eventually lose in the long run.

5. Sometimes we choose what we do carefully. On doing this, we realize that we will benefit by doing certain activities. When we plan, we make the conscious effort to do what we feel is best.

The first four reasons for our behavior listed above (habit, fear, pleasure and expediency) do not require much

of a choice. They usually just happen. The last option (plan) is the only one that requires deliberate thinking and choosing. We all have plans in many areas. It is best to govern our lives by personal decision and choosing. If we do not, we will one day wake up to realize that life has just happened to us.

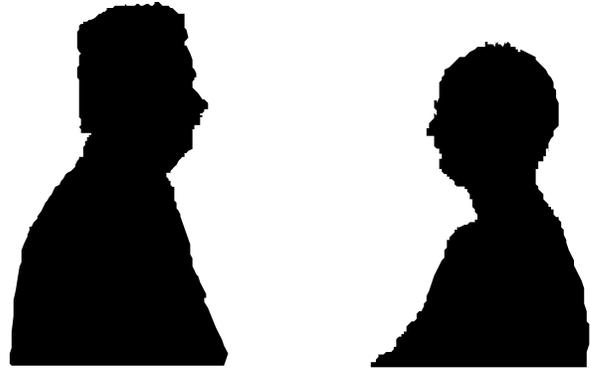
As children of God, there are two plans we must cultivate. The first plan to cultivate is to grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ." For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" (Roman 8:29). The second plan to cultivate is to have a part in reaching the world with the Gospel. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Let us be alert to every opportunity of living as Jesus commands and of getting out God's Word, which is "quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword." God's Word is our only hope and weapon to defeat the evil forces coming upon the earth.

This year, may every day be one of service unto our Lord Jesus Christ!

SHOW THYSELF A MAN

BY BOND TENNANT



"Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man" (I Kings 2:1-2).

The sun of David's life was setting. But even though his time on earth was about ended, he was still interested in the welfare of Israel and in his son, Solomon. His words of advice were, "...be thou strong therefore, and shew (show) thyself a man" (V.2).

David introduced Solomon, his son, to the throne and placed the book of the law in this hands. Acts 13:36 says of David, "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption." I Samuel 13:14 tells us that the Lord sought him (David) a man after His own heart.

Almost identical words were spoken to Joshua, "Be strong and of a good courage" (Joshua 1:6). These words came from God after Moses died. He repeated this admonition three times. The occasions were similar. Joshua was entering on his leadership, and Solomon was on the steps of his throne.

There are hindrances to reaching the goal of showing oneself a man:

1. We must check the uprising of passion, especially in this day. Fight against pride that hinders submitting to God's will for our future. We are clay in the hands of the potter. See Jeremiah 18:1-4. We must let Him mold us and make us according to His divine pattern. Jesus is our example. In His prayer to the Father, He said, "...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, ac-

ceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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 12:1-2).

2. We must resist the evil influence of others. Solomon was misled by his wives. He began to worship idols. Today, there is a necessity for moral courage and a renewal of strength. A true child of God cannot run with the riff-raff of this world and retain his righteousness. "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1). "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Corinthians 15:33).

3. We must abstain from popular customs which are against God's word. In school, in business, in politics, in church circles, it is easier to go with the stream than contend against it. If we show ourselves men"... We ought to obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:28). We must not be intimidated or coerced. We must not let being called, "chicken," "old-timer," and "backnumber" bother us. We know who we are, what we are, and where we are going!

Youth has played a part in many accomplishments of human society. At 35, Martin Luther achieved the Reformation. He learned that "... The just shall live by faith" (Galatians 3:11). He militantly stood for this biblical truth.

It is said that the great inventor, Edison, was sent home from school as a hopeless case at age seven. At age eleven, he sold newspapers on the street and on trains. He edited a paper and experimented with chemicals. The chemicals caused a fire on the train. He was thrown off the train, but he became a great inventor.

Let us consider three marks of manhood:

1. Strength - Most people conclude that strong physical strength proves manhood. But some have asserted their manhood despite bodily infirmities. Watts, the inventor of the steam engine, was harassed by an affliction. He was tempted to commit suicide. Proverbs 20:29 declares, "The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the grey head. "Show thyself a man" is not easy. There are many temptations, trials, and allurements trying to lead us from the right way.

One thousand years later, the Apostle Paul admonished Timothy, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 2:1). He exhorted the Corinthians, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (I Corinthians 16:13).

2. Sagacity - The young people of today are face to face with an everlasting "no." To every precept of God, the devil brings a "no". The Bible says, "Fear God and keep His commandments." "No," says the devil, "Indulge your passions." Man is to glorify God. "No," says Satan, our adversary, "Man is to glorify himself, and en-

joy his own way." Satan's "no" must be resisted at every approach to deny God's Word and lead from the path of truth and duty. "Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

3. Saintliness - A saint is one who keeps God's commandments and follows the testimony of Jesus, having accepted Jesus as his personal saviour. Here manhood completes itself! Saintliness includes honesty. It accepts the golden rule, "And as ye would that men should to you, do ye also to them likewise" (Luke 6:31). Saintliness includes service to others. We are followers of Him who came" ...not to be ministered unto, but to minister..." (Matthew 20:28). John Milton said, "A good man is the ripe fruit our earth holds up to God."

Young men and young women must put a value upon manhood and womanhood. They must not risk losing their character and influence. They must not leave it to others. A man or woman who loves God will have a tear of sympathy for the sorrowful, a word of comfort for the bereaved, and a word of hope for the downcast and despondent. Let all of us be honest, true, and right, and we will be victorious children of God.



ARE MOSAIC FEAST DAYS FOR CHRISTIANS?

By Siegfried Maywald

There seems to be quite a debate whether Christians should observe the feast days or not. Some insist that these holidays should still be kept and that it is still required even for those who believe in Jesus Christ as God's only begotten Son.

What do the scriptures tell us about that? Acts 13:38-39 tells us, "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." God gives us here the conclusion that through Jesus salvation from corruption is assured. Remission of sin comes only through Him who was crucified and died on the cross. Jesus is the man by whom all guilt and transgressions were taken away, from which one

could not be justified by the law of Moses, because it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats or any other ceremonial rite or service could remove sin (Hebrews 10:4). It was a figure for the time then present (Hebrews 9:9). Christians, who took on Christ's name when they were baptized into Christ, are justified by faith in Jesus, not Moses. Therefore, a Christian is justified by faith without the deeds of Moses's law.

Were grace and truth in the law of Moses, or are they in the Ten Commandments of God and His Son, Jesus Christ? We find the answer in John 1:17, "For the law (the harsh law of unforgiveness) was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." This harsh law was given by Moses who was sent by God to be a ruler and delivered. Moses wrote this law, and through him it

was given to the Levities, all the elders of Israel and to all the Jews (Deuteronomy 31:9-11).

Why was this additional law given?

"Because they had not executed my judgments, but had despised my statutes, and had polluted my sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols. Therefore I gave them also statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live" (Ezekiel 20:24-25). "So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels" (Psalm 81:12).

Yes, the Israelites were gone astray by falling away from God while Moses was on Mount Sinai to receive God's instructions. This took some time and made them impatient, so they managed to make themselves another god (the golden calf), instead of serving their great God. Therefore, God gave them the harsh law besides His Ten Commandment Law. Now let us read Deuteronomy 31:24-26, "And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee." It was a law given to them as a harsh reminder of their transgression.

Even the Apostle Paul tells us why this book of the law came into existence in Galatians 3:19 when he said: "Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made, and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator." Moses was the mediator to the Israelites, but "They (the people) have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy Gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt" (Exodus 32:8).

Jesus, the new Mediator

Grace and truth, which in reality was the main subject of which Moses wrote in his book came to all men through Jesus Christ. He became the mediator of the New Covenant. Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. "But now hath he (Jesus) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises"

(Hebrews 8:6). "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, or the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal; inheritance" (Hebrews 9:15).

We have to remember that Jesus Christ while He was alive was obedient to Moses' law as well as the apostles with Him. However, Jesus taught a different way as we see in Matthew 5:32-47. The Pharisees thought that they should love only those who loved them in return as we read in Psalm 139:19-22, "Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee? And am not grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies." Yes, they hated their enemies.

Moses' law was a law with no mercy, no pity and no forgiveness, life for life, eye for eye as seen in Exodus 21:12,15,16-17,23-25,27-29; Leviticus 24:17, 19:23; Deuteronomy 19:11-13, 17-21. The Apostle Paul tell us in Romans 3:21-24, "But now the righteousness of God without the (harsh) law (as had been given to Moses) is manifested, being witnessed (prophesied) by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace though redemption that is in Christ Jesus." In the same chapter, verses 27-30, he says, "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith (the words of Jesus).

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law (of Moses). Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith (by adherence and obedience of the law), and uncircumcision through faith (through obedience in faith to Jesus Christ and His word)"

The distinction of the two different laws

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed

them: and that Rock was Christ" (I Corinthians 10:1-4).

"The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation" (Hebrews 9:8-10).

"If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchizedec there ariseth another priest., Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. For he testifieth, THOU ART A PRIEST FOR EVER AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEC. For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God" (Hebrews 7:11-19). The law was a shadow of things to come, but in itself could never make the partaker thereof perfect!

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). If that would have been the case, then Christ would have had no need to introduce another way to purify us from our sinful lives. Let us read the words of Hebrews 8:13, "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old, Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." Hebrews 10:9-10 reads, "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

How plain are these words! How clear do they express the difference between the time of Moses' law with-

out pardon ("eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth") compared to Christ's law of grace and mercy which is reinstated in a new way. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:14-15). "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH. And the law is not of faith: but, THE MAN THAT DOETH THEM SHALL LIVE IN THEM (in strict adherence for fear of punishment to death). Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith" (Galatians 3:11-14). We do not receive the promise of the Spirit through the adherence to carnal ordinances and diverse washings as directed in the book of Moses.

This answer clarifies the situation, that we have to distinguish between two different laws. God calls for repentance and a return to right judgment and righteousness. The Israelites failed to do this. The one who is baptized and lived under Moses' law had to follow the regulations given in Moses' book of the law, and he had to observe not only part of this law, but all of these regulations, because he will be judged according to Moses' law and not according to Christ's law of grace as we see in Galatians 5:2-4: "Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised (follow Moses' law), Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT CONTINUETH NOT IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO DO THEM" (Galatians 3:10).

People who think that they are justified by keeping part of Moses' sacrificial laws, ordinances and diverse washings as well as those civil laws which reveal no mercy or pardon are misled because no one is saved by works.

DOES THE BIBLE CONTRADICT ITSELF?

THE TWO LAWS CONTRASTED

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OR THE LAW OF GOD

1. Was spoken by God. - Deuteronomy 4:12-13.
2. Was written by God on tables of stone. -Exodus 24:12.
3. Was placed inside the Ark. - Deuteronomy 10:5.
4. Was right, true and good. -Nehemiah 9:13.
5. Was a law by which a man could live. -Ezekiel 20:11,13,21; Matthew 19:17.
6. Is a perfect law. -Psalm 19:7.
7. Christ did not come to destroy it. -Matthew 5:17.
8. Jesus came to magnify the law and make it honorable.-Isaiah 42:21; Psalm 138:2.
9. Not one jot or tittle shall pass away from the law till all be fulfilled. -Matthew 5:18.
10. We must not break even the least of the law. -Matthew 5:19.
11. Is the perfect law of liberty. - James 2:12.
12. Is established through faith in Christ Jesus. -Romans 3:31.
13. Is a spiritual law. -Romans 7:14.
14. Is a law that is holy and good. -Romans 7:12.
15. Is called the royal law of the Scriptures. -James 2:8.
16. Was proclaimed by God Himself, and God added no more. -Deuteronomy 5:22.

THIS LAW REMAINS FOREVER

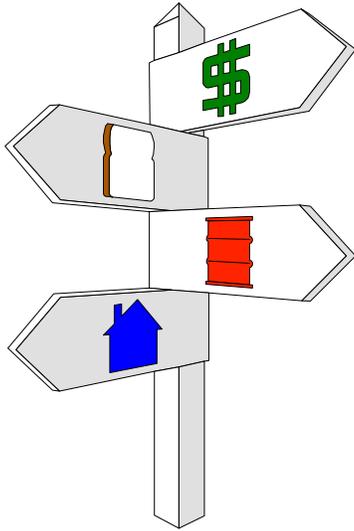
THE CEREMONIAL LAWS OR THE LAW OF MOSES

1. Was spoken by Moses. -Deuteronomy 1:1-6.
2. Was written by Moses in a book. -Deuteronomy 31:24.
3. Was placed in the side of the Ark. -Deuteronomy 31:26.
4. Was not a good law. -Ezekiel 20:25; Hebrews 9:9-10.

5. Was a law that caused death. -Ezekiel 20:25.
6. This law made nothing perfect. -Hebrews 7:19.
7. Christ abolished this law. -Ephesians 2:15.
8. Christ took this law out of the way by His death on the cross. -Colossians 2:14.
9. Christ was the end of this law. -Ephesians 2:15.
10. This law was a yoke of bondage. -Galatians 5:1.
11. Is the law of a carnal commandment - Hebrews 7:16 (read for clarification vv. 17 to 20).
12. Is contrary to us and is our enemy. -Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:20.
13. Was the handwriting of ordinances. -Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 9:10.
14. Was a law of shadows for good things to come. Hebrews 10:1; 8:5.
15. Was a law of death and persecution. -Hebrews 10:28, (see opposite in verse 29).
16. Leaders in Israel had to add more and more rules and regulations to this law because it was so imperfect. -Matthew 19:7-8; 23:1-5; John 7:22-23; Acts 13:39.

THE MOSAIC LAW WAS ABOLISHED

The Ten Commandments of God are perpetual and immutable. The crime wave that is sweeping the world, wherein each offense is a definite violation of one or another of the Ten Commandments, should make every father and mother carefully consider that these Commandments must be taught. The hateful deception that God's Holy Commandments have been abolished and nailed to the cross has had a world wide sowing, and how horrible the harvest. But the searchlight of God's precious word focused squarely on the situation will clearly discern long hidden truth, and people are everywhere awakening to the fact that it was the law of MOSES and not the law of God that was abolished and abrogated at the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.



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.

What if the draft returns? Pacifist churches plan alternatives to conscription by Tom Infield Knight Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA - For the first time since the Vietnam War, pacifist churches are thinking of how to prepare young men to become conscientious objectors in the event the draft is resumed.

President Bush, leaders of Congress, and the military brass all say forcefully that, no, no, no, there are no plans for military conscription.

But members of what are often called the historic peace churches - Mennonites, Brethren and Quakers - believe a draft appears more and more likely as U.S. troops continue to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Army fails to meet its recruitment goals.

In-house programs

"We are probably one terrorist attack - one 9/11 - away from a draft," said Dan McFadden, director of Brethren Volunteer Service in Elgin, Ill.

Leaders of the peace churches, which have their roots in Pennsylvania, say that what they may need to do now is prepare in -house programs in which their young men might perform two years of required civilian public service in exchange for not having to go into the military.

The draft ended in 1973. But the Selective Service System, which is charged with maintaining machinery for

a draft, is encouraging the peace churches to make contingency plans.

"We do encourage it," said Cassandra Costley, who was appointed last year as director of a new alternative-service division within Selective Service.

"It's not because we expect there is going to be a draft in the new year - or the next five years," Costley said from Rosslyn, Va. "But our mandate is that we be prepared."

McFadden was among three Brethren and Mennonite leaders from across the U.S. who held a telephone conference this month to go over options for alternative service.

"There aren't any definite plans at this point; we are just going to keep talking," he said.

The conference followed up on a March meeting of Baptist leaders in Elgin, which also drew Quakers.

Since 1980, all males have been required to register with Selective Service when they turn 18. The draft pool consists of about 15 million registrants.

Church leaders say thousands of their members would surely seek to become conscientious objectors - COs - if the draft were reinstated.

An article in the May issue of *Quaker* advised men with pacifist views to lay the groundwork now for CO application later on.

It urged them to "begin to establish a way of life that demonstrates your beliefs actually mean something to you" by attending Quaker worship, doing service projects and joining peace events.

Recent research done by historian Jean Mansavage

for a doctoral dissertation at Texas A&M University shows that 1,534,000 men were classified as eligible to perform alternative civilian service during the Vietnam War. About 65,5000 actually performed alternative service. The rest, Mansavage said, either weren't called to duty or were not placed in jobs.

Mennonites and Brethren long have operated service organizations that draw members into a year or so of public service - often doing disaster relief or working at day camps - after high school or college. The thinking is that these could be expanded into two-year programs for COs.

"We hope to have some of this put together by sometime in the fall, so that we can move forward from there," said Titus Peachy, director of peace education for the Mennonite Central Committee, in Akron, O.

Peachy guessed that 5,000 to 10,000 Mennonites and Amish men would seek to be classified as COs - opposed to all war.

"Beliefs which qualify registrant for Co status may be religious in nature, but don't have to be," the Selective Service reports on its Web site, www.sss.gov.

"Beliefs may be moral or ethical; however a man's reasons for not wanting to participate in a war must not be based on politics, expediency, or self interest," the agency writes.

J.E. McNeil, a Quaker and director of the center on Conscience & War, in Washington, said that Quakers - also known as Friends - had not been as active as Mennonites and Brethren in beginning to prepare for alternative service.

McNeil, who believes a draft is likely, said: "Friends move at a glacial pace in most things, We're kind of looking around and thinking.."

Peace church leaders seem more anxious than men of draft age - 18 to 25. David Felson, headmaster to Friends' Central School in Philadelphia, sees little draft anxiety among high school students, even at a Quaker school. He noted that, most years, the Friends Council on education organizes a peace talk in Philadelphia. "This year they couldn't get it together."

At the Mennonite Central Committee, several dozen Mennonite youth gathered recently from around the country.

J.C. Yang, 22, of Broomfield, Colo., said that if there were a draft, he would probably want to be classified as

a CO.

But, like many others he wasn't really worried that a draft is imminent.

"The possibility is always there. But in my perspective, it's never really thought of until it actually happens," he said.

Comment

The Church of God (7th Day) is opposed to participation in carnal warfare as stated in our 23rd doctrinal point. Therefore, its young men who register with the Selective Service System are conscientious objectors.

Although the draft may not return, it is best that all sincere Church of God young men who must register with the Selective Service System be prepared and let their convictions be known. As in the past, there will be alternative ways in which to serve their country.

More to Ponder - \$26 Million to operate the Selective Service (draft boards) even though there is no draft now - and hasn't been any since 1973.

The Persecution of Stephen

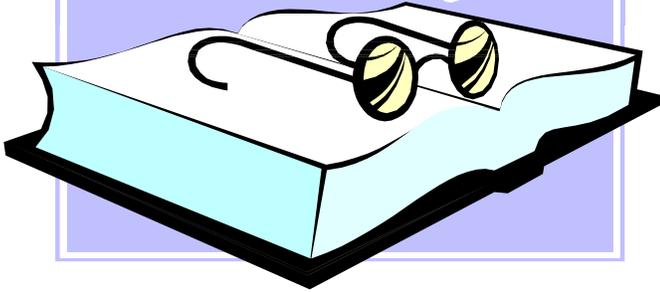
Jesus forewarned His disciples that as His witnesses they would suffer persecution. He said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). As the book of Acts reveals the activities of the apostles and other believers in connection with the establishment of the Early Church it relates a number of incidents in which unbelieving Jews and Gentiles alike were unfriendly to Christians. By intimidation and by imprisonment, they endeavored to hinder, and if possible, to destroy the work of the disciples.

The first disciple actually to give his life for the cause was Stephen. He was taken before the Jewish Sanhedrin for trial, where he presented a brilliant oration in which he outlined the Messianic hopes for Israel. He showed them that Jesus was the Messiah of promise, and traced God's dealings with the fathers of Israel from Abraham to Moses, their revered lawgiver. He declared that Moses had foretold the coming of the "Just One" whom they had crucified. But this testimony served only to make them more bitter against Stephen, and he was stoned to death (ch.7).

Contributed

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

Question: Is it not more important to have unity of purpose than unity of doctrine among Sabbath keepers?

Answer: No, it is not. The Apostle Paul informs us In I Timothy 4:1, "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." Paul knew these things would happen because the Holy Spirit of God revealed it unto him. As we look around us, we see the fulfillment of this prophecy. There has been a great falling away in God's church through the centuries.

Today, we find various organizations claiming to be the Church of God. Satan has wrought great havoc with his efforts to devour the children of God. We must not be dismayed by the outward appearance, but rather follow Paul's Spirit filled advice, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Herein lies some good advice, and when properly followed, will bring peace and steadfastness in doing God's will.

Many Sabbath keepers believe it is important to have "Unity of purpose," but one should not worry so much about having "Unity of doctrine." This thought does appeal to some. However, we must BEWARE! When we compare this to what the Bible says, we find this is the exact opposite to what is true! Amos 3:3 records, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" In these latter days, we find the situation to be much the same as when Isaiah wrote concerning Israel, "...and it shall be a vexation only to understand the doctrine" (Isaiah 28:19). In the margin, we find the correct word to be "doctrine" rather than "report." How true it is that the doctrines of the Bible have become a "vexation" to so many.,

There is a feeling by some that the Sabbath day of the Lord is the only real important doctrine. The feeling is that because the Seventh day Sabbath is omitted by the majority (which is a vital part of God's Ten Commandments), that we should only worry about agreement on that doctrine. It is true that the complete Ten Commandments are necessary to observe for the child of God. However, we must also remember the other teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ delivered to us through the inspired writers of the New Testament. We must remember the true description of a saint: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:2). Yes, a saint keeps the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus! Again, the description of God's true people rings forth from the pen of John when he writes of the "remnant of the seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 12:17).

It is a certainty that there are other teachings which must be agreed upon beside the Ten Commandments. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Corinthians 6:17). A true child of God will abide by these words. Jesus spoke of doctrine to the Pharisees when He said, "But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Luke 11:42). Jesus points out that we are to tithe of our increase and to do it with love

of God in our hearts. Another important part in the faith and testimony of our Lord Jesus Christ is revealed unto us in I Corinthians 11:23-26. "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." We read of the Lord's Supper and how the emblems are to be taken. The emblems are to be taken only once each year at God's "Appointed time." By reading the four accounts of that evening - as recorded in the Gospels - we learn the proper sequence for the footwashing, etc. We also learn that at that final supper Jesus only drank from one "Cup" to represent His blood. There were not two cups so that the apostles could choose between fermented or unfermented wine. The "Cup" contained only the pure "fruit of the vine." These are some of the teachings, or doctrines, which are necessary for the saints to know to fulfill the "testimony" of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is for every child of God to learn these teachings and become grounded and settled therein that complete unity may be attained.

Jesus said in John 14:6, "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." There can be only one way if we are truly God's people. This means to be one in doctrine. A person is entitled to his opinion. However, if his opinion is contrary to the Word of God, then that person's opinion is incorrect. Again the words of Amos reign forth, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

Today, we find many who worship idols of metal and wood, etc. Even an automobile can become our idol should it overshadow our live toward God. What has become an even worse situation however, is to be fooled into worshipping a "false Christ." Many church people will tell you not to worry because we already are worshipping the same god only in different ways. That is only the "spirit of error" talking and not the spirit of truth. "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (John 4:6).

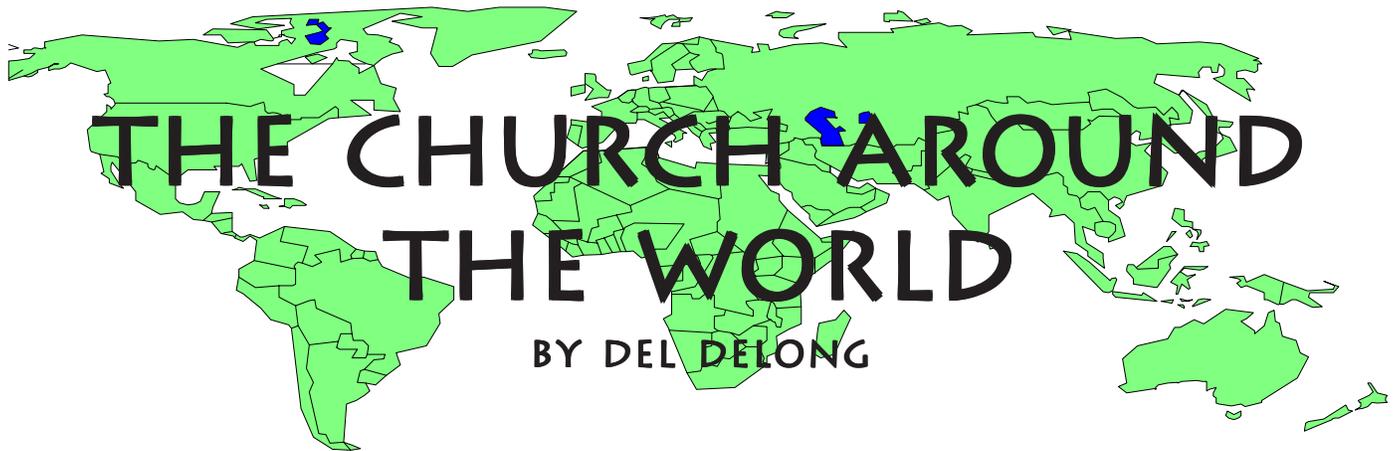
Among some Sabbath keeping organizations we can find a great variety of different teachings within the same group. In many cases, it is acceptable to have opposite beliefs within the same organization. One person may eat unclean meats while another abstains from them. One per-

son may partake of fermented wine during the Lord's Supper when another will only drink of the pure fruit of the vine. These are examples of BABYLON (confusion). The result of situations like these will only toss the reality to and fro allowing them to be carried about with every wind of doctrine. The individual in such surroundings will only be wondering about with no set course to follow. Many in this condition are not aware of what is really happening around them.

The majority of the responsibility for this condition rests upon the ministry. The Apostle Paul wrote of the elders who had the "SAME SPIRIT of faith" in his time. "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believe, and therefore have spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (II Corinthians 4:13). There was no confusion about the doctrines of Christ among the ministry during Paul's time. Today, there is no confusion if we follow the Scriptures completely. "Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come" (John 16:13). When the ministry has the spirit of truth, it will lead in only one direction and with only uniform doctrine. Any organization which allows opposing beliefs among the elders can not be of God. God is not the author of confusion. "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace as in all churches of the saints" (I Corinthians 14:33). In the true body of Christ, the believer may visit another congregation knowing the same doctrine will be spoken. When a visiting minister from another congregation speaks, he will speak the same doctrine as the regular local pastor. This is that SAME SPIRIT of which Paul wrote. This is true unity as God intended.

There are seven unities mentioned in the Bible. These unities are the one Body, one Spirit, one Hope, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one Father. Read Ephesians 4:4-6. In Ephesians 4:11-12 we are told, "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." These seven unities are only complete when the ministers speak the same thing with one voice. In this way, the Body is grounded and settled as it moves onward to meet the Lord when He appears.

Dear reader, let us not be in confusion as to our priorities in the Lord Jesus Christ. If the Body of Christ is to move in a unity of purpose, it must first have a UNITY OF DOCTRINE. It is for all of us to heed the words written in I Thessalonians 5:21, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."



Honduras



THE NEW PROPERTY OF
THE CHURCH LOCATED IN
THE AREA OF SANTA
CRUZ IN
COMAYAGUELA, HONDU-
RAS, C.A.
OCTOBER 2005

A congregation in
the new temple in
Santa Cruz,
Honduras
October, 2005





IN THE NEW TEMPLE IN
SANTA CRUZ
HONDURAS, C.A.
OCTOBER, 2005

A group of youngsters in
the temple of Santa Cruz,
Honduras, C.A.
October, 2005



IN THE HOUSE OF THE
BAUTISTA ESQUIVEL
FAMILY
Our Overseer OSMAN
PINEDA (with the
videocamera)

LESSON I

DAVID SMITES THE SYRIANS

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 10:1-19.

Golden Text: II Samuel 10:19 (first part).

"And when all the kings that were servants to Hadarezer saw that they were smitten before Israel, they made peace with Israel, and served them..."

NOTE: In our last lesson we studied about David restoring Saul's possessions to Mephibosheth in the memory of his beloved friend Jonathan. Now we shall see why David smites the Syrians.

1. After the king of the children of Ammon died, who reigned in his stead? II Samuel 10:1.
2. Why did David send his servant to Hanun? II Samuel 10:2.
3. What did the princes of the children of Ammon think David had sent his servant to do? II Samuel 10:3.
4. What did Hanun do to David's servants, and what did David then tell his servants to do? II Samuel 10:4-5.
5. Who did the children of Ammon send for in II Samuel 10:6?
6. When David heard what they were doing, he sent Joab and all the mighty men to meet them. Read II Samuel 10:8-12 and then tell how Joab and the Syrians prepared for battle.
7. As Joab drew near to the Syrians to battle, what did they do? II Samuel 10:13-14.
8. The Syrians gathered themselves together when they saw that they were smitten. Where were they at this time, and who went before them? II Samuel 10:15-16.
9. When David heard where they were, what did he do?

II Samuel 10:17.

10. Did David defeat the Syrians and have peace with them? II Samuel 10:18-19.

LESSON II

ABSALOM CONSPIRES AGAINST DAVID

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 15:1-12.

Golden text: II Samuel 15:10 (first part).

"But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel..."

NOTE: We have been studying about the many victories of King David. He has subdued the enemy neighbors and has defeated the Ammonites. Now we are going to learn how Absalom, his son, conspires against his father, hoping to become king in David's place.

1. Where does Absalom position himself so that he can judge the people? II Samuel 15:1-3.
2. Read II Samuel 15:4. Do you find any jealousy in Absalom's heart?
3. How was Absalom trying to steal the hearts of the men of Israel? II Samuel 15:5-6.
4. What was Absalom's wish or request of the king? II Samuel 15:7-8.
5. Did King David grant Absalom's request to leave? II Samuel 15:9.
6. Where did Absalom go, and whom did he take with him? II Samuel 15:10-12.

LESSON III

DAVID IN THE WILDERNESS

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 15:13-37.

Golden Text: II Samuel 15:28.

"See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness, until there come word from you to certify me."

NOTE: In our last lesson we learned that Absalom conspires against this father, King David, because he wishes to become king. We will now study how David flees from Jerusalem into the wilderness.

1. What did the messenger tell David in II Samuel 15:13?
2. Why did David want to flee Jerusalem? II Samuel 15:14.
3. Did David's servants agree to follow him? II Samuel 15:15.
4. What did the king say to Ittai the Gittite about leaving Jerusalem? II Samuel 15:19-20.
5. What was Ittai's reply to the king, and did he go with David? II Samuel 15:21-23.
6. What did the king tell Zadok to do with the ark, and did he do as instructed? II Samuel 15:25-29.
7. Why did David go to Mount Olivet, and whom did he meet there? II Samuel 15:30-32.
8. What did David tell Hushai to do? II Samuel 15:33-36.
9. Did Hushai obey David? Where did Absalom go? II Samuel 15:37.

LESSON IV**SHIMEI CURSES DAVID**

Scripture Reading: II Samuel 16:1-23.

Golden Text: II Samuel 16:7.

"And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man; and thou man of Belial."

NOTE: In our last two lessons we learned that Absalom wanted to become king and go against his father, King David. David flees to the wilderness to escape harm and to protect Jerusalem. Now we are going to study how David is again deceived and cursed and how it grieves his heart to have these things happen to him.

1. Who met David over the top of the hill, and what did he have with him? II Samuel 16:1.
2. What was their conversation in II Samuel 16:2-4?
3. Who met David at Bahurim? II Samuel 16:5.
4. What did Shimei do and say to David? II Samuel 16:6-8.
5. What did Abishai say unto the king, and what was the king's reply? II Samuel 16:9-12.
6. Hushai meets with Absalom in Jerusalem. What did they say to each other? II Samuel 16:16-19.
7. What did Absalom say unto Ahithophel in II Samuel 16:20-21?
8. With whom was the council of Ahithophel? II Samuel 16:23.

Answers to Names of Jesus.

1. A Saviour, Christ the Lord.
2. Son.
3. Son of man.
4. Son of David.
5. Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
6. I am the way, the truth, and the life.
7. I am the bread of life. I am the good shepherd.
8. I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valley.
9. The Sun of righteousness. I am the bright and morning star.
10. Alpha and Omega.



THE BIBLE ZOO

By Mabel D. Cowic

There are a number of animals spoken of in the Bible from which we can learn many valuable lessons. I could not mention them all, but there are a few which are particularly interesting.

The Bible speaks about "A cunning Fox." Have you ever seen a fox? I never did, but they say they live in holes under the ground. Foxes make big holes in the ground, and they often spoil the roots of the vines. These animals are very cunning and sly and usually come out at night when no one is around.

A certain farmer had been missing a number of chickens. Often in the night he would hear loud noises down in the chicken yard. He decided to watch for the one that was stealing his chickens. He got up just before dawn one morning and went out to the chicken house; He saw a beautiful fox. It was going in after another chicken.

Mr. Farmer was ready for him this time. He had his gun with him, and he aimed it in the right direction and pulled the trigger. The fox went rolling on the ground. Soon he was dead.

A few days later, some folks that were visiting on the farm walked through the woods. . When they came near the creek, they found a lot of chicken feathers scattered all over the ground. It was here where Mr. Fox had his last chicken dinner.

We read in Song of Solomon 2:15, "Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines; for our vines have tender grapes."

Foxes have little value except for their fur. They are very cunning and crafty and often hide under the vine leaves spoiling the vines and often eating the grapes.

Our sins, we often call them little sins, are like little foxes. They are cunning. We are often successful in hiding

them for awhile, but sooner or later they are found out. The fox on the farm got away with the chickens for a few nights, but finally he got caught.

The sin one tries to hide may not be found out right away. Then it begins to grow and one sin leads to another. Unless it is confessed to Jesus, one will get into a lot of trouble.

The little foxes may be lies, or stealing, or jealousy. Could such things be found in the hearts of nice people? Do not try to hide your sins, but ask Jesus to come into your heart and take those things away. Then you will be happy.

The Bible also tells us about "Mighty Lion." In Proverbs 30:30 it says, "A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any." A lion is a very great beast. In fact, the Bible says it is the strongest of beasts.. We do not see many lions in our country, only in a zoo or circus. Most of us have seen pictures of them, but I dare say none would choose one for a pet. I Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." There is no lion in God's way. Isaiah 35:9 says, "No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon.."

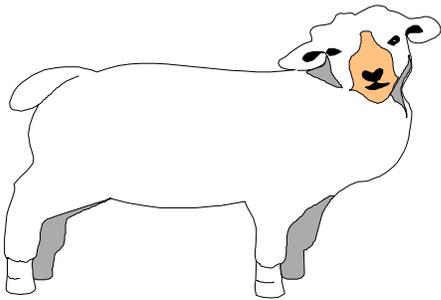
When we get away from God, we put ourselves in the lion's or devil's way. When we do right, God promises to deliver us out of the lion's mouth. Let us keep out of the lion's way or he might open his mouth and swallow us. If we walk in God's way, He will protect us.

We also read about a "Patient Ox" in the Bible. The ox is a very strong animal. It is not a fast runner like the horse, but it can pull very heavy loads. The ox is a very patient animal and never complains of the hard work it has to do. It either stands and waits or goes ahead without showing any signs of not liking it. It is a dumb animal, but it does whatever its master tells it to do. God accepted this animal for His service and sacrifice. This shows us that God can use those that are not afraid to work. He is glad when we enjoy our work and are not always complaining that it is too hard. Do you desire to be like the patient ox? How do you perform those duties which are given you? Do you always think it is too hard or it takes too long, or you would rather do something else? The ox is not like that. It is obedient. It does whatever it is told to

do and never talks back.

Last of all, we have a "Gentle Lamb." A lamb is a very common animal and is often seen on the hillsides as you travel through the country. . A lamb is very meek. It never has to be driven. It always follows where it is led.

When storms arise, the little lambs usually find protection under trees. They go there for a hiding place during the storm. God's people also have a place of protection, a hiding place in time of storm, but it is not under a tree. Our shelter is the lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. In him we hide.



NAMES OF JESUS

In the Bible, Jesus is given many beautiful names and titles. Let us see how many we can find.

Here are the places in the Bible where the names may be found:

1. What two names did the angels give Jesus in speaking to the shepherds on the night of His birth? Luke 2:11.
2. What did God call Jesus at His baptism? Matthew 3:17.
3. What did Jesus often call Himself? Matthew 8:20.
4. What name did the two blind men give Him? Matthew 9:27.
5. What names did the Prophet Isaiah give Him? Isaiah 9:6.
6. What names did He, Jesus, give Himself in John 14:6?
7. To what did Jesus liken Himself in John 6:35? In John 10:11?
8. To what two flowers is He likened sometimes in hymns? Song of Solomon 2:1.
9. To what heavenly bodies is He likened in Malachi 4:2 and Revelation 22:16?
10. What title of Jesus is made up of the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet? Revelation 22:13.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use the missing word to do the crossword puzzle. If you need help look up the verse given.

But grow in (6 down) and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be (15 across) both now and forever! II Peter 3:18.

Fight the good fight of (8 down), lay hold on eternal (16 down), whereunto thou art also called. I Timothy 6:12.

Jesus Christ himself being the chief (12 across)In whom ye also are (4 across) together. Ephesians 2:20,22.

This (1 down) of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. Psalm 118:20.

By me if any man enter in, he shall be (17 across). John 10:9.

Thy word is a (2 across) unto my fee, an a light unto my (3 down) Psalm 119:105.

Wherefore take unto you the whole (10 down) of God, that ye may be able to with - (17 down) in the evil day. Ephesians 6:13.

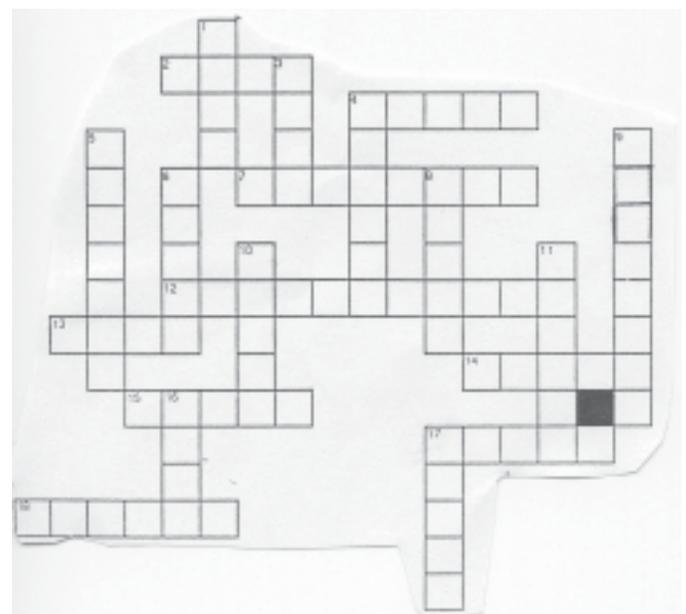
(9 down) in (18 across), and watch in the same with thanksgiving. Colossians 4:2.

His (4 down) over me was (13 across). Song of Solomon 2:4.

He is my (11 down) and my fortress: my God; in him will I (14 across). Psalm 91:2.

Wherefore we receiving a (5 down) which cannot be moved. Hebrews 12:28.

Be (7 across) unto him, and bless his name, Psalm 100:4.



Thank You

By Shanna Williams

For bestowing your blessings upon me.
For showing me all the things I was too blind to see.

For giving me the grace to grow.
For showing me the right path to go.
For helping me to realize,
That there are blessings in disguise.
For strengthening me to cope with life,
And all the strife.

For giving me a way out,
That I could never do with out.
For helping me to deal with stress,
When my life is a big old mess.
For lending me your ears,
When my eyes are full of tears,
Although you've never said a word,
But I know that you have heard.

For family and friends,
With which I can depend.
For protecting me from harms way,
When I choose to go the wrong way.
Thank you Lord for helping me,
To be the best that I can be.
Thank you Lord you are my light,
My thanks to you are infinite.