

**The Advocate  
of Truth**



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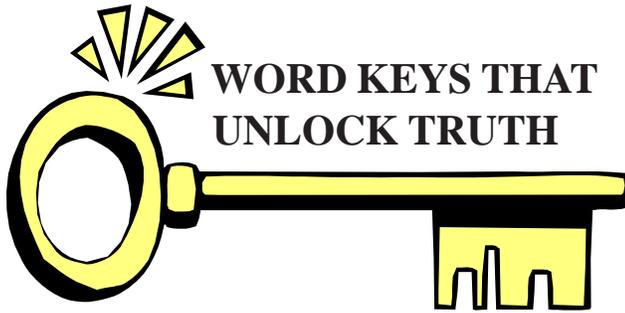
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## ONE

Two of the definitions of "one" found in the Webster's New World Dictionary are: 1. being a single thing or unit; not two or more; 2. single in kind; the same (all of one mind).

Jesus prayed for His disciples to be one (all of one mind) in His prayer of intercession recorded in John 17. He prayed that they might have His joy. He told His Father that they had received His words, that they were not of the world. He asked His Father to sanctify the disciples. He also prayed that the love with which His Father had loved him would be in them. Jesus spoke of a beautiful and spiritual oneness. It was Jesus' prayer that this oneness would be displayed in the church down through the ages. Let us consider three ways in which this being one (oneness) is displayed by the church.

The church is one body (a spiritual family). "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the

members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:12-13). "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular" (vs 27). There should be no division, cliques, or clans in the church. There must be only oneness. "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another" (vs 25).

The church displays one fellowship. "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart" (vs 46)). "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common" (Acts 4:32).

The church has one faith. "To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:9). The Apostle Paul was not talking about believing something, but about the whole body of truth. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

# THY KINGDOM COME

BY HUGO CALZADA



"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

God's kingdom is where His righteousness, truth, and commandments reign supremely.

After God created man in His own image, He gave the earth to man to subdue it and have dominion over every living creature that was upon the earth (Genesis

1:27-28). However, man disobeyed God, and the earth became condemned with sin and death. Therefore, the kingdom of God could not be upon the earth at that time. For this reason, our Lord Jesus Christ instructed us to pray: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Matthew 3:1-2 tells us: "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wil-

derness of Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

God would not allow sin and death to destroy His work. He has given man an opportunity to be saved, and for this cause, "...God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). While Jesus was on earth waiting to be crucified, the Jews cried out, "..., Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15). One bad attitude was their incredulity, and another one was their ungodliness. Both of these attitudes are linked to sin which corrupts men. "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled" (Titus 1:15)

In the minds of these unmerciful people, it was great entertainment to watch Someone who would call Himself the Son of God being tortured and humiliated. Pilate's efforts to avoid Jesus' crucifixion were to no avail. He did not want to do it, but when the people threatened to report him to Caesar, he began to see that it would cost his position as a governor of Judea. Therefore he delivered Him to them to be crucified, "And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus" (Luke 23:26). Everyone knows Jesus, but to be participants with Him is a blessing. "And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left" (vss 32-33).

"And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin" (John 19:19-20). Everyone could read this title and know for what crime Jesus was accused. "Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written" (vss 21-22). Now, not only do we recognize Jesus as King of the Jews, but also as the Saviour of the world.

"Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took

his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did" (vss 23-24).

"Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not this legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced" (vss 32-37).

The work assigned to us by our Lord Jesus Christ is our first purpose in life: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matthew 24:14).

After this, the Lord Jesus and His saints shall reign for a thousand years upon the earth purifying and preparing it. "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (I Corinthians 15:25-26). Our Lord Jesus has already overcome the devil and death by His resurrection. However, He has not yet destroyed them.

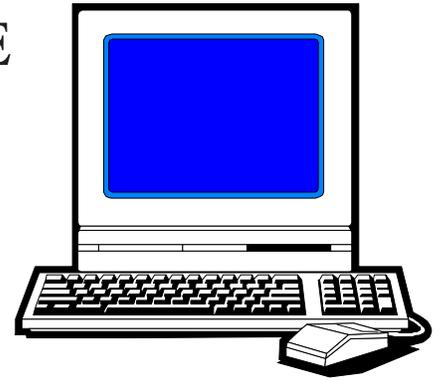
During His reign of a thousand years, He'll destroy Satan, hell, and death. "Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power" (vs 24). "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all" (vs 28).

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Revelation 4:11). Amen.

Yes, God's will will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

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

## A DISTURBING TREND (EXCERPTS)



Over the past decade, many Western democratic nations such as Germany, Sweden, Ireland, Norway, Denmark, Britain, Canada and Australia have passed laws criminalizing religious speech that is based on the Bible. Specifically, these laws target speech that could be deemed an aggression against the dignity of its citizens, particularly those who engage in homosexual behavior.

Repression of religious speech is nothing new in countries such as China and Iran. Many people around the globe live under the persistent threat of criminal penalties for espousing and sharing religious views inconsistent with those of that particular nation's official religion. But the recent development in those Western democracies is nevertheless unsettling considering that a minister who preaches directly from the Bible on the issue of homosexuality is likely to be prosecuted.

A second trend, however, makes this foreign hostility to religious speech significant within our borders. Over the past decade, the U.S. Supreme Court has turned with increasing frequency to foreign law when ruling on hot-button issues such as capital punishment, racial discrimination and gay rights.

Even more troubling, (October, 2005), the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 2662). This bill would extend hate crimes law, which currently covers classifications of race, religion and national origin, to now include sexual orientation. This would pave the way for banning speech directed at a life-style that millions of Americans believe is contrary to the Bible. Such legislation would actually obviate the need for the Supreme Court to draw

upon foreign law to take this step.

What does this mean for the American clergy and Christians? The net effect would be that a minister preaching against homosexuality as a sin would do so under the threat of criminal prosecution. Simply pointing out that a certain life-style is against the Bible's teachings, without the suggestion of animosity or violence against those who practice it (which would certainly go against the teachings of the Bible), could subject the speaker to possible incarceration.

Fifty years ago, the Supreme Court recognized that it is not "in the competence of courts under our constitutional scheme to approve, disapprove, classify, regulate or in any manner control sermons delivered at religious meetings.....To call the words which one minister speaks to his congregation a sermon, immune from regulation, and the words of another minister an address, subject to regulation, is merely an in direct way of preferring one religion over another."

If the Supreme Court holds true to its precedents, America will weather the incoming storm of political correctness and preserve our most cherished rights, that of free speech and free exercise of religion, without the threat of criminal retribution. Should the court continue down this foreign law slope, however, there is no telling the impact upon religious speech in America (Marc C. Anderson is an attorney in Fort Meyers, "Fort Meyers News-Press," 11/7/05).

-From the internet

# THE EARLY CHURCH



"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:42-47).

A description of the early church is found in the Acts of the Apostles. The first four chapters of Acts gives us the fivefold reason for the marvelous success of the early church.

The early church was a praying church! "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren" (Acts 1:14). "Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour" (Acts 3:1). "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). We must be a praying church: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

The early church was a united church! "And all that believed were together, and had all things common" (Acts 2:44). There is much truth in the saying, "United we stand, divided we fall." In unity, there is strength. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together

in unity!" (Psalm 133:1) We are to stand together and rally around the Truth instead of personalities and programs.

The early church was a giving church! This church was concerned about others and sacrificially gave of their means. They had heard their Lord talk about giving: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). A giving church is a growing church. God's Word says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10). The "tithe" is the Lord's. That which we give more than the tithe is our offering. We need to be more like the early church in giving.

The early church was a Spirit-filled church! "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4). A great many church members today are filled with unconcern, envy, jealousy, and worldliness. They do not allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives! Ephesians 5:18 tells us, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." When the Holy Spirit reigns in our bodies, there is no room for carnal things. God's Word tells of those who are filled with their own ways. "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a

good man shall be satisfied from himself" (Proverbs 14:14). "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

The early church was a witnessing church! "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33). It would be wonderful if it could be said today, "Great grace was upon them all." Mark 16:20 records, "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word

with signs following." Many were added to the church. Notice that the Lord worked with them. Many times we work alone, and the results are not lasting. All members of the church must be witnessing members. We should witness in church, in homes, at work, and on the streets. The early church witnessed daily. "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42). The early church witnessed everywhere. "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4).

Contributed



## THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

by Shanna Williams  
Grenada West Indies

"Be careful little mouth what you say," are some of the words of a famous song sung by children. The words may seem insignificant, but they are very true. Let us examine these words more closely to see what the Bible says about the tongue and its many uses.

In James 3:5-6, we are told that, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: So is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." Why must we destroy ourselves? We may sometimes be caught off guard by the tricks of Satan to find ourselves uttering words that are not appropriate. We may allow our anger to cause us to sin with our tongues. We may gossip about one another and spare the truth. We may even go as far as to use profanities. And for that single moment, we allow ourselves to be used by Satan. We succumb to the lust of the flesh. Oh sweet sin..In all of this, we must remember to "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon

your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26). "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2) James 1:26 reads, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." I Peter 3:10 further states, "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." These scriptures are telling us that one might be tricked into thinking that he is on the Lord's side when he might not be and that we should speak of good things and the love of God instead of evil things.

In this age in which we live, we often hear the words, "It's a free country, and I can say and do what I want." However, this is not the way God's law operates. Christians should not make those "don't care" remarks because God and His angels are watching.

Let our hearts rejoice and our tongues be glad because Jesus is on our side. We are in His hand, and no man can pluck us out of His hand. "And I give unto them

eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28). Isaiah, the prophet, said: "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned" (Isaiah 50:4). Isaiah is showing us how the tongue should be used. It is to be used for good, and it is not to inflict evil upon others. Words can kill, and words can heal. "By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone" (Proverbs 25:15). Proverbs 18:21 states, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." "The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death" (Proverbs 21:6). "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health" (Proverbs 12:18).

We need to make a decision whether we want to serve God or Satan, the devil. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). In order to recognize our true potential with the Lord and experience His Holy Spirit in our lives, we must keep our bodies, which are the temples of the Holy Spirit, uncontaminated from sin. If our temples are not clean, it is impractical for the Holy Spirit to dwell therein and to lead and guide us into all truth and righteousness. "A whole-

some tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit" (Proverbs 15:4).

The Holy Spirit sends forth light in the world. We have to shine our lights for those in darkness to see and live an immaculate life free from worldly influence. Our lips and tongues need to be kept free from speaking guile. Our tongues should speak of righteousness and praise the Lord all the day long. If we can't say anything good, let us not say anything at all. If we can't remember the Lord when we speak, let our tongues be silent in our mouths. "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:34-36). "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10).

"So be careful little mouth what you say,  
Be careful little mouth what you say,  
There is a Father up above  
Who is looking down with love.  
So be careful little mouth what you say."

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:37).

## ***FAITH IN DECLINE***

*By Siegfried Maywald*



In our modern society, we see many affluent Christians attending church services. From the outside at least, we appear to be truly devout Christians. We theologize about the "law", debate the meaning of certain words and hold many lectures. The people participate, they listen to God's Word in fellowship and then go home and attend to their own private affairs until next week's services, conference or lecture. All seems to be well organized. Why

then, we may ask ourselves, are we not drawing new converts to the body of Christ? What is wrong? Why does God not bless our congregations and help us in our efforts to spread His Word.

For answers to the above questions, let us turn to the Scriptures to find out what may be lacking in our spiritual walk with Jesus Christ so that we may become more successful in our efforts in spreading God's Word. In James

2:14-20, we read: "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; not withstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (James 2:24-26).

What is wrong? Why does God not bless us in our efforts?

If we give our congregation a closer look in connection with the above mentioned observations and scriptures, we may notice that those apparently devout believers are in actuality only giving an intellectual assent, agreeing with the Christian doctrines as they are presented, not noticing that as such their faith is only theoretical. Their faith is not true. It does not come from the heart as God intended. In fact, it does not transform their conduct and thoughts and combine them into actions, as already noticed in James 2:14. In other words, their faith does not bear fruit because it has not the blessings of God. Therefore, it is not able to save. God's Word tells us in Revelation 22:12, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." We have to act on our belief and do his commandments, that we may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city (Revelation 22:14).

It is true that we can not be saved by our actions, but by the grace of God. Still the fact remains that only through our actions do we reveal our obedience and faith in God. He requires us to act on what we believe, and this shows that our commitment to God is real, not an imitation only.

Now when we read James 2:18 and compare it to Romans 3:28, the message may appear to be contradic-

tory, but if we really look closely to what Paul tells us, we will notice that both writers only complement one another. Paul tells us that man has to have faith, that a person is not saved by works. On the other hand, James tells us that faith, and intellectual belief and theory by itself does nothing when not mingled with action. We have to become a living example of our faith because even the devils know who Jesus is, but they do not follow Him! James 2:22 explains how Abraham through faith connected with works was made perfect. Paul tells us that Abraham was justified by his faith because he believed God. "For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:2-5).

Again we see that James and Paul are not contradicting, but complementing each other. We can not truly believe in Jesus Christ and not follow in His footsteps. We have to walk the walk. We cannot say we believe in faith and not walk in accordance with it. If we do not walk, our faith amounts to nothing. The problem we have in our society today is that we theorize and talk about faith in Christ, but we demonstrate very little of it through our actions. Christians in the church would benefit and show more fruit if they would only demonstrate their faith through actions rather than with words only. The stagnation we see is because of this lack of change to action. We say that we have faith, but there is no demonstration of it as James 2:22 reveals. We have to realize that faith includes an active principal. It is both an act of understanding and it's will to perform. In other words, we believe in faith and act in obedience. True faith can work wonders. The Apostle Paul gives us the shortest and best definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1,3,8 when he said: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

Blessings of obedience because of actions.

"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways" (Deuteronomy 28:1-2,8-9). In Leviticus 26:3-4,6,9,12, we see that faith combined with actions brings with it blessings and salvation: "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people."

#### Penalties for disobedience because of inaction.

But if we choose to walk in disobedience, we will have to suffer the consequences as we learn from Leviticus 26:14-16,19-20,22-25. "But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over your terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it" (Leviticus 26:14-16). "And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits" (vss 19-20). "I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate. And if ye will not be reformed by me by these

things, but will walk contrary unto me; Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins. And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy" (vss 22-25).

#### Jesus' admonishment to action.

Even Jesus gives us an example of faith in action. In Matthew 25:34-46, He tells us to feed the hungry; visit the sick and those in prison; give clothes, shelter, and food to those in need when asked.

But those who believe in faith only, the theoretical righteous, will be saying: "..., Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:44-46).

Unfortunately, we have too many theoretically religious people in the world today who are more interested in obtaining material goods, or to be equal or superior in power and control, rather than simply to live a life pleasing to God and ministering to others as best as they can at God given opportunities. Through all these quests for power and greed, God's Word is lost or pushed aside. The mission to go, preach and teach Christ's word is forgotten because of their acting according to man's wisdom. Paul tell us that faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17). Then how can we as Christians claim to have faith if we neglect our commission as seen in Matthew 28:19-20? What we see is that many leaders and ministers are now more interested and involved in theological studies about the "law" or about certain words and their interpretation rather than teaching the message of salvation to the world. Unbelievers are not attracted to attain faith in God's Word through intellectual theological studies or debates, but through the preaching of the Gospel, the "Good News" with the message of forgiveness of sins which is made available to all who believe in faith. We must realize that faith is confidence in absolute truthfulness. Jesus even tells us to "Have faith in God" (Mark 11:22). In Matthew 9:21-22 we read of a woman who "...said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I

shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour."

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:35-36).

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:38-39).

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27).

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

"Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus" (II Timothy 2:14-17).

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" (Titus 3:8-9).

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do" (I Timothy 1:4).

We ought to preach the word and act accordingly so that our Christian faith is seen by others. "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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:3-4).

The church in the past was strong because it's members were fulfilling God's commission. Their faith was from the heart, and they cared more about the welfare of the

people. All the wars, the misery, pain and suffering, moral decay, and criminal activity is caused by disobeying God's Word.

Therefore, instead of theorizing and debating theological ideas, let us return and preach the "Good News", the Gospel of salvation to all who believe in faith that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son. Let us turn and walk in Jesus' footsteps and not only talk, but act by loving our neighbor, by showing genuine concern and care for people. Actions speak louder than words!

Let us warn the people and encourage them to stand up and act against the wave of evil influences we see rampant in our society. We have to tell the people to repent of their stubbornness and return to obedience to God's Word and listen and learn from His advice He has given us through the scriptures. Only then will the evil, the effects of our disobedience which already has taken hold in our society, be taken away. Let us learn from the example God has given us in regard to the city of Nineveh as recorded in the book of Jonah.

"And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not" (Jonah 3:1-10).

God is always ready to forgive and show mercy to all who are willing to seek Him in faith and obedience.



# WHAT WILL THE LACK OF FAITH DO?

BY BOND TENNANT

Faith is in the church. This is true, however, no one will deny that the church needs more faith. The lack of proper food causes certain conditions in the body. A lack of faith also causes certain conditions that hinder us from walking in Jesus' footsteps. "For we walk by faith, not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7). The more faith we have, the straighter we can walk! The Word of God declares that, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). A German poet said, "If you have any faith, give me, for heaven's sake, a share of it! Your doubts you may keep to yourself for I have plenty of my own." Just what will the lack of faith do?

The lack of faith produces fear.

"And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?" (Mark 4:40) If we do not have faith, we have something else, unbelief. Jesus did not say, "How is it you have no courage?" But He said, "How is it you have no faith?" He strikes at the root of the trouble which is unbelief.

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18). Fear is one of Satan's most effective weapons. Fear of death, fear of man, fear of suffering, fear of falling, are all fruits of unbelief.

"Perfect love casteth out fear." Faith brings in love. A man once said, "A perfect faith would lift us absolutely above fear." We are powerless to deal with this inward fear. We must deal with its root and source. When love and faith dwell in us, our fears and doubts will vanish. Someone has said, "Feed your faith, and your doubts will starve to death."

Faith and fear cannot live in the same house. No house is large enough for two families. Our lives are controlled by one or the other. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24). Someone well said,

"He who has lost confidence can lose nothing more."

The lack of faith causes reasoning.

"Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?" (Matthew 16:6-8). The reasoning of a carnal mind is destructive to real faith. Christ told them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. He meant their doctrine, principles and practices. They thought He was speaking of bread. He reminds them that He has always supplied bread.

We should not reason in our hearts, will Christ do this? Can He do that? Let us remind ourselves that He has already done it. Jesus did not say, "O ye of little sense" or "O ye of little ability." It is not the lack of sense or a lack of ability, but lack of faith that caused trouble.

Jesus attributes unspiritual reasonings to unbelief. When we open the eye of faith, we see the faithfulness of God and His Word. Satan says, "You can't make it." God's Word says, "...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (II Timothy 1:12).

The lack of faith defeats the purpose of God.

"And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:58). Another translation renders it, "There he could not do many miracles owing to their lack of faith." God's wonderful works toward man are largely conditional on faith. John Wesley said, "God does nothing except in answer to believing prayer.

"And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching" (Mark 6:5-6). Another trans-

lation records for the first part of verse six, "he was astonished at their lack of faith." He couldn't do His mighty works because of a wall of unbelief. His hands were stopped, and His ministry was limited because of the lack of faith. Unbelief, or lack of faith, is a hurtful and harmful element that chokes the life out of many today.

There is a motto that reads:

God is good-expect then to see it manifested.  
God is love-rejoice then, continually in Him.  
God is almighty-be surprised at nothing. He can and will do.  
God is faithful-depend on Him to fulfill His promises.

The lack of faith robs us of power.

"Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you" (Matthew 17:19-20).

Unbelief robs us of spiritual joy, and it also robs us of power with man and God. God wants us to have power with him. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The lack of faith causes us to depart from God.

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12). This verse gives us the crux, the climax of the whole matter: an "evil heart of unbelief."

Satan has injected the poison of unbelief into the very nature of man-into his blood stream, until it has become a part of him. It seems natural to doubt God and His promises, to have delusions of false doctrines, to believe Satan and backslide because of worldly pursuits. Let us cast out any "evil heart of unbelief"!

Lack of faith brings condemnation.

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the

world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:18-19).

"And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23).

"And he said unto them, Where is your faith?..." (Luke 8:25).

"...Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" (Mark 9:24).

\*\*\*\*\*

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication.

She got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys in the car. She didn't know what to do. So when she called home and told the baby-sitter what had happened, the baby-sitter told her that her fever was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door."

The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been left on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time had locked his keys in his car. She looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this." She bowed her head and asked God to send her help.

Within five minutes a beat up old motorcycle pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing one old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "This is what you sent to help me?" But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful.

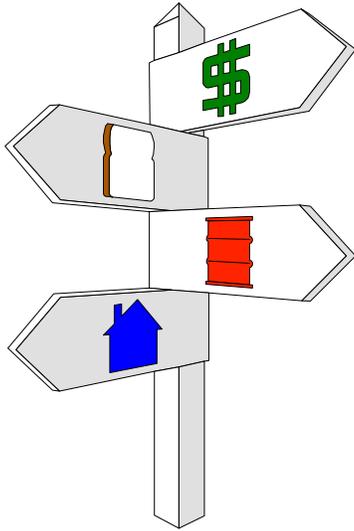
The man got off of his cycle and asked if he could help.

She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick. I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to her. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "Thank You So Much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour."

The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud, "Oh, Thank You God! You even sent me a Professional."



# THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

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

The following articles appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*.

## **A dramatic twist in tale of betrayal A newly released translation of document found in the '70s casts Judas as faithful disciple**

**by John Noble Wilford  
and Laurie Goodstein  
New York Times**

An early Christian manuscript, including the only known text of what is known as the Gospel of Judas, has surfaced after 1,700 years.

The text gives new insights into the relationship of Jesus and the disciple who betrayed him, scholars said Thursday.

In this version, Jesus asked Judas, as a close friend, to sell him out to the authorities, telling Judas he will "exceed" the other disciples by doing so.

Though some theologians have hypothesized this, scholars who have studied the text said this is the first time an ancient document defends the idea.

The discovery in the desert of Egypt of the leather-bound papyrus manuscript in the 1970s, and now its translation, was announced by the National Geographic Society at a news conference in Washington. The 26-page Judas text is said to be a copy in Coptic, made about A.D. 300, of the original Gospel of Judas, which was written in Greek the century before.

Terry Garcia, an executive vice president of the Geo-

graphic Society, said the manuscript, or codex, is considered by scholars and scientists to be the most significant ancient, nonbiblical text to be found in the past 60 years.

"The codex has been authenticated as a genuine work of ancient Christian apocryphal literature," Garcia said, citing extensive tests of radiocarbon dating, ink analysis and multispectral imaging and studies of the script and linguistic style.

The most revealing passages in the Judas manuscripts begins, "The secret account of the revelation that Jesus spoke in conversation with Judas Iscariot during a week, three days before He celebrated Passover."

The account relates that Jesus refers to the other disciples, telling Judas "you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me."

By that, scholars familiar with Gnostic thinking said, Jesus meant that by helping him get rid of his physical flesh, Judas will act to liberate the true spiritual self or divine being within Jesus.

Unlike the accounts in the New Testament Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the anonymous author of the Gospel of Judas believed that Judas Iscariot alone among the 12 disciples understood Jesus' teachings and acceded to His will.

In the diversity of early Christian thought, a group known as Gnostics believed in a secret knowledge of how people could escape the persons of their material bodies and return to the spiritual realm from which they came.

"These discoveries are exploding the myth of a monolithic religion, and demonstrating how diverse - and fasci-

nating - the early Christian movement really was," said Elain Pagels, a Princeton University religion professor who specializes in Gnostics studies.

Gnostics often denounced.

The Gospel of Judas is only one of many texts discovered in the past 65 years, including the gospel of Thomas, Mary Magdalene and Philip, believed to be written by Gnostics.

The Gnostics' beliefs were often viewed by bishops and early church leaders as unorthodox, and they were frequently denounced as heretics.

As the findings have trickled down to churches and universities, they have produced a new generation who now regard the Bible not as the literal word of God, but as a product of historical and political forces.

For that reason, the discoveries have proved deeply troubling for many believers. The Gospel of Judas portrays not the betrayer of Jesus, but His most favored disciple and willing collaborator.

Scholars say that they have long been on the lookout for the Gospel of Judas because of a reference written by Irenaeus, the bishop of Lyons, in about 180.

Irenaeus was a hunter of heretics and no friend of the Gnostics. He wrote, "they produce a fictitious history of this kind, which they style the Gospel of Judas."

At least one scholar said the new manuscript does not contain anything dramatic that would change or undermine traditional understanding of the Bible. James M. Robinson, a retired professor of Coptic studies at Claremont Graduate University, was the general editor of the English edition of the Nag Hammadi Library, a collection of Gnostic documents discovered in Egypt in 1945.

"Correctly understood, there's nothing undermining about the Gospel of Judas," Robinson said, adding that the New Testament Gospel of John and Mark both continued passages that suggest that Jesus not only picked Judas to betray Him, but actually encouraged Judas to hand him over to those He knew would crucify Him.

Computer mogul involved.

The Egyptian copy of the gospel was written on 13 sheets of papyrus, front and back, and found in brittle fragments.

Rudolphe Kasser, a Swiss scholar of Coptic studies, directed the team that reconstructed and translated the script. The effort, organized by National Geographic, was supported by Maecenas Foundation for Ancient Art, in Basel, Switzerland, and the Waitt Institute for Historical Discovery, an American nonprofit for the application of technology in historical and scientific projects.

The 66-page codex also contains a text titled James (or First Apocalypse of James), a letter by Peter and a text of what scholars are provisionally calling the Book of Allogenes.

Discovered in the 1970s in a cavern near El Minya, Egypt, the document circulated for years among antiquities dealers in Egypt, then in Europe and finally in the United States.

It moldered in a safe-deposit box in Hicksville, New York, for 16 years before being bought in 2000 by a Zurich dealer, Frieda Nussberge-Tchacos. When attempts to resell the codex failed, Nussberge-Tchacos gave it to the Maecenas Foundation.

The manuscript ultimately will be housed in the Coptic Museum in Cairo. Ted Waitt, founder of Gateway Computers, said his foundation gave the National Geographic Society a grant of more than \$1 million to restore and preserve the manuscript.

## Comment

The Gospel of Judas text is just another attempt to discredit God's Word. It is admitted that it has something to do with the Gnostics. The Gnostics cannot be called Christians, since they believed and taught many things contrary to the Word of God.

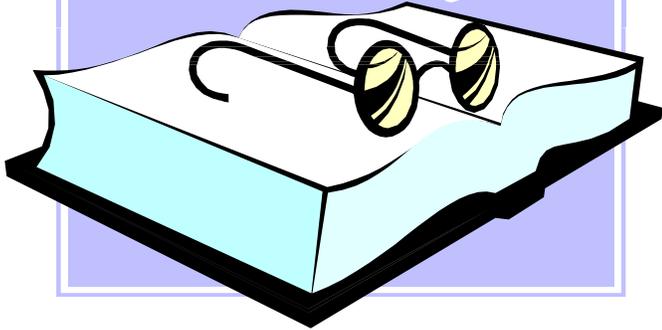
It stands to reason that the Gnostic gospels are becoming increasingly popular since men love darkness rather than the light of God's Word.

There can be no such thing as an "alternative form of Christianity." When it becomes "alternative," it ceases to be Christian.

We may accept all the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. We can also rely upon the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament. The sometimes called "lost books" of the Bible, such as the Gospel of Judas, can be rejected because it was determined that they are not divinely inspired.

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." This means that children of God are not to deliberately injure one another. On the other hand, it is commonplace in church services to come across people whose first reaction to a gospel invitation is: "I have never done anybody any harm," and their hope of salvation seems to lie in this negative harmless state. It is a reflection of the circumstances of man's fallen state that he should even pride himself on such a little thing as NOT HARMING anyone.

A disillusioned world around us is waiting to see in the saints something more than harmless. The test of children of God is POSITIVE GOOD. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17). Men want to experience the love, practical sympathy and help that Jesus Christ will enable us to render. Children of God must be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Jesus said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

**Question:** I feel like I need more faith. How can I increase my faith?

**Answer:** Yes, you can increase your faith. "And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). Jesus made a distinction between little and more faith in Matthew 6:30, "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" Prayer can increase and build your faith through helping you experience the power and greatness of God in communion and fellowship. Also, your faith can be increased and strengthened when you actually see answers to prayer in your own life and the lives of others.

Another way to gain more faith is by reading and understanding the Scriptures. Romans 10:17 tells us, "So

**Question:** What is "the sin which doth so easily beset us" mentioned in Hebrews 12:1?

**Answer:** First, let us quote Hebrews 12:1-2, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Each person is different. Each one has a different outlook. Each person has a different point which causes him, or her, to break one or more of the Commandments of God. Breaking the law of God is sin. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).

The word used "beset" is also found to mean "to stand around." When we stand around and loaf, we can easily get into trouble. Another version tells us that it could mean "sin that could easily encircle us." An admiring crowd that assaults us with praises of our greatness will cause a child of God to be beset with pride and grandeur. Let us look only unto Jesus. "Looking unto Jesus" is literally "looking away unto" - away from all that distracts unto Jesus.

**Question:** What did the Apostle Paul mean when he wrote that the children of God are to be harmless?

**Answer:** The Apostle Paul tells us this in Philippians 2:15,

then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." John 20:31 records, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Strong faith rests upon truth, and the Word of God reveals truth through the life and teachings of Jesus. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). In God's Word, we find many principles and examples of faith.

One of the finest ways to increase faith is to properly direct your believing. The Apostle Paul, in speaking of our salvation, said: "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (I Corinthians 2:2-5). Let us notice that Paul did not say the Corinthians did not have faith, but that it could be misdirected. Sometimes one's faith is weak because it is placed in man's wisdom such as good works, membership in a church and many other things, rather than in God.

Finally, faith ultimately rests upon surrender and trust. There is a vast difference between what is called intellectual belief and saving faith. Believing facts about God is not the same as trusting in God. The devils know facts about God, but they are not true believers because they do not surrender to God. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19). The moment you fully trust yourself to God it becomes a personal, not just intellectual, faith. "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (II Timothy 1:12). Your faith will grow because God is faithful! "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)" (Hebrews 10:23).

**Question:** Is it ever right for a child of God to disobey the government?

**Answer:** Let us first answer this question with a simple sentence. Children of God must obey the government unless the government requires them to disobey one or more of the laws of God.

The Apostle Paul commanded believers to be submissive to the government because authority is ordained of God. Read Romans 13:1-7. In Paul's argumentation, resistance to government is resistance against God (verse 2). Paul says that government resists evil (verse 4).

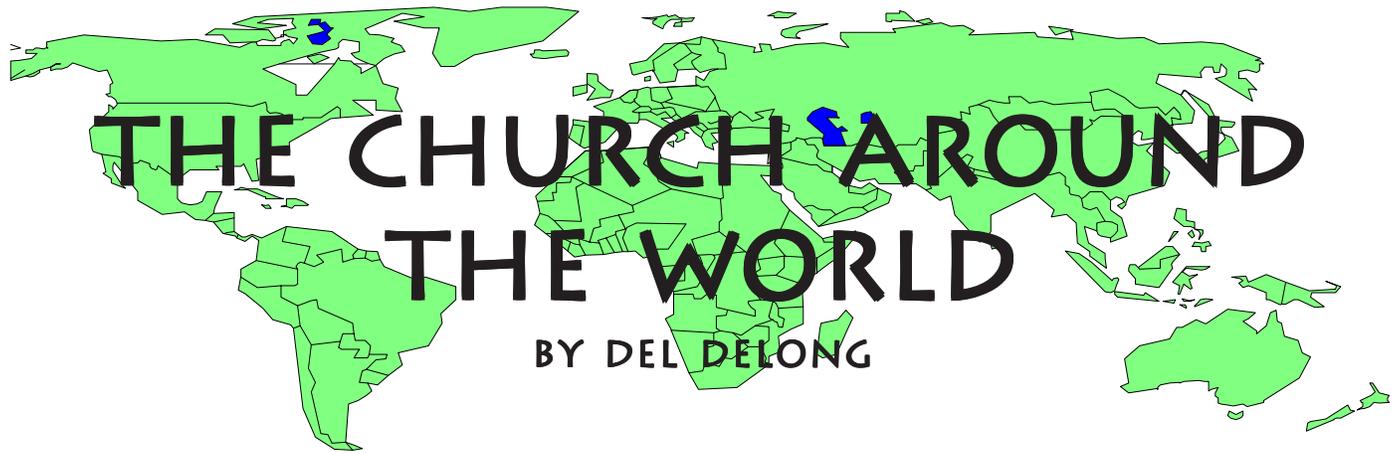
Some years later, after having been imprisoned a number of times by the Roman government, Paul had not changed his mind. He still taught that children of God should obey the government. Being mistreated at the hands of the Roman government had not caused him to alter his view.

The Apostle Peter also wrote about the need to obey government. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (I Peter 2:13-17). Like Paul, he says that obeying God-ordained government shows our obedience to God Himself. All of this is significant in view of the fact that both Peter and Paul wrote what they did while living under the reign of the cruel emperor Nero.

On the other hand, there are also clear indications in Scripture that when the government commands a child of God to go against one or more of God's commands, he must obey God rather than the government. After being commanded by the Sanhedrin not to preach any further, "...Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

We see the same thing illustrated in the Book of Daniel. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego righteously disobeyed the king when they were commanded to worship the golden image. Read the account in Daniel 3. Daniel also disobeyed the government when it commanded him to go against God's revealed will. Read Daniel 6.

However, children of God must guard against abusing this principle in Scripture. Scripture indicates that they are to disobey government only when it commands them to violate God's commands, not just when they feel the government has personally violated their rights.



*Brahmanapally, India*

*Below, we see a baptism taking place at Brahmanapally. It is being conducted by Elder M. Kanakarathnam.*





*In this photograph, we see the church members enjoying a meal together.*

*Here, we see some of the members praying during the Lord's Supper service.*



*The Church members sit on the floor, so that more people can fit inside the church building.*

## LESSON I

## JEHOSHAPHAT FASTS AND PRAYS

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:1-19.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:3.**

**"And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."**

**NOTE:** We are continuing our study of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. We have learned that he sought the Lord in all things. He established courts of justice throughout the land, and sent out priests (Levities) to teach the people. Now we are going to study about his fasting and praying to God, and what his purpose was in doing this.

1. Who had come against Jehoshaphat to battle? II Chronicles 20:1.
2. Who brought a message to him, and what was this message about? II Chronicles 20:2.
3. Did Jehoshaphat seek the Lord's help? What did he proclaim throughout the land? II Chronicles 20:3.
4. Did the people gather with Jehoshaphat to seek the Lord? II Chronicles 20:4.
5. What praise did he give to God in his prayer? Read II Chronicles 20:5-9, and then tell some of the things he praised God for doing for them.
6. Now what petition does he ask of God? II Chronicles 20:10-12.
7. While all Judah stood before the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord came into their midst. Whom did He cause to speak? What was His message to the congregation and to Jehoshaphat? II Chronicles 20:14-17.
8. What did Jehoshaphat and all Judah do when they heard these words? II Chronicles 20:18-19.

## LESSON II

JEHOSHAPHAT OVERTHROWS THE ENEMY  
(PART 1)

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:20-26.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:22.**

**"And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."**

**NOTE:** In our lesson, we learned that Jehoshaphat sought the Lord by fasting and prayer when he heard a great multitude was coming to attack Judah. The Lord answered his prayers, and we will now see how the enemy was defeated.

1. As the people of Judah went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa, what did Jehoshaphat tell them to do? II Chronicles 20:20.
2. Whom did Jehoshaphat appoint in II Chronicles 20:21?
3. What did the singers do in II Chronicles 20:22? What happened as a result of their singing?
4. What happened to the enemy? II Chronicles 20:23.
5. When Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, what did they see? II Chronicles 20:24.
6. What did Jehoshaphat and his people find among the dead bodies? How long did it take them to gather the spoil? II Chronicles 20:25.
7. What did they do on the fourth day? II Chronicles 20:26.

## LESSON III

JEHOSHAPHAT OVERTHROWS THE ENEMY  
(PART II)

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 20:27-37.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 20:30.**

**"So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about."**

**NOTE:** In our last lesson, we learned how God helped destroy the enemy when the appointed people sang praises to Him. They also received riches and jewels from those who died. We will now study about the joy and peace the people had following the victory over their enemies and about some trouble they had with a wicked person.

1. Where did the people return to, and how did they feel? II Chronicles 20:27.
2. What did the people take unto the house of the Lord? II Chronicles 20:28.
3. Was the fear of God on all the kingdoms when they heard how the Lord fought against the enemy? How was Jehoshaphat at this time? II Chronicles 20:29-30.
4. How long did Jehoshaphat reign over Judah? II Chronicles 20:31.
5. Did he walk in the way of his father? II Chronicles 20:32.
6. After this, with whom did Jehoshaphat join himself? Was this person wicked or righteous? II Chronicles 20:35.
7. Why did he join with Ahaziah? II Chronicles 20:36.
8. Did the Lord break up their works? II Chronicles 20:37.

**LESSON IV**

**JEHORAM SUCCEEDS JEHOSEPHAT**

**Scripture Reading: II Chronicles 21:1-20.**

**Golden Text: II Chronicles 21:5.**

**"Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem."**

**NOTE:** We have just finished studying about Jehoshaphat who was king of Judah for twenty five years. He was a good king and sought the Lord in all things. After this death, Jehoram, his son, reigned in his stead. Let us see whether he was as good a king as his father.

1. How many sons did Jehoshaphat have? II Chronicles 21:2.
2. What gifts did he give each of his children? Why did he give the kingdom of Judah to Jehoram? II Chronicles 21:3.
3. How old was Jehoram when he began to reign, and what did he do to all his brethren? II Chronicles 21:4-5.
4. Did Jehoram do that which was good in the sight of the Lord? II Chronicles 21:6-7.
5. What did Jehoram do to the Edomites? Did they revolt from under his hand? What other group of people revolted? II Chronicles 21:8-10.
6. What did he cause the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do? How did he do this? II Chronicles 21:11.
7. What did Elijah prophesy would happen to him and to his people? II Chronicles 21:12-15.
8. What did the Philistines, the Arabians and the Ethiopians do to Judah? II Chronicles 21:16-17.
9. The Lord smote Jehoram with an incurable disease and he died. How long did he reign in Jerusalem? II Chronicles 21:19-20.

## THE BEST LUNCH

by Frances P. Clarke

"Tell us a story, Grandma," begged the twins. They loved to visit their grandparents, especially on a Sabbath afternoon, because they had so much fun together.

"What kind of a story would you like today?" she asked, as they settled down on the floor at her feet with the well-worn wooden blocks.

"Well," said Tim, as he started sorting out blocks for a garage, "I was wondering if you could tell us a new one we have never heard before."

"Oh yes, that was a good idea. There, Tim, want some more of this kind?" said Janet, and Tim nodded.

"Let me see," began their Grandmother petting their cat who had jumped up beside her on the couch. "Once upon a time - in fact, nearly 2,000 years ago - there was a young boy. I do not know his name."

"But he must have had a name. Everybody has a name," said Janet. "Even cats have names, don't they, Blackie?" she asked fondly. He purred contentedly as she paused to stroke the white spot under his chin.

"All right then. We will call him Jonathan," Grandmother continued. "Now Jonathan lived near the Sea of Galilee and liked to go fishing with his father."

"What kind of bait did he use?" wondered Tim.

"Oh, what difference does it make?" Janet asked. "Let us get on with the story."

"Well, did he catch any fish? That is what matters, I guess," decided Tim.

"Yes," agreed Grandma, "in fact, one morning he got up extra early and caught two nice fish. He cleaned them and gave them to his mother to bake. He asked her if he could have some of the bread she was baking to take for his lunch the next day. You see he wanted to find where the crowd was gathering to listen to the new teacher. He had heard that some of the followers had even been healed. His mother had finally consented to let him go and knew he would probably get quite hungry after his long walk."

"I figured you were going to tell a story about Jesus," remarked Janet, "when you said this happened almost 2000 years ago."

"Yes, our calendar is based on when people think

Jesus was born," agreed Grandma. "But to go on, Jonathan did start out the next day carrying his lunch and found a group of people who were on their way to try to find Jesus, too. Soon a large crowd came together, and they watched a boat coming across the lake. Sure enough, Jesus and some of his closest friends were getting out and coming up on the shore. There were so many people it was hard at first for Jonathan to see, but he managed to work his way through the crowd so that he could watch Jesus' face and hear what he was saying.

"He listened so hard that he lost track of the time. And so did the others. When the afternoon sun was fading, some of the disciples began to realize the people would be getting hungry, and some were quite far from their homes. 'How can we feed all those people?' They thought. Jonathan could see the worried look on Philip's face as he said to Jesus, 'It would cost a lot of money to buy food for all these folks.'

"Jonathan had been so busy he had forgotten to eat any of his lunch. So when Andrew looked around, Jonathan said to him, 'I have some food here in my bag. Would this help?'

"Andrew was very polite and he replied, 'That is very generous of you, young man. Let us show it to Jesus and see what he says.' So Jonathan pulled out his lunch and gave him all he had - the two fish and the five pieces of bread. It seemed like enough for a growing boy like him, but for all these men and women and children it did not seem like very much.

"But Jesus told the disciples to have the people all sit down on the grassy slope. Then he took what Jonathan had offered to Andrew said a very special prayer, broke the bread and fish apart and had the disciples pass the pieces to that whole crowd. When they had all had enough to eat, he told his helpers to gather the uneaten food and not to waste any. Jonathan could not see how there could be any left, but he decided to help too. Imagine their surprise when they collected twelve baskets full of leftovers! Jonathan could hardly believe his eyes. He had heard that Jesus could make miracles happen, but never anything like this. And to think that Jesus had used his very own lunch! What joy he shared with his mother when he came home that night and told her all about that wonderful day!"

"How is that for a story you never heard before?" Grandmother asked.

"I still do not know if it could really happen," sighed Tim.

"Neither do I," agreed Janet, "but I know the Bible does say that thousands of people were fed that day. We have had that story at Sabbath School but you made it seem like we were right there too."

"Well, it was fun trying to imagine how that he might have felt. The story is told in all the Gospels, but I discovered once that only John mentions the boy, and I supposed they all did" concluded Grandmother.

Just then the door opened and the twins saw Gramps coming in after delivering some of Grandma's custard to a sick neighbor. They ran to greet him and showed him the village they had been making with the blocks while they listened. Then they asked him if he would come out in the yard and give them a few pushes in the swing before supper.

Why do you think the twins liked to visit their grandparents?

You will find the Bible story in:

- Matthew 14:13-21
- Mark 6:30-44
- Luke 9:10-17
- John 6:1-14.

**Draw a line around the things you think a Child of God should do.**

1. Tell lies.
2. Keep away from evil things.
3. Help mother.
4. Pick the neighbor's flowers.
5. Be friendly.
6. Play games on Sabbath morning instead of going to church.
7. Go to Sabbath School.
8. Help clean the church.
9. Pray.
10. Swear.
11. Try to be like Jesus.
12. Read the Bible every day.

**WHO KILLED THEM?**

1. Who killed John the Baptist?
2. Who killed Abel?
3. Who killed Stephen?
4. Who killed Peter?
5. Who killed Jezebel?
6. Who killed Haman?
7. Who killed Absalom?
8. Who killed Goliath?
9. Who killed Naboth?
10. Who killed James?

**Answers:**

1. He was beheaded by the order of Herod (Mark 6:27).
2. His brother was Cain (Genesis 4:8).
3. He was stoned to death by the Jews (Acts 7:59).
4. He was crucified by the Romans.
5. She was thrown from her window by the eunuchs, at Jehu's command (II Kings 9:33).
6. He was hanged by order of King Ahasuerus, on a gallows he had built for Mordecai (Esther 7:10).
7. He was struck with three darts by Joab, while he was hanging by the hair from an oak tree (II Samuel 18:14).
8. He was killed by David's slingshot (I Samuel 17:49).
9. He was stoned to death by Jezebel's orders (I Kings 21:13).
10. He was slain by the sword at Herod's orders (Acts 12:2).

**CROSS OUT THE S'S**

in each line. Write the other letters in the spaces at the side. What is the message?

SSSKSESSESSSSP \_ \_ \_ \_

ASSSWSSSSASYSS \_ \_ \_ \_

SSSSFRSSOMSS \_ \_ \_ \_

SESVSISLSSSSSS \_ \_ \_ \_

**"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh" (Matthew 25:13).**

# How To Plant Your Garden

First, you Come to the garden alone,  
while the dew is still on the roses....



## FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING,

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:



1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:



1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:



1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:



1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:



1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

*Time for God*

