A scenic view of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, a large, leafy tree with a thick trunk stands on the left, its branches extending towards the center. The ground is covered in green grass and some fallen leaves. To the right, a rocky shoreline meets the ocean. The water is a vibrant blue-green, with white waves crashing against the rocks. In the background, a line of palm trees and other tropical vegetation stretches along the coast under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

*The Advocate of
Truth*



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Honesty In Truth Telling

Bond Tennant

Honesty is often associated with words. Speaking the truth is one very important part of honesty. If we are not honest in speaking our words, how can we expect God to view us as honest? “Lie not one to another...” (Colossians 3:9) means just that, no more and no less. A lie is an intentional telling of something that we know is not true. It is possible to misjudge a situation. However, misjudging is not a crime. We may misinterpret, or misunderstand, but we must not misrepresent.

If we are committed to telling the truth, we will be truthful without regard to how the truth may affect us or anyone else. Honesty in truth telling allows for no “fixing up” of what we tell. Kindness or wisdom may advise us not to tell all we know. We must not falsify the facts, and we must not knowingly deceive.

There is no coloring in truth. Neither is there any shading, covering, shrinking or stretching. If it is altered, it is no longer the truth. It is like pure water. When anything is added to pure water, it is no longer pure!

If we are honest in telling the truth, our telling will be the same whether others can verify the facts or whether

they cannot, and it makes no difference whether they accuse us or whether they commend. Many may distort the facts in order to give a false impression, to save face, cover a mistake or promote their agenda. Doing these things does not please or honor God. We must do our best to be factual even in unimportant details. Let us quote Luke 16:10 from the **New International Version**: “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

We may fear the judgments of others. However, there is something far more important that we must fear. It is the fear of falling short of the promises of God which include becoming “joint heirs with Christ.” Read Romans 8:13-17.

We must learn the lessons we need to live eternally and to prepare for life in the coming kingdom. We are children in school preparing for a future role of becoming kings and priests unto God. But first, we must pass the test and advance to higher levels.

CHILDREN OF GOD’S CONVERSATION OR CONDUCT

By Bibi Shimon Allicock

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not

thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves IN THE ABUNDANCE OF PEACE” (Psalm 37:1-11). “THE LORD KNOWETH THE DAYS OF THE UPRIGHT: AND THEIR INHERITANCE SHALL BE FOR EVER” (verse 18). “A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: BUT THE LORD UPHOLDETH THE RIGHTEOUS” (verses 16-17). “THEY SHALL NOT

BE ASHAMED IN THE EVIL TIME: AND IN THE DAYS OF FAMINE THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED" (verse 19).

David declared, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand" (verses 23-24).

David also expounded concerning the conversation of the wicked. He said, "The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken" (verses 14-15).

"I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found" (verses 35-36). "...they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away" (verse 20, last part).

Thus, he concluded on the conduct of the righteous: "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace" (verse 37). "And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him" (verse 40).

Upon the earth, we have two sets of people. At the end of time, they will be divided by Almighty God. One set will be deemed as goats, while the other as sheep. We, who call ourselves children of God, ought to know to which set we belong. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and

gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, 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 25:31-46).

In the holy Scriptures, Almighty God has given so many instructions and admonishments whereby we will gain at His hand. We do have to be focused and abide by them, thus, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 54:17).

We do know that when the Lord is for us, no man can be against us. Therefore let us "...put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil

speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:22-32).

"Be ye therefore followers of God, AS DEAR CHILDREN; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: BUT RATHER GIVING OF THANKS. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 5:1-6).

Since our conversation has to be circumspect, our Brother Paul informs us that "Neither is there SALVATION IN ANY OTHER: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Let us therefore show forth our peculiarity and accept our position of being a peculiar people. "But ye are a chosen generation, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" (I Peter 2:9-12).

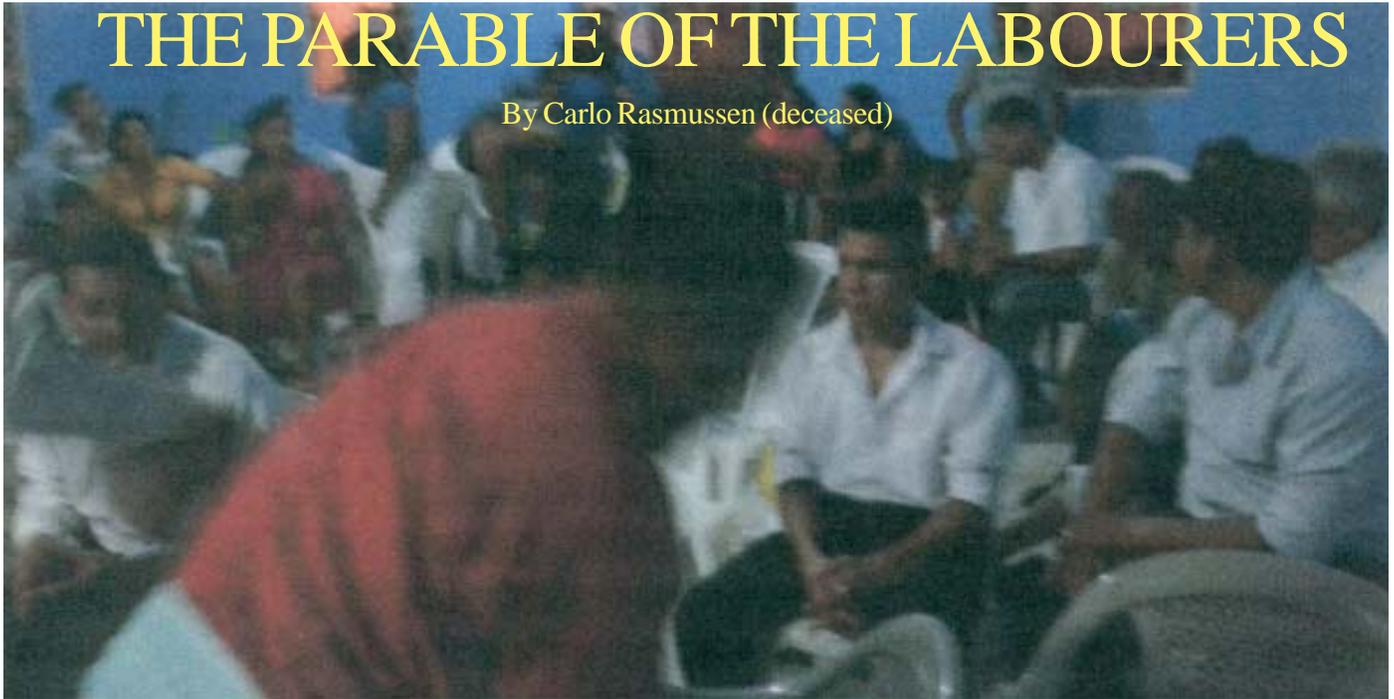
"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the LORD'S sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye

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. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: WHO DID NO SIN, NEITHER WAS GUILF FOUND IN HIS MOUTH: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, He threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (verses 13-23).

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: BUT REJOICE, INASMUCH AS YE ARE PARTAKERS OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS; THAT, WHEN HIS GLORY SHALL BE REVEALED, YE MAY BE GLAD ALSO WITH EXCEEDING JOY. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a CHRISTIAN, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (I Peter 4:11-19). Amen.

THE PARABLE OF THE LABOURERS

By Carlo Rasmussen (deceased)



Jesus spoke a parable to His disciples about labourers who were hired into a vineyard. We read this parable in Matthew 20:1-16. In these verses, we read that the Kingdom of Heaven resembles a householder who went to hire labourers for his vineyard early in the morning. We read where the agreement is made with the labourers to work for "a penny a day," and they were sent forth to work in the vineyard. Later on, about the third hour of the day, the householder again went into the marketplace, and finding others standing, he said, "Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you." Again about the sixth and ninth hours the householder did likewise. And at the eleventh hour, the householder found others standing idle and instructed them to "Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive." When evening was come, the lord of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first." We understand that all the labourers were paid the same wage of one penny. Those who were hired early in the day murmured against the householder saying that they worked longer and "borne the burden and heat of the day." The householder said, "Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?" The householder went on to say, "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? ... So the last shall be first, and the first last:

for many be called, but few chosen."

Let us seek to understand this parable by knowing the meaning of the symbols given.

THE HOUSEHOLDER is representative of the heavenly Father. We read in John 17:9-11 where Jesus prayed unto the Father: "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." The heavenly Father is continually calling His people out of the world unto Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. The Father sends those whom He calls to labour into His vineyard, or among His people.

THE VINEYARD represents the people of God. We read in Psalm 80:8-9 how the Lord "...brought a vine out of Egypt; thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it. Thou preparedst room before it, and didst cause it to take deep root, and it filled the land." In these verses, the vineyard represents the children of Israel who came out of Egypt by God's hand and took root in the promised land. Today God's people are still His vineyard and are being led out of Egypt (Babylon) into the promised land of peace which passeth all understanding.

THE LABOURERS are all of God's people. Every person within the Body of Christ has been given certain abilities whereby they may labour in the vineyard for the good and upbuilding of the Body. The Apostle Paul informs us that "...we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (I Corinthians 3:9). There is an effort that must be applied by every individual within the Church that the Church be edified and the name of the Lord be glorified.

THE WAGES is the agreed amount given unto the labourers when the day's work is completed. We read in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The equal gift for all who labour in the Lord's vineyard will be life eternal.

THE MARKETPLACE is a place where one could go during Jesus' time and receive employment. The marketplace in Jerusalem was located in the center of the city. Each day the employers (householders) would go to the marketplace to find the labourers who would work for them that day. Today, the marketplace could be considered the whole earth. Today, God looks for and seeks out of the world those who will labour for Him in His vineyard, through His Son Jesus Christ. "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you" (Proverbs 1:20-23). In the closing minutes of this age, the great Householder seeks those out of the "marketplace" who are of a sincere and contrite heart and adds such as should be saved into the Body of Christ through Jesus Christ our Lord (see Acts 2:47).

The time-period of the "day" in this parable could be understood to mean several different periods of time. Let us consider the following thoughts in relation to the "day" in the parable.

THE GOSPEL AGE

The period of the Gospel Age, beginning at the Day of

Pentecost and continuing on until the return of our Lord for His saints, is the general time period in most people's minds. The "early morning" time could represent the first century Church. Later times of increased intensity during the centuries could represent the third, sixth, and ninth, hours. At this present time, it is a certainty that we are living in what would be called the eleventh hour. We know from the Scriptures that Jesus could appear at any time in the clouds to catch away His saints.

THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFETIME

The day of hiring could represent the lifetime of the individual. Everyone called into the Master's service is called at different times during his or her lifetime. Some are called in their youth, while others are called during their middle years. There is record of others who are called in the last years of life. The Bible records examples of God's people in each group. Let us consider those who early in life were called to labour in the vineyard. There is John the Baptist who was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb (see Luke 1:15). The life of John the Baptist was one of preparation and service unto the Lord from the beginning of his life. Young Timothy is another example of an early call in life for a labourer. In the Apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy, he writes of remembering "...the unfeigned faith that is in thee (Timothy), which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice..." (II Timothy 1:5). Timothy was considered by Paul as a "son" in the faith as we understand from I Timothy 1:2 and II Timothy 1:2. These brethren certainly were called into the vineyard early in their lives. Every Bible reader is familiar with the Apostle Paul. Paul was called into service during the middle years of his life. We know how Paul, formerly known as Saul, was very active in the "Jew's religion" and going about persecuting the Church of God. From the time of Paul's calling on the road to Damascus, we have record of the many wonderful efforts accomplished by him through our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul laboured mightily in the early Church from his calling in middle years unto life's end. A good example of a calling in later years would be that of Nicodemus. We understand the age of Nicodemus because he was called a ruler of the Jews in John 3:1. In the nation of Israel, only a man of age could be considered a ruler of the people. We read how Nicodemus took a stand for Jesus when the Pharisees spoke against the Lord in John 7:50. Nicodemus also

helped with the burial of the Saviour in John 19:39. We can safely say that Nicodemus took an active part in the work of the vineyard as he did his best for the Master.

MAN'S FALL UNTIL JESUS RETURNS

Another time period to consider is that from the fall of mankind until the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Early in the morning, as mentioned in the parable, could represent Adam's time during the early years of man's history. God is willing that no man should perish, therefore during Adam's life there were labourers in the vineyard. The third-hour call could have been during the time of Noah. We know how Noah warned the people and advised them to prepare themselves before the flood. The work in the vineyard continued after the flood because once again man was to fill the earth. The time of the sixth-hour could be representative of Abraham's time. We read of how Abraham was called out of Babylon and was shown the land of Canaan which his literal seed would someday possess. Here we come to understand that God called His people long before there was an Israelite. Abraham was not a Jew.

The time of Israel could be representative of the ninth-hour in Jesus' parable. Israel was God's chosen vineyard for many centuries. Israel was the focal point of God's calling during the active years of the Levitical Priesthood. The eleventh-hour time frame in this order of events would then be the Gospel Age of today with Jesus Christ as the High Priest of the active Melchisedec Priesthood. The age we are in today is well known as the "Last Days." The second coming of Jesus Christ will bring the end of this "age," or the last days. This eleventh-hour calling is now in the final minutes as we realize Christ's imminent appearing as recorded in Revelation 14:14.

The evening comes and darkness falls, and the work in the vineyard ceases. The time has come for the end of the day, and the Householder calls the STEWARD (see Matthew 20:8). The Steward could be the Lord Jesus. Jesus is the head of the Body of Christ, the Good Shepherd of His flock. We know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Only through Him do we have access unto the Father. Jesus then could be the Great

Steward of the vineyard.

THE WAGES received would be Eternal Life. Each labourer receives the same amount for his efforts in the vineyard. "... he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" (John 4:36).

As we consider this great parable of our Lord, we need to understand the wisdom in Jesus' words. Jesus is all wisdom and knowledge. Therefore, His parables present wisdom and knowledge for His disciples. As we contemplate the parable, let us consider the final verse, "So the last shall be first, and the first last:..." (Matthew 20:16). These words express the complete equity and fairness of our Lord. He who considers himself first is considered by our Lord as "last." He who humbles his heart in sincerity is great in the sight of God. Here we touch on an area of God which clearly is above man's ways (see Isaiah 55:9). Such ways are difficult for man to understand. Only under divine inspiration and guidance (the Holy Spirit) do we begin to comprehend these thoughts from God. We gain more wisdom when we consider prayerfully our Lord's words in answer to those who murmured against Him because of the wages received, though they laboured longer. The Lord makes it very plain that He is debtor to no man. In truth, mankind is completely in debt unto the Lord in every way.

Dear Reader, as we conclude our study of this parable, let us ask ourselves this question. Have we been called by the Great Householder to labour in His vineyard? If you have not felt the calling of the Lord, possibly this could be a call being made to you. Upon being called, we should consider these words, "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" (Hebrews 12:1). As labourers in God's vineyard, we have our respective abilities and work which we must fulfill. Let us then apply ourselves in every available way that we may be counted worthy at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He that hath an ear, let him hear.

THE SPIRIT

Some will say that the soul and body of man are mortal, but that the spirit of man is eternal, immortal, and lives and functions with all the feeling and mind of the human being, either in heaven or hell after the person is dead. We shall examine this hypothesis.

We find that there is a spirit in man, but God gives it understanding. "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8).

It gives man life. "The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life" (Job 33:4).

It is in man's nostrils. "All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils" (Job 27:3).

No man has power to retain the spirit in the day of death. "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it" (Ecclesiastes 8:8).

The spirit of both righteous and wicked returns to God who gave it, and they return to the dust as it says, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). It does not retain the feeling and mind, neither does it suffer torment or praise God. The spirit mentioned in the above tests is only the spirit of life. The Holy Spirit is different, and it is only given to the righteous.

In Proverbs 20:27, we are told that the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly". So the candle of man is the spirit of man. Job had it. "When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness" (Job 29:3). This candle or spirit is not eternal, but it can be put out with the wicked. "Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness" (Proverbs 20:20). "The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out" (Proverbs 13:9). "Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine. The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, and his candle shall be put out with him" (Job 18:5-6).

As the spirit of man will be put out with him, we know

that it is not an immortal spirit that lives and thinks on after death. If everyone was naturally possessed of immortality, the wicked would have eternal life the same as the righteous, and would not perish even though there never would be a resurrection of the dead. We read in I John 3:15, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." Paul says, "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished" (I Corinthians 15:16-18). This alone proves that immortality and a resurrection to everlasting life depends on obedience in this life.

--FROM AN OLD TRACT

QUESTIONS FROM GOD

"I just don't believe in Creation"

I once heard a righteous man say;

"My knees bow to no one,

For I am in charge of my day."

But how can you explain all the miracles

Brought about by Aaron's plain rod;

And the plagues that came upon Egypt,
That came by just one word from God?

Oh yes, you can build great vessels,

And planes that can fly through the air;

But can you by your might raise a dead man

By just one word of a prayer?

By the way, can you conquer a city

That is hidden behind mighty walls;

And with only a blast from a trumpet

That wall just crumbles and falls?

Can you explain a great giant

That the Philistines looked on with pride;

But with only a small stone and a young shepherd lad,

That giant just laid down and died?

And when you see your reflection,

Do you list all the things you can do?

God crowned His creation by forming a man

Who looks exactly like YOU!

--Betty Whetstone

Wisdom's Seven Pillars

By David DeLong



In Proverbs 9:1-6 we learn: "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city, Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."

Wisdom is the will of God. It is the truth of God's Word. Personified, wisdom is Jesus Christ Himself (see I Corinthians 1:24). In the above passage in Proverbs we read a number of things that wisdom (Christ if you will) has done. Wisdom has builded her house. In the Old Testament the house of God was the tabernacle and later the temple. We find, for instance, Nehemiah chiding the rulers of Israel for not taking care of God's house. "Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place" (Nehemiah 13:11).

In the New Testament the temple or house of God is His people, the Church, collectively and individually. Ephesians 2:19-22 informs us: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in

the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Furthermore, we find in I Corinthians 6:19: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

We, as God's people, must take care of God's house, just as Nehemiah contended for the people of his day to do. Included in Nehemiah's reforms were the cleansing of God's house, the restoring of the vessels to that house, and the renewed giving of the tithe for the work of the Lord (see Nehemiah 13:4-14). Jesus purchased the Church of God with His blood (see Acts 20:28), but it is the duty of all of us to maintain and help edify the Church with the talents and abilities that have been entrusted to us.

Next, wisdom has hewn out her seven pillars. We will come back to this idea later. She has killed her beasts. In the Old Testament temple service the killing of beasts signified sacrifice to the Lord. Today, God's people must heed the advice given in Romans 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable 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."

Wisdom has mingled her wine. Wine can sometimes refer to teachings or doctrine. For instance, we see from

Revelation 17 a woman called the great whore who has influence over the inhabitants of the earth. Verse 2 reads: "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." Wine, here, would include this woman's false teachings or doctrines which have influenced many people. Wisdom's wine, however, includes true teachings or doctrines that are the very teachings of Jesus.

Wisdom has also furnished her table. We find the Psalmist giving a similar thought in Psalm 23:5: "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..." The thought here seems to be of God's unfailing provision for His children through any and all circumstances. Furnishing a table may also refer to the work that we must do to provide for ourselves and others. The Apostle Paul wrote: "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Ephesians 4:28).

Wisdom has sent forth her maidens. Wisdom must be taught. Some people may have a general propensity to what we call "horse sense". However, God's wisdom is of a spiritual nature and the carnal mind cannot understand it without the Spirit of God. But there must also be people who bring God's words of wisdom to others. Paul wrote: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:13-15).

Wisdom's message is elementary, and yet profound: "Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled. Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding" (Proverbs 9:4-6). Eating of wisdom's bread and drinking of her wine reminds one of the communion which the Lord desires with His people. Melchizedek and Abraham shared in this communion (see Genesis 14:18-20). The Lord Jesus shared in communion when He participated with His disciples in the Lord's Supper. We read

in Matthew 26:26-29: "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." This, of course, was unleavened bread and the unleavened fruit of the vine.

Coming back now to the topic of wisdom's seven pillars, we find a very interesting text in the book of James. Chapter 3, verse 17 gives us seven aspects (pillars?) which make up God's wisdom. Here we find listed: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." God's Word does not change. When reading through this list composing the wisdom of God it is as if we were reading from the Beatitudes of Matthew 5 and the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5. These are Kingdom principles!

The wisdom from above is first pure. Jesus said in Matthew 5:8: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Being pure means that one will not compromise with what is right. Many believers have given their very lives rather than compromise with the truth of God's Word. This seems like a noble sentiment, indeed. And truly it is. But what about the everyday things of life with which we may compromise, without hardly noticing. Perhaps it involves a lustful book we may read, an "adult" T.V. show we may watch, or an off color joke that we laugh at rather than offend the joke teller. It is the pure in heart who will see God.

God's wisdom is also peaceable. A part of the fruit of the Spirit is peace (see Galatians 5:22). Jesus taught: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9). These are the ones who do not get caught up in foolish controversies, do not carnally take sides in church matters, and do not keep the fires of blame flaming up with gossip and talebearing. Peacemakers will even sometimes compromise, if it does not involve a principle or matter of conscience. Giving in to someone else's opinion, or compromising on a personal preference can often help to create peace among the brethren. Controlling the words that we speak can

also have a calming effect. Proverbs 15:1 instructs us: "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

Closely related to being peaceable is being gentle. Gentleness is also a part of the fruit of the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22). Paul reported in I Thessalonians 2:7: "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children." How wonderful to treat others, and be treated, by loving and caring people. This is one of the best ways to build a church. How we treat others is how we will be treated by the Lord (see Matthew 7:2). Notice how David felt about the Lord's treatment of him in Psalm 18:35: "Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great." Treating others with gentleness makes them feel worthwhile, like their lives count. God's gentleness helps people to do things they may have never tried to do before. It is a wonderful form of encouragement.

Wisdom involves being easy to be entreated. In other words the person is reasonable or compliant. The opposite would be stiffnecked or stubborn. It takes godly wisdom to work with others, especially if some feel they need to be the boss all the time. On the other hand, we are admonished to be submissive to the authorities in our lives. Peter writes: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (I Peter 5:5-6). One of the great tests in life is the fact that if we are submissive to others then we will also be submissive to the Lord. The opposite is also true.

Wisdom is full of mercy and good fruits. Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). And the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 consists of the good fruits spoken of in James. God only has one standard. Though this standard may be expressed in different ways, the standard is made up of the same Kingdom principles which never change throughout time. May we understand and put into practice this standard of love. Whether the principles are from the Ten Commandments, the essence of wisdom, the statements of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount, the fruit of the Spirit, or any other passages of Scripture, they all per-

fectly reflect the will and Word of God.

God's wisdom is without partiality. He does not have respect of persons or show favoritism, and He teaches us not to have respect of persons too. James writes in his epistle, chapter 2:1-4: "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"

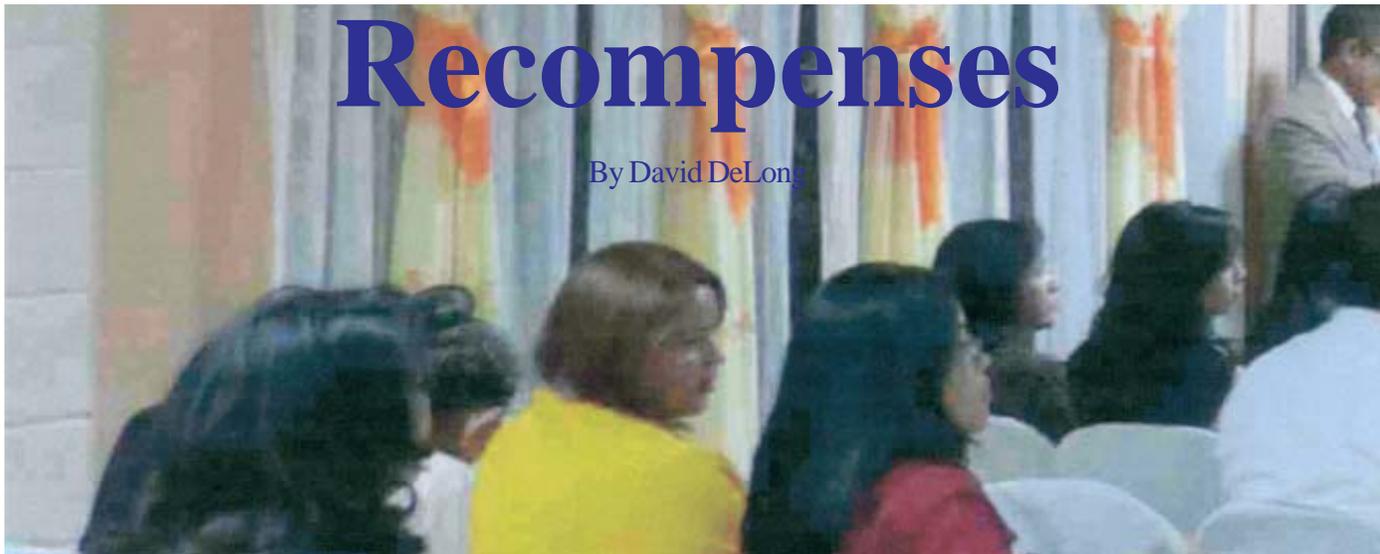
The Lord made it plain to the children of Israel that they were to have fair judgment in their dealings with people. In Exodus 23:6-8 we read: "Thou shalt not wrest the judgment of thy poor in his cause. Keep thee far from a false matter; and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked. And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous."

Finally, we find that wisdom is without hypocrisy. This attitude of hypocrisy is what Jesus warned the religious leaders of His day not to have (see Matthew 23). However, He also warned everyone not to be a hypocrite (see Matthew 7:1-5). All of us are to "talk the talk, and walk the walk", so to speak. Seeing hypocrisy in people is what seems to most turn others away from the Lord and church going.

Wisdom, and the obtaining of it, is one of the main teachings of the Bible. The book of Proverbs is filled with the teaching of how to obtain this precious virtue. We are instructed in Proverbs 4:7-13: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life."

Recompenses

By David DeLong



The word "recompense" means: 1. a.--to give compensation to; repay; b.--to pay for; 2.-- to return in kind; requite. According to the Bible the things that a person does in his or her lifetime will be repaid either in this age, the age to come, or both. This will either be positive or negative repayment. Recompenses refer to rewards or punishments that a person will receive for good or bad works. We are not referring to receiving the gift of eternal life here.

We are taught in I Corinthians 3:11-15: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

This text affirms that the person already has salvation and is building works, either good or bad, upon the foundation (Jesus Christ). The gold, silver, and precious stones correspond to the good works that a believer is building for the Lord. He or she will receive a reward for these works. The wood, hay, and stubble could correspond to selfish works (possibly works for one's own glory than for the glory of God) with which the believer is involved. These will be burned, and the person will experience a loss. The Scriptures seem to indicate that every work, no matter how small, will be given a recompense (see Matthew 10:40-42; 12:36; 25:31-46).

Jesus taught that some things a person does will be

recompensed to him or her with the very same things. For instance, we read in Matthew 7:1-2: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Likewise, we find in Matthew 6:14-15: "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." And, as we learned from the previous article, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7).

Continuing in this line of thinking, our Lord taught: "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).

Jesus also taught: "But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:13-14).

Finally, may our works be done for the glory of God. Jesus said in Matthew 6:1-4: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."



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.

ABOUT SELF-ESTEEM

As you may have heard, last April the televangelist Robert H. Schuller died. He preached self-esteem on the same order as Norman Vincent Peale. He started the Hour of Power ministry. There are many ministers who seem to preach self-esteem, and in doing so rarely mention the need for the Lord Jesus Christ. There is one very famous minister that leads a large church in Houston with thousands of members. He has authored several books, and I know of another who lives in my area a few miles from Houston. Can we not call this type of a minister more like a psychologist than a religionist? The self-esteem message really is a denial of a command of our Lord Jesus Christ which tells us to “Deny thyself.” The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Webster's New World Dictionary gives the definition of self-esteem as: 1. belief in oneself; self-respect 2. undue pride in oneself; conceit. There is nothing wrong with self-esteem in itself. The first definition of self-esteem, given in the dictionary, is the kind every child of God must have. The child of God must turn away from the second definition.

Romans 12:3 records, “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, NOT TO THINK OF HIMSELF MORE HIGHLY THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK; but to think soberly, according as

God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Two of the things that II Timothy 3:2-5 tells us that men will display in the last days are being proud and highminded. Only through living for Christ can one have self-esteem which is pleasing to God.

WATER CRISIS CONTINUES

The following is an article entitled *California looks to the sea for drinking water* by Justin Gillis which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**:

CARLSBAD, Calif. – Every time drought strikes California, the people of this state cannot help noticing the substantial reservoir of untapped water lapping at their shores – quintillion gallons of it, more or less, shimmering invitingly in the sun.

Now for the first time, a major California metropolis is on the verge of turning the Pacific Ocean into an everyday source of water.

A \$1 billion desalination plant to supply booming San Diego is under construction here and due to open as soon as November, providing a major test of whether California cities will be able to resort to the ocean to solve their water woes.

Texas explores options

Across the Sun Belt, a technology once dismissed as too expensive and harmful to the environment is getting a second look. Texas, facing persistent dry conditions and a population influx, may build several ocean desalination plants. Florida has one operating already and may be

forced to build others as a rising sea invades the state's freshwater supplies.

In California, small desalination plants are up and running in a handful of towns. Plans are far along for a large plant in Huntington Beach that would supply water to populous Orange County. A mothballed plant in Santa Barbara may soon be reactivated. And more than a dozen firms along the California coast are studying the issue. The facility being built here will be the largest ocean desalination plant in the Western Hemisphere, producing about 50 million gallons of drinking water a day. So it is under scrutiny for whether it can operate without major problems.

"It was not an easy decision to build this plant," said Mark Weston, chairman of the agency that supplies water to towns in San Diego County. "But it is turning out to be a spectacular choice. What we thought was on the expensive side 10 years ago is now affordable."

Many hard choices

Still, the plant illustrates many of the hard choices that states and communities face as they consider whether to tap the ocean for drinking water.

In San Diego County, which depends on imported freshwater supplies from the Colorado River and from Northern California, water bills already average about \$75 a month. The new plant will drive them up by \$5 or so.

The plant will use a huge amount of electricity, increasing the carbon dioxide emissions that cause global warming, which further strains water supplies. And local environmental groups, which fought the plant, fear a substantial impact on sea life. The company developing the plant here, Poseidon Water, has promised to counter the environmental damage. For instance, it will pay into a California program that finances projects to offset emissions of greenhouse gases.

Still, some scientists and environmental groups contend that if rainy conditions return to California, the plant here and others like it could become white elephants. Santa Barbara, northwest of Los Angeles, built its desalination plant a quarter-century ago and promptly shut it down when rains returned.

Australia is a more spectacular case. It built six huge desalination plants during a dry spell and has largely idled four of them though water customers remain saddled with several billion dollars' worth of construction bills.

Comment

The solution to water shortage is causing perplexity. If new plants are built, the article states that one group thinks it will contribute to climate change, and others think the cost is too great, but these are taking a chance of needing the plants in the future after rains come and another drought returns.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

There are many hopeful presidential candidates who wish to be nominated by their party to run for president in 2016. They attack each other, even candidates in their own party. They glorify their positions and tell us that conditions, both foreign and domestic, will improve if their program is implemented.

"Hope springs eternal" is an old saying. In the past, many Americans have been disappointed by promises made by their elected president which he did not, or could not, keep. Therefore, their hope in that president was not fulfilled.

The only sure hope that will be fulfilled is given only to the children of God. It is recorded in I Peter 1:3-5: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a LIVELY HOPE by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

BUDGET CUTS

I read an editorial entitled, Budget cuts continue to undermine our position as global leader. It stated, "Even simple day-to-day operations, like funding customs agents, have become difficult under the current budget atmosphere." What is the solution?

LIVING ON MARS?

I saw a news feature on CNN which told of a group of people who wished to travel to Mars to live and not return to earth. They already have made a payment to a certain concern to reserve their space on the craft when it has been perfected.

I do not think that God is pleased with this plan. He created EARTH to be inhabited. He did not mention about man living on any other planet.



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: How important is good management in a godly home?

ANSWER: There is a prevailing attitude in today's world to just "DO IT" and do not concern yourself with how it gets done. This foolish thought of no planning and management will consistently reap a haphazard result. In some cases, the result may even be quite tragic.

Any successful home has to have a good and sound management. This includes the oversight of activities conducted by each youngster as they progress in their growth. Management of special projects undertaken together and how to use their time wisely is necessary.

The managing of the money is most important. One adult may have a better understanding in this area than the other. One great benefit in this area is the payment of one's tithe unto God. The giving of the "Firstfruit" unto the Lord is a proven blessing as one manages the remaining nine-tenths. Good management in the godly home is truly a wonderful blessing from God.

QUESTION: The Bible records some of the most horrible deeds ever perpetrated by men. For example, there is Jephthah's vow to sacrifice his daughter to God, a vow which he then fulfilled. How can you reconcile a God of love with the acceptance of human sacrifice?

ANSWER: This story is recorded in Judges 11:30-40. Here, we see the honesty of the Bible in presenting not only the sin but the folly of its major characters. We must remember that the Bible never condones the sins which it faithfully records. God was no more pleased with Jephthah's rash vow and deed than with Solomon's idolatry or David's adultery. Whatever his warped or confused thinking may have been, the vow was Jephthah's doing, not God's. The latter is not to be blamed for it.

QUESTION: You believe that fulfilled prophecy is proof that God inspired the writing of the Bible. Is not that proving the Bible by the Bible which is circular reasoning? Cannot any religion offer similar "proof" by using their writings in the same way?

ANSWER: There is overwhelming evidence of many kinds for the inspiration of Scripture. Prophecy is only one of the evidences. There is nothing wrong with "proving the Bible by the Bible" any more than with proving a mathematical theorem by mathematics. Fulfilled prophecy proves the Bible not only by itself but by verification from secular history that what the Bible foretold did really occur. Your suggestion that any religion can offer similar "proof" by using their scriptures does not really make sense.

QUESTION: My question concerns Christian conduct. How can a Christian know what he or she may not do?

ANSWER: Many Christians are troubled by this question. They find that certain practices are clearly condemned in the Bible, but that there are many others which are not mentioned. The following are a few questions with comments. These may help to answer your question:

1. Is it distinctly forbidden by the Lord for believers today? If it is, avoid it as you would a deadly disease. If you do not know, avoid it until you have a chance to find out. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21).

2. Is it "of the world"? If it is, it is not "of Christ." Concerning His disciples, Jesus said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:16). Jesus was in the world, but not of it. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (I John 2:15).

3. Would the Lord have done it? He left us an example! "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Peter 2:21).

4. When the Lord returns, would you like to be found doing it? A wise man once said, "Don't do anything, say anything, or go anywhere that would cause you shame if the Lord should come!" "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (I John 2:28).

5. Is it fitting conduct for a child of God? When a father's son acts in an unfitting manner, he brings disgrace on his father's name. The child of God who behaves in an unfitting manner does the same. "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10).

6. What effect will your conduct have on others? Will it be a good testimony to the unsaved. Will they come to the conclusion that there is no difference between a Christian and an unbeliever?

Will it cause any who are young in the faith to stumble? The Apostle Paul warned, "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way" (Romans 14:13).

QUESTION: My supervisor is asking me to do something which is against one of God's commandments. I do need my job, and I have always been taught to be loyal to God. What should I do?

ANSWER: May we be clear on what you should not do? You must not give in to the pressure to do something wrong, even if your supervisor thinks he can get by with it! The Bible warning is clear. "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known" (Proverbs 10:9).

You must realize that if you give in this time, your supervisor will probably expect you to do so again in the future. Then it will be even harder for you to say no. Colossians 1:10 says, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

What can you do? It may not be easy, but you need to tell your supervisor that while you respect him and want to do your duties well, you can't do what he is asking you to do in this case. Let him know that you are not disloyal or rebellious. In fact, you think it's in the company's best interests to be honest. Hopefully, he will back down. But if he won't, you may have no choice but to resign.

QUESTION: Who was Mnason?

ANSWER: Mnason was a disciple living in Jerusalem. He is identified as a native of the island of Cyprus and a disciple of long standing. On their arrival at Jerusalem, Paul and his traveling party lodged with him. See Acts 21:16.



Honduras

A Lord's Supper Service being conducted.





The footwashing service, for both the sisters and the brothers, is done before the emblems of the Lord's Supper service are partaken of.



LESSON I

MARY ANOINTS JESUS' FEET

Scripture Reading: John 12:1-11.

Golden Text: John 12:3 (first part).

“Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair...”

1. When did Jesus come to Bethany, and who was there? John 12:1.
2. Jesus is invited to supper. What did Martha and Lazarus do? John 12:2.
3. What did Mary do to Jesus? Was this ointment expensive? John 12:3.
4. What did Judas Iscariot say about the oil that Mary used? John 12:4-6.
5. What was Jesus' reply to Judas? John 12:7-8.
6. Why did many of the Jews know that Jesus was there? John 12:9.
7. What did the chief priests plan to do and why? John 12:10-11.

LESSON II

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-21.

Golden Text: John 10:14.

“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.”

1. What did Jesus say to anyone who tried to enter the sheepfold by any other way than the door? John 10:1.
2. Who is the shepherd of the sheep? John 10:2.

3. Discuss verses 3-6 of John 10.
4. Who did Jesus say was the door of the sheep? John 10:7-10.
5. Who did He say is the good shepherd? John 10:11.
6. What did He say about the hired shepherds? John 10:12-13.
7. What does the good shepherd do for his sheep? John 10:14-16.
8. What did He say of His power to lay down and take up His life again? John 10:17-18.
9. What did the above sayings cause among the Jews? John 10:19-21.

LESSON III

JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:1-10.

Golden Text: Matthew 18:3.

“And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

1. What question did the disciples ask of Jesus? Matthew 18:1.
2. What did Jesus say they must do before they could even enter the kingdom? Matthew 18:3.
3. Who then did He say would be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Matthew 18:4.
4. What did Jesus say of those who caused one of these little ones to stumble? Matthew 18:6.

NOTE: Jesus did not only mean children young in age but all those who are young in Christ. When we are

baptized, the old self dies, and we become “new babes in Christ.”

5. What does Jesus say about offenses? Matthew 18:7.

NOTE: We must try to never offend anyone.

6. Why should we not despise any child? Matthew 18:10.

7. What two types of children do we read of in the Scriptures? Colossians 3:6; Ephesians 5:6; Romans 8:16; Galatians 3:26.

8. Jesus wants us to continue to be humble as a child, but He also wants us to grow in His Word. I Peter 2:2-3.

LESSON IV

**HEALING THE SYROPHENICIAN
WOMAN’S DAUGHTER**

Scripture Reading: Mark 7:24-30.

Golden Text: Mark 7:25.

“For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet.”

1. Where did Jesus now go, and what did He try to do? Mark 7:24.

2. Who heard of Him, and what was her trouble? Mark 7:25.

3. What was the woman’s nationality? Mark 7:26 (first part).

4. What did she ask Jesus to do? Mark 7:26 (last part).

5. How did Jesus answer her? Mark 7:27.

6. How did she answer Jesus? Mark 7:28.

7. What did her saying cause Jesus to do? Mark 7:29.

8. What did she find upon her return home? Mark 7:30.

HISTORY MIX UP

The first column contains a list of famous Bible names. The second column are things they are noted for. The second column is mixed up. Can you arrange them so that what they are noted for will come after the right name?

- David
- John
- Methuselah
- Moses
- Noah
- Prodigal Son
- Samson
- Solomon

- Strength
- Wisdom
- Bulrushes
- Baptist
- Old Age
- Psalms
- Ark
- Fatted Calf





LOST IN THE WOODS

By Enoia Chamberlin

Walter and his mother were visiting Uncle Pete on his big farm out in the country. Walter liked to go to the farm because there were so many things to see and interesting places to play. Down behind Uncle Pete's barn was a bright meadow where bright flowers and green grass grew. On the other side of the fence back of the meadow was a woods full of big trees.

One day Walter asked his mother, "May I go to the meadow to pick some flowers?"

Mother smiled at him. "Yes, I think you may," she said. "I'll find a pretty bowl to put them in when you get back."

Walter hurried out the door and ran down behind the barn. He went through the gate into the meadow. The grass was green, and there were lots of flowers. Walter began to pick some of the flowers for his mother. As he picked, he went here and there across the meadow. Soon he was at the fence. Beyond it he could see the pretty trees in the woods. How nice and cool the shade looked! Once Walter had been in the woods with his Uncle Pete. There were many birds in the woods, and there were trees with pretty bright leaves. There were squirrels, too.

Walter laid down the flowers he had picked, and he crawled under the fence. Then he stopped. Somehow he felt that he shouldn't go into the woods alone. But no one had told him not to. He wanted to find a tree with pretty leaves so he could take some of them home to mother. Quickly he ran down the path among the trees.

Everything smelled fresh and clean and cool. A butterfly floated by. Up high in a tree was a red bird. Walter heard a blue jay scold. He ran toward the sound. After he found

the blue jay, he tried to catch a squirrel. The squirrel scampered up a tree and barked at him. Then suddenly right before Walter was a tree with pretty leaves.

Walter stopped playing and began to pick some of the leaves. When he had enough, he turned to go home. He must hurry. Mother might worry. He took a step or two and stopped. He looked all around. The trees all looked alike to him. He did not know which way to go to get home.

He was lost.

A lump came into Walter's throat. But he could not cry. He was a big boy. Besides, crying would not help. But he couldn't just stand there. He had to try to find his way home. It would be dark in the woods before long.

Walter began to be afraid. He started to run. Then he thought about Someone who could help him. He stopped running and bowed his head. "Dear God," he prayed, "please help me to find my way out of these woods."

Then, as he had been taught, he stood very still. He kept still so he could hear the message God might give to him. In the stillness, he heard Uncle Pete's dog bark.

"Rover," Walter called, "Rover." He ran toward the sound of the barking.

When he found Rover, Walter was so glad to see that dog that he hugged him. Rover licked Walter's cheek. Then Rover ran ahead of Walter, and in a short time they were at the meadow fence.

Before Walter even picked up his flowers, he thanked God for helping him. Mother was coming across the meadow. Walter ran to her.

"I shouldn't have gone into the woods even though you didn't tell me not to," he said. "But I remembered how you taught me to pray and to listen. If I hadn't listened I wouldn't have heard Rover bark."

"I'm glad you remembered to pray and to listen," Mother said. "Did you thank God for helping you find your way out of the woods?"

"Yes," Walter said, "but let's thank Him again."

So there in the pretty meadow Walter and his mother thanked God for helping him when he was lost. Walter was safe, but he never went into the woods again unless someone was with him.

**CITIES AND TOWNS
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Look up these New Testament verses to see if your town is mentioned in the Bible.

1. M _____ Acts 16:9
2. B _____ Matthew 21:1
3. J _____ John 5:2
4. B _____ John 5:2
5. C _____ I Corinthians 1:2
6. N _____ Matthew 2:23
7. P _____ I Thessalonians 2:2
8. A _____ Acts 27:6
9. P _____ Revelation 3:7
10. A _____ Acts 11:26
11. D _____ Acts 22:10
12. J _____ Acts 10:5
13. O _____ Acts 1:12
14. B _____ Mark 6:45
15. B _____ Acts 17:13
16. C _____ John 4:46
17. B _____ Mark 11:12
18. R _____ Acts 28:16
19. S _____ John 4:4
20. A _____ Acts 17:15

BIBLE FRIENDS!

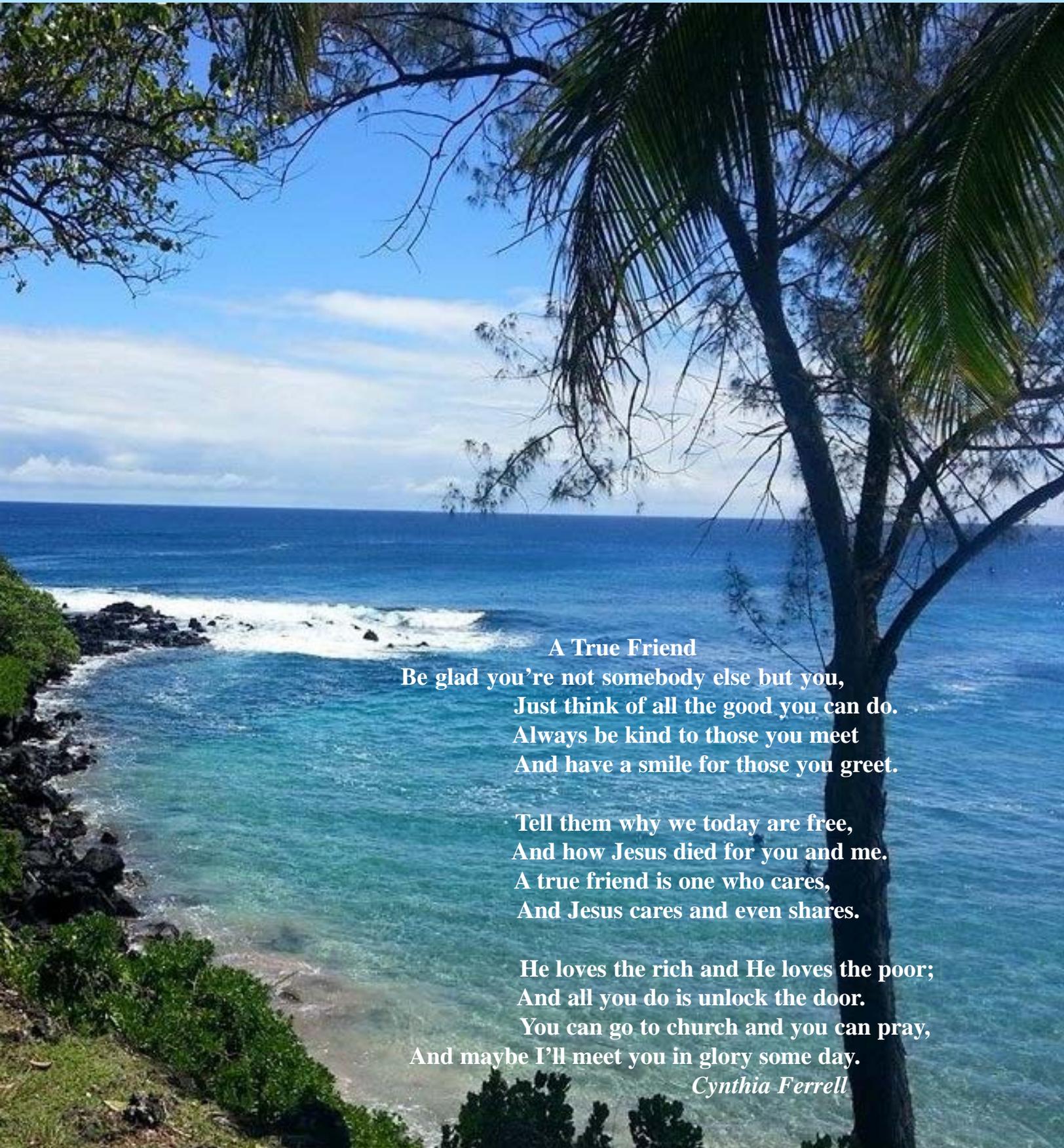
Can you pick out the two friends, or relatives, in each set? This means that the third person was not acquainted with either of the others. Draw lines beneath the names of each pair of friends.

1. David - Judah - Jonathan
2. Andrew - Matthew - Felix
3. Jonah - Pharaoh - Joseph
4. Daniel - Darius - Haman
5. Abraham - Nehemiah - Lot
6. Abel - Joshua - Caleb
7. Belshazzar - Ham - Jephthah
8. Barnabas - Mark - Caesar
9. Mordecai - Esau - Ahasuerus
10. Leah - Deborah - Rachel
11. Shem - Elijah - Elisha
12. Levi - Reuben - Ahab
13. Noah - Samuel - Eli
14. Elisabeth - Rhoda - Mary
15. Thomas - Philip - Publius
16. Timothy - Barnabas - Paul
17. Job - Issachar - Eliphaz
18. Solomon - Hiram - Adam
19. Bartholomew - Agrippa - John
20. Naomi - Ropha - Hagar
21. Festus - James - Peter
22. Benjamin - Goliath - Jacob
23. Sapphira - Lois - Eunice
24. Moses - Isaiah - Aaron



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A True Friend

**Be glad you're not somebody else but you,
Just think of all the good you can do.
Always be kind to those you meet
And have a smile for those you greet.**

**Tell them why we today are free,
And how Jesus died for you and me.
A true friend is one who cares,
And Jesus cares and even shares.**

**He loves the rich and He loves the poor;
And all you do is unlock the door.
You can go to church and you can pray,
And maybe I'll meet you in glory some day.**

Cynthia Ferrell

