



The Advocate of Truth



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**Telephone: 304-782-1411
Fax: 304-782-2248**

E-Mail: cogsevdav@aol.com

Web site: www.churchofgod-7thday.org

Del DeLong

David DeLong

Bond Tennant.....Editorial Staff

Gary Mills Managing Editor

Ludina Mills.....Children's Page Editor

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Procrastinating

By Moises Torres

In psychology, “procrastinate” refers to the act of replacing actions of high priority with those of low priority, or to leave responsibilities for later.

EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE:

“And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come” (Luke 14:17-20).

As you can see in this parable of the GREAT SUPPER in Luke 14:17-20, everyone had their own priorities which kept them away from serving the Lord. One of them wanted to see his land, and the second one wanted to try his yoke of oxen, and the third one replied that he just got married. All of these situations were more important to them than accepting the invitation from the Lord.

The same thing happens these days. Some delay and put aside the work and necessities of the church and instead give priority to their material business and personal passions. But the Lord says, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

We have another example from King Agrippa who, after a long speech from Paul about his conversion, just said, “...Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian” (Acts 26:28). Paul had already told him, “...I know that thou believest” (verse 27), but the king didn’t take immediate action to follow the Lord.

In our day, many people postpone the opportunity to accept God’s invitation, and they delay their decision to be baptized. The seriousness of this matter shouldn’t be taken lightly. Let us remember the urgent words of Ananias to Saul, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

To delay or postpone (procrastinate) may result in stress, a sense of guilt and crisis, severe loss of personal productivity, as well as social disapproval for not meeting responsibilities or commitments. These feelings combined may promote further procrastination. While it is regarded as normal for people to procrastinate to some degree, it becomes a problem when it impedes normal functioning. (Taken from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia)

Successful men in the Bible were the ones who took immediate action in giving God His place. Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, listened to the angel’s order, and he immediately sent for Peter so he could tell Cornelius about God’s message (Acts 10:33). When the jailor at Philippi understood that Paul and Silas were being freed by God that night, “...he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway” (Acts 16:33).

“While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.” (Hebrews 3:15). Let us consider procrastination an enemy, and don’t leave for tomorrow what we can do today. Read Proverbs 27:1. Time and chance happens to all. Opportunities come, and they will go if we don’t take them. We learn, “...but time and chance happeneth to them all” (Ecclesiastes 9:11).

Five Things Children of God Do For Christ's Sake

Bond Tennant

How much do we really do for Christ's sake? That may sound like a silly question, but is it really? A mother will suffer for her children. David blessed the house of Saul for Jonathan's sake. The terms "Christ's sake" and "Jesus' sake" are used in the Scriptures to denote some characteristics of the children of God. Let us consider five of these characteristics.

Children of God forgive one another for Christ's sake. "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, *forgiving one another*, even as God for *Christ's sake* hath forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). Unless we forgive others, God will not forgive us. "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses" (Mark 11:25). Christ is our example. In Colossians 3:12-13 we are to "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and *forgiving one another*; if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

Children of God serve one another for Jesus' sake. "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for *Jesus' sake*" (II Corinthians 4:5). Christ did not come to be served. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Christ set the example. "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (I John 2:6). Jesus

said, "And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:27).

Children of God are delivered unto death for Jesus' sake. "For we which live are always delivered unto death for *Jesus' sake*, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (II Corinthians 4:11). "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter" (Romans 8:36). Only those who lose their lives for His sake will find them. "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it" (Matthew 10:39). For Christ's sake, martyrs have faced swords, flames, floods, sufferings and death. "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" (II Timothy 2:11-12).

Children of God take pleasure in afflictions for Christ's sake. The Apostle Paul said, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for *Christ's sake*: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Corinthians 12:10). Philippians 1:29 says, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake". Paul declared that he wanted to know Him in the "fellowship of his sufferings" (Philippians 3:10). The Apostle Peter said, "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" (I Peter 4:12-13). Paul also declared,

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

Children of God strive together in prayer for Jesus’ sake. “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the *Lord Jesus Christ’s sake*, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me” (Romans 15:30). Children of God may differ in many things, but they must all strive together in prayer for each other. Togetherness in prayer brings strength to the believer and to the church. It is also a witness that unity is present.

Where’s The Right Way?

When the crowd is running the wrong way, it’s hard to be the odd one who runs the right way.

It is said that during a 10,000 meter cross-country race in Riverside, California, everyone thought one runner named Mike was headed the wrong way. He kept waving at the other 127 runners to follow him, but only 4 believed he had taken the right turn – the rest had missed it.

When he was asked about the reaction to his midcourse decision not to let the crowd determine his direction, Mike responded, “They thought it strange that I went the right way.”

First century pagans felt the same way about the Christians. The Apostle Peter said, “...*they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you*” (I Peter 4:4). Many people today still feel that way about the followers of Christ, as though they are going in the wrong direction. But actually, the believers are headed for the victors’ crown; the unbelievers are going the wrong way.

The lesson here is that it is dangerous to do what seems right in one’s own eyes. “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but...*” what about its end? Read Proverbs 14:12 to learn the answer.

At every turn, think about the end of the road. Where is it leading you? Are you going to like where it ends? Keep on the right path, no matter how many are running the other way. The direction you are headed determines your destination; It’s better to be right than to be popular.

--Selected by Bond Tennant

ANGER AND SIN

Can there be a righteous anger?

Often the question arises in the minds of some who earnestly strive to please the Lord in all things whether it is sin for a Christian to become angry. Let the Word of God give the answer.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the saints at Ephesus, says, “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath” (Ephesians 4:26). This implies that anger may or may not be sinful.

In his second letter to the Corinthian saints, he writes, “...who is offended, and I burn not?” (II Corinthians 11:29) In our modern speech, it would read, “When is another caused to stumble and sin, and I do not get hot?” He states that the heat of anger arises in him when he sees someone led into sin. Sin is loathsome to those who are washed in the precious blood, and they cannot endure it nor look passively upon it. God hates sin, and the Psalmist says, “Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 97:10). Hatred is a by-product of anger. He that is not made angry by sin becomes a partaker in it. To stand passively by when sin is committed implies tacit consent to it.

Note, however, that Paul says, “Who is caused to stumble, and I burn not?” Too often, alas, the reverse is true among Christians. Our anger is around when others differ with us; when they slight us; when they slander us; when they criticize us, when they annoy us; when they do not give us the recognition that we think is due us; when they question our motives; when they offend our sensitiveness. So much of our anger is selfish.

What a glorious example our Lord Jesus Christ left us that we should follow in His steps: “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not...” (I Peter 2:23). Never could a sign nor a trace of anger be detected in Him when He was attacked. Note the awful indignities committed against Him Who was “...the image of the invisible God...” (Colossians 1:15); “...the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...by whom also he made the worlds...(who

upholdeth) all things by the word of his power..." (see Hebrews 1:2-3); "and by him all things consist" (Colossians 1:17).

They reviled Him; they mocked Him; they spat their dirty, foul sputum in His pure, holy face; they tauntingly pressed a crown of thorns on His holy brow; they falsely accused Him and finally nailed Him to a rude cross of shame; yet there was not a sign of resentment on His part! Incidentally, let us remember that His sensitiveness far exceeded anything that we are capable of experiencing for He was unsullied and untouched by sin, not hardened to it as we are.

But, see this meek and lowly Jesus, Who as a lamb before its shearer was dumb, when the honor and holiness of His Father was the issue! See Him as He makes a "scourge of small cords" (John 2:15), and drives out of His Father's house those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and overturns the tables of the money-changers. The pure and Holy One could not abide the presence of those who defiled His Father's house of prayer. Yes, Jesus burned, not with unholy passion, but with the white heat of His absolute purity.

See Him again as He unmasks the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees! Were there ever more scathing words of denunciation uttered than these we read in Matthew 23:13-36? How much more scathing and cutting are they when uttered by absolute purity! Truly here the wrath of God was revealed against those "who hold the truth (of God) in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18), Again, when those same Pharisees cast aspersions upon the blessed Holy Spirit, the white heat of His purity blazes forth: "the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven ... neither in this world, neither in the world to come" (Matthew 12:31-32)! Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ was angry, but He never sinned. Wherein, then, lies sin in being angry?

When God created man, He equipped him with everything necessary to preserve his life and happiness. Among those things, God endowed man with the ability to combat--to fight! This fighting instinct is accomplished by an emotion (a feeling) of anger. It has ever been Satan's objective to destroy the works of God, and failing to destroy them, he aims to make them useless to God by perverting them. Man, God's final creation, God's masterpiece, was and is Satan's prime target. Man was created to have fellowship with God. Satan would turn

man away from God and make fellowship impossible, for God is "of purer eyes than to behold evil," and cannot look upon sin. See Habakkuk 1:13. Satan seeks to make man useless to God, so he perverts man's instincts.

The instinct under discussion was to serve man to overcome obstacles; to battle his way through hard places; to conquer natural resources and elements and harness them for His use--in short, this instinct was to serve man; but, alas, how often it overpowers him, enslaves him, and becomes his master! We see this very early in Scripture when Cain, overpowered by jealous anger, slew his brother.

Anger may not end in murder, yet God tells us in His Word that everyone who hates his brother is a potential murderer! How many who profess to be born again give way to temper, and often use the psychological excuse that it is useless, nay, dangerous to resist this urge. If a Christian cannot resist the temptation to yield to his temper, what has God's grace done for him? The fruit of the Spirit is ... self control (Galatians 5:23).

However, the Apostle Paul also says, "...let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26). Do not keep it bottled up in your heart, for that is dangerous. Bottled up wrath invariably ends in an explosion, and explosions are disastrous; so, pent-up anger, when it bursts its bounds, results in regrettable words and deeds. Read the incident in Luke 9:51-56. Note that our Lord warns His disciples that a wrong spirit is actuating them. Therefore, take heed to your spirit!

Furthermore, Paul says, "Neither give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27). Sin lies in permitting anger, which was designed to be man's servant, to become his master. That, which God gave man to be his precious servant, is used by Satan to enslave him and drive him to sin. "...Resist the devil ..." (James 4:7). "Fight the good fight of faith ..." (I Timothy 6:12).

Anger is justifiable when directed against everything that outrages the holiness of God. And it is sin when its end is selfish or when it overpowers the Christian, and he loses control of himself.

When tempted to anger, keep in mind God's question to Jonah, "...Doest thou well to be angry?" (Jonah 4:4) Will your anger honor and glorify God? If not, "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath..." (Psalm 37:8).

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POWER

Reprinted

I wonder just what thoughts go through your mind when I write this word of our title, “POWER”? Every person has some concept of power. To some it means the tyrannical ways of a dictator. To the military man, it means force of a group of men or the distance an exploding projectile can be hurled. To the manufacturer, it means the power to purchase or the horsepower of machines. To the geologist, it means the force exerted by a volcano or a tornado, and to a politician it means how many votes he needs to win the election. There are many other kinds of power of which we could think, but let us think for a few moments of the greatest power in existence, the power of God.

While it is the most potent of powers, sad to say, it is also one of the most unused powers. In fact, it is to many an unknown power. But as we read the Word of God, we realize that as we read, to us is revealed a tremendous force of this great power. In the Bible, we find many accounts that reveal the power of God. Just His Word is so strong that as God speaks the sun, moon and stars were placed into their orbits.

The greatest revelation of God’s power was in the gift of His only begotten Son to be the Saviour of the world. God’s power could be seen in the things that were done by His Son, Jesus. He stood up in a little vessel on the Sea of Galilee and commanded the sea and wind to be still. His power was seen when Jesus fed five thousand men besides women and children with five loaves of bread

and two fishes. After all had been fed, they took up twelve baskets of food that were leftovers. His power was seen as Christ opened the deaf ears and made the blind to see. His power to raise the dead to life again was to show us nothing is impossible with God and His Son.

It takes great machines and a staff of knowledgeable people to produce atomic power, nuclear power, ray power, hydrogen power, thermal and chemical powers, yet the power in a prayer to God Almighty, made by a child of God, surpasses all of the above mentioned powers. As we call upon the Lord in prayer, with faith and love, we cannot realize the power that can be generated by such a small simple prayer of faith.

To know God the Father is to come in contact personally with the greatest power this world will ever know. There are many who say they do not believe in God because they cannot understand all the facts. Yet these people will not deny the fact of the atomic bomb, even though they do not completely understand all the facts of nuclear research. Just notice that our great atomic powered submarine, *Nautilus*, can go around the world under water, fueled with a piece of uranium no larger than a marble. This kind of power is beyond the comprehension of the average mind – to be able to figure out how much power can come from such a small source. However, the scientists say it is so, and on their word we accept it. God's power destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. It was power from the throne of God. God

covered the whole earth with water till the highest mountains were submerged. It certainly took power to produce that much water, and then to dry up and dissipate that water for the earth to become habitable again.

An aerodynamic research engineer told us that a little over 1/10th of an ounce of material completely transformed into energy would produce heat or power equivalent to 10,000 tons of coal. It is hard to understand, but on the word of an authority we accept it as an undisputed fact. It is also difficult to believe that a hydrogen bomb can be a thousand times more powerful than the atom bomb because we saw the power of the atom bomb in the country of Japan.

Why is it then that so many either completely ignore or reject the Word of God, as we find it recorded in the Bible? Certainly there is ample proof that the power of God is a transforming power. Look at a few drops of water under a huge block of concrete. It freezes and can lift thousands of pounds. Drill a tiny hole into a 20 ton boulder. Then fill the small whole with water. The freeze that night will congeal the water, and the ice will burst the boulder apart. When a volcano erupts, it shows forth the power of God. Just think of the power a hurricane, tornado, or typhoon can generate. Just imagine the tremendous power exerted to shake the earth with an earthquake. And as Jesus stood up in the small bark and said, "Peace be Still" to the storm on the Sea of Galilee, so God can stop an earthquake in an instant. He controls all things with His Word. He holds the whole world in the hollow of His hand.

Another portion of the power of God is His power to transform His creatures. We have seen a disheveled, intoxicated man leave his dreadful hovel and become free from his besetting sins. We have seen a hopeless alcoholic become transformed into a person with character and a new purpose to live. This power of God can take a thief and a prevaricator, either in prison or on the streets, and make him a new person as he puts his trust in the Son of God. It is the power of God that can take a person filled with sorrow, unrest, and discontent and fill him with peace and satisfaction in Christ Jesus. It is the power that can take away the habit of smoking, cursing, and exaggerating from the lips and put in place a song which nothing in the

world can bring. The power of God is the ONLY power in the world that can take away sin and remove its penalty, which is death, and in its place give you freedom from sin and a new life in Christ Jesus. This power of God is revealed in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Again we wish to remind our readers that it was Jesus who taught us how to receive power from on high. He, Himself, prayed for you and me: "...*Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me...*" (John 17:11). Whether or not you understand all the details is not the question. Just take personal inventory of yourself right now. Without Jesus as your Friend and Saviour, you have no sure hope of life here, but rather yours is death, sin, unrest, no peace, no song. All of this can be changed if you will try the power of God, and find to your heart's delight life, peace, satisfaction, and the forgiveness of sins. Then the greatest power on earth will be working for and in you. That is the power of God, released by your prayers and obedience to Jesus Christ.

Thoughts On II Corinthians 6:8-10

Bond Tennant

In II Corinthians 6:8-10, the Apostle Paul points out various situations in which children of God, who preach the Gospel message, find themselves. He admonishes them to make preparation to meet them in the spirit of the Gospel which they proclaim.

"By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true." On occasion, there is some honor attached to the ministry. Up to a point, some in the world may appreciate the message. They may respect children of God as they present it to them. However, they are not to become puffed up in these experiences. Neither should they become discouraged when the message is rejected, and they are looked upon with dishonor. When Paul speaks of their being "deceivers, and yet true," he does not mean that followers of our Lord will actually practice deceit. It is the truth that is looked upon by those in darkness as being deceitful and untrue. Some may claim that those children of God who present the Gospel message are "false prophets." However, if they are conducting a ministry which is based upon the Word of God, it will be true.

“As unknown, and yet well known.” As a rule, the Lord’s people are not well known. At times, they may stand out in the eyes of their neighbors. As true ambassadors of Christ, they should accept both of these situations regardless of what people may think of them.

“As dying, and, behold, we live.” Children of God die daily sacrificially with Christ, and they live because Christ lives in them. By faith, they have the hope of living with Him in the kingdom.

“As chastened, and not killed.” Children of God are workers together with God. Therefore, they conduct their share in the ministry of reconciliation. They are being trained for the future work in the kingdom. God may well use their trials in connection with their ministry to chasten or train them, but they will not be killed by these.

“As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing.” There is much suffering and death in this chaotic world! Tenderhearted children of God are sure to view with sorrow the plight of the masses around them. Even their own experiences, as ambassadors of Christ, do make them sorrowful at times. However, the promises of God shine above these experiences. These promises of God, which cannot be taken away, are a source of joy to them. Thus they are able to rejoice, not in themselves, nor in their surroundings, but in the Lord.

“As poor, yet making many rich.” Children of God are all poor in the sense that, as followers of Jesus, they have laid all their lives on the altar of sacrifice. If they are sacrificing their lives in the Lord’s service, they are sure to be making others rich. They do not make others rich in worldly goods, but in their knowledge of God and His Word.

“As having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” As followers of Jesus, and as workers together with God, children of God realize that nothing which they seem to possess really belongs to them. They have laid the earthly goods, which the world treasures so much, upon the altar of sacrifice. However, they possess the spiritual things of God. They have His promises and His assurance of care and guidance. They have the sure hope that, in the resurrection, they will have eternal life and be given a part in the Messianic kingdom.

A PERFECT DAY

By Betty Whetstone

**Today has been one to remember,
One like it you never did see;
It has been perfect from dawn
to twilight,
And was created just for you and me.**

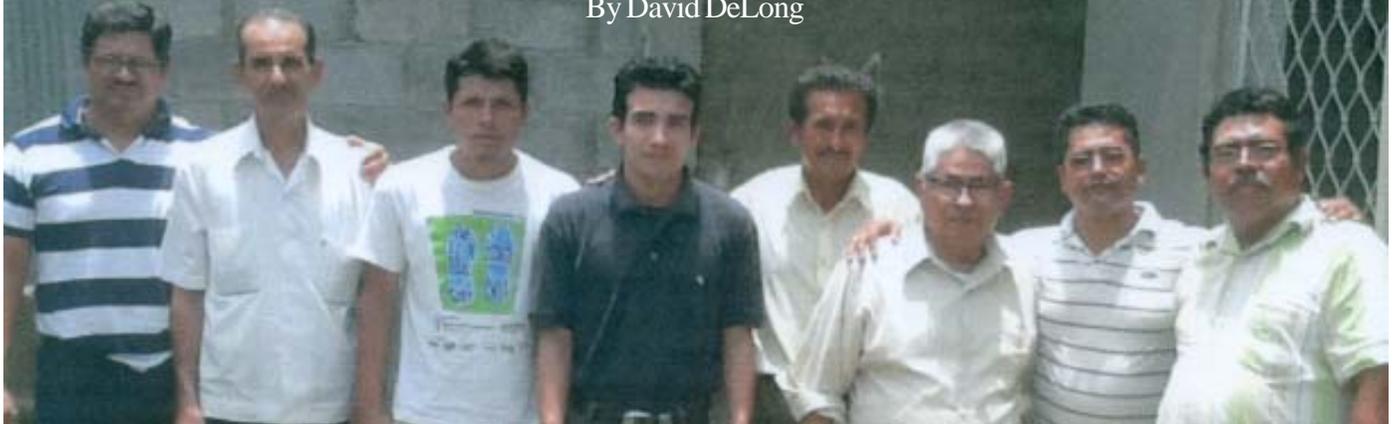
**The sky has been perfect above us,
The sun coming down, soft and warm;
The gentle breeze calms our spirit,
As it erases all signs of a storm.**

**We see the beauty of God in
each flower,
Hear His presence in each song
of a bird;
The peace in His promise assures us,
Of His power in every word.**

**The day has passed over us gently,
As the sun kisses the tree tops
“goodnight”;
And we go to our rest gladly knowing,
That we are all beloved in His sight.**

Life Seems UnFair; But God Is Fair

By David DeLong



Some people will tell you that life is not fair. They will cite an example such as: some people are born with a lifelong illness and suffer much with it. Others are born with robust health with very little suffering. Another example cited might be that some people live in a state of poverty and have to work their whole lives to make a living, while others are born into wealth and have little to worry about. Many other examples could be cited but, even if life seems unfair, let us always meditate upon the fact that God is absolutely fair--in this life and in eternal life.

The lie of Satan is, however, that God is not fair. Even the children of Israel bought into this lie at times. In the Book of Ezekiel, chapter 18, verses 20-29 we read about this very situation. The Lord said: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live. Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath

done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die. Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal? When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?"

Just like the children of Israel of old, man today tries to reason out what is equal (or fair) in life. And he can never get it right. Take Socialism for instance. Everyone is supposed to share an equal amount so that there are no poor people and no rich people. But this system kills initiative because the hard working person may only get what a mediocre working person gets. So, in the end, what Socialism had intended to be fair or equal turns out to actually be unfair.

The Lord is working for everything to be truly equal, not only for eternity, but also in our lives today. But, the equality is on His terms, not ours. Let us look at a Bible example of how He is working in the Church for the equality of the membership. In I Corinthians 12 we are told that different gifts are given to the members of the body of

Christ. Now we know that not everyone has the same degree of singing ability, wealth, or intelligence to do the work of the Lord. But everyone in the body has been given some gift or gifts to help in the work. Please read verses 14-26 carefully: "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

Sometimes we think that we have a very small part to do in the work of the Lord. But as we have seen from the above text, that part may be given greater honor by the Lord than someone who seemingly has a more important part to do in God's service. Perhaps we think that our part is so insignificant that we can just quit, because it seems not to make much difference anyway. Jeremiah the prophet may have fallen into the trap of feeling this way. Notice how he responded to the seemingly futile efforts of his preaching to the children of Israel. "O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning

fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten. But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, and seest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause. Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers" (Jeremiah 20:7-13). Thankfully, Jeremiah saw his error and continued preaching for the Lord. The Lord isn't looking as much for results in our service as He is in our faithful service to Him.

We see from the Parable of the Vineyard how the Lord gives the gift of salvation on an equal basis. Jesus said: "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But he answered one of

them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen" (Matthew 20:1-16).

Some who were working in the Lord's vineyard thought that it was unfair for those who had worked the longest to receive the same amount as those who had worked just a little while. But we must remember that no one can earn salvation, no matter how long he or she serves the Lord. We must let the Lord determine who receives salvation. The Lord deals with each one on an individual basis, and He is totally fair. Our job is to serve the Lord as faithfully as we can, and let the Lord deal with others.

Even Peter wanted to know what the Lord's plans were for John. "Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his tes-

timony is true. And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen" (John 21:20-23).

To show just how fair the Lord is we will examine two passages from the Scriptures. The first is in Matthew 12:36-37. Jesus said: "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." That is complete fairness on the Lord's part. No one here is exempted, and no idle word spoken will be overlooked. When it comes to rewards, the same fairness also applies. In Matthew 10:40-42 we find: "He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

The next time we feel that life is unfair let us remember that the Lord is completely fair, and that He is working on our behalf to correct the injustices done by Satan, evil people, and even our own sins and failures. God is in control, and may we trust Him with every part of our lives.

Sorrow

By David DeLong

One of the hardest things to endure in life is sorrow. This is especially true when the sorrow comes from the loss of a loved one. We learn of such a situation in II Samuel 21:1-10 where a mother lost her two sons, then watched over their bodies and the bodies of five more men. "Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD.

And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites. And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.) Wherefore David said unto the

Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the LORD? And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you. And they answered the king, The man that consumed us, and that devised against us that we should be destroyed from remaining in any of the coasts of Israel, Let seven men of his sons be delivered unto us, and we will hang them up unto the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD did choose. And the king said, I will give them. But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul. But the king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bare unto Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Michal (Merab: see margin, and I Samuel 18:19; II Samuel 6:23) the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite: And he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them in the hill before the LORD: and they fell all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest. And Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it for her upon the rock, from the beginning of harvest until water dropped upon them out of heaven, and suffered neither the birds of the air to rest on them by day, nor the beasts of the field by night."

The love of a parent for a child is truly a wonderful thing. How much more wonderful is the love of our heavenly Father for His children. For Him to have witnessed the death of His only begotten Son must have been hard, indeed. Also, for Mary and Martha to have witnessed the death of their brother, Lazarus, must have been very difficult. In their grief-stricken state of mind they appear to even have blamed Jesus for Lazarus' death. First, Martha spoke: "Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" (John 11:21). Later, Mary came to Jesus: "Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died" (verse 32).

We know that Jesus had a wonderful plan for not com-

ing to heal Lazarus from his sickness. That plan was for the glory of God to be revealed by Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. However, Jesus was still touched by the sorrow of those around Him. We read in verses 33-36: "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!"

Our Lord, Himself, was known as "a man of sorrows". Isaiah 53:3-4 informs us: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted." Because He suffered human afflictions, Jesus was given to be a faithful High Priest for His people. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Sorrow and mourning comes to all humanity, and the Scriptures tell us that it can be for our good. "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth" (Ecclesiastes 7:2-4).

The Lord assures us, however, that some day sorrow and mourning shall come to an end. Matthew 5:4 informs us: "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." And Revelation 21:4-5 declares: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."



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.

EBOLA SCARE

At the time of this writing, the possible spreading of Ebola, causing an epidemic in the United States, takes up much of the news. You possibly know that it first started in Dallas, Texas when a man from Africa, who contracted Ebola, came by plane to the United States. He was treated in a Dallas hospital until he died. There are many more highlights to the story that cannot be all recalled to my mind!

Since Ebola is highly contagious, two nurses among those who cared for him also became infected. The persons who may have had contact or have been near a person displaying Ebola symptoms must be restricted in travel or quarantined for a period of time to prevent the disease from spreading. This is a huge task! Other countries besides the United States had Ebola patients whose illness originated from Africa. Spain is especially hard hit. The fear of an Ebola epidemic in the United States, like the one in Africa, caused fear in the minds of many people mostly because our country was not prepared for such a challenge.

In the 21st chapter of Luke, also in Matthew 24, Jesus gives signs of his coming. In Luke 21:26 He says, "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." The fear of epidemics is just one of the many fears coming on the earth.

One health authority coined the term "irrational fear" because there is such a small possibility of catching it if proper hygiene is observed and no one comes into contact

with the bodily fluids of an infected person. The virus is not spread through the air. The United States also has a good health care system in place.

God's children do not fear the things coming upon the earth. Irrational fear is only for those outside of God's care. Another thought associated with the Ebola scare is that we must be prepared for the return of Jesus all the time. This includes watching events in the world. Let us not fear like those who were unprepared for the appearance of Ebola in the United States.

Another thought is that since the Ebola virus is only contacted by touching the secretion of those who are affected or the things they may have touched, the disease is difficult to get. The analogy is that God's children must not touch the lures of Satan and all of his wicked devices.

CATHOLIC WATERDOWN

The following is an article from *USA Today* entitled *Church expresses new acceptance of gays, divorce*. It tells of the astonishing changes that draw sharp criticism: **Rome--**Catholic bishops expressed unprecedented tolerance toward homosexuality and divorce Monday, a remarkable shift led by Pope Francis that could end the church's rigid stance on those issues.

The new openness to gay unions, though not gay marriage, is considered groundbreaking by supporters and critics alike. It expands on the topic Francis struck last

year when he said, “Who am I to judge?” whether gay and lesbians could be good Christians.

“This pope is changing everything, and his views are making their way down the hierarchy,” said Nello Salvai, 30, a stage actor and gay rights activist in Rome.

The tolerant attitude, in a document released halfway through a two-week meeting of bishops, mentions the “gifts and qualities” of gay Catholics. Regarding divorce Catholics who remarry outside the church, it calls on pastors to “avoid any language or behavior that might make them feel discriminated against.”

The bishops used unusually conciliatory words to urge pastors to recognize “positive aspects on civil unions and cohabitation,” so couples would commit to a church wedding.

Conservative Catholics quickly criticized the document.

Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki told Vatican Radio on Monday that the report “is not acceptable to many bishops.”

Harvesting the Fruit, a conservative website, warned the document could divide bishops who support Francis’ stances from those willing “to stand up in defense of our Holy Catholic faith.”

Maria Madise, of Voice of the Family, another conservative group, asked: “Will parents now have to tell their children that the Vatican teaches that there are positive and constructive aspects to these mortal sins of contraception, cohabitation and homosexuality?”

Charles Reid, a canon law expert at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, called the document “astonishing.”

“It looks at the individual person the way Jesus looked at individual people,” he said.

The Vatican said the document starts a year-long debate on issues raised by the bishops’ meeting, or synod, which ends Sunday. Msgr. Bruno Forte, the synod’s secretary, called the document “a work in progress” that remained subject to change.

“More than the specific words ... the importance of what emerges from the synod will be the tone” set, said Alistair Sear, a retired priest and church historian.

Other topics the bishops may tackle include Polygamy in South Africa, arranged marriages and the education of kids born to mixed-faith couples or outside of marriage.

Comment

The Roman Catholic Church, it seems, has joined many of the Protestant churches in watering down many of its original doctrines. It seems that the reason behind the changes is to bring those who have left the church back into the fold. This change, no doubt will cause a split in the ranks.

However, this change will not affect their false teachings in such things as salvation and the authority of the church. It is still the woman who rides the beast!

SOLAR FLARE

The following is a short article entitled *Massive solar flare heading to Earth*:

WASHINGTON – An extreme solar flare is blasting its way to Earth and could mess up some power grids, satellites and radio transmissions, scientists say.

It’s been several years since Earth has had a solar storm of this size coming from sunspots smack in the middle of the sun, said Tom Berger, director of the Space Weather Prediction Center in Boulder, Colorado.

The highly energized and magnetized plasma can disrupt Earth’s magnetic sphere, leading to temporary power grid problems.

The Houston Chronicle

Comment

This solar flare can produce havoc upon the earth for a period of time. The article did not say when the storm would occur, so the troubling results of it will not bother those who know the words that Jesus gave in Matthew 24 of things the earth will experience before His return.

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Was Mary Magdalene a prostitute?

ANSWER: It is assumed by many that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute before becoming a follower of Jesus. Sometimes it is even assumed that the name Magdalene is a euphemism for harlot. There is no evidence in Scripture to support these speculations.

The name Magdalene indicates that Mary came from Magdalene, a fishing village on the western shore of the sea of Galilee. Nothing about Mary's background is recorded in the Bible except that seven demons were cast out of her.

QUESTION: Did John the Baptist really eat locusts?

ANSWER: Yes, he did! The biblical account tells us that John the Baptist ate locusts and wild honey during his sojourns. Many are repelled by such a thought, and many believe that the word locusts actually means "fruit of the locust tree," or the carob. Carob pods are also called "St. John's bread" because of the popularity of this idea.

However, the food of the prophet was the bug, not the bean. In biblical times, locusts were indeed used for food. They are among the clean insects declared as edible. See Leviticus 11:22. Also the Greek word used for locust used in Scripture refers only to the insect. Locusts are still eaten today by the desert people of the Middle East. The locusts are either toasted or ground into meal.

QUESTION: I try to please God, but why does He allow many trials and sufferings to come into my life?

ANSWER: There is a false kind of religion being propagated today. It calls itself Christianity but promises a life of constant bliss, freedom from physical pain, and removal of the ordinary difficulties of life. In short, it is a "trip along a sunny lane where wild flowers ever bloom."

The prevalent feeling is that once one accepts Christ, the power available through the Holy Spirit automatically lifts a person above all trials and suffering. This may reflect popular thinking, but it was not so with Christ, the early disciples, or countless other Christians down through the turbulent history of the church. If we are to experience the rewards of Christian maturity, we must go through a maturing process which many times involves pain.

Let us look at Paul. He was one whose passion for Christ, whose joy and zeal in spreading the good news, is a challenge to us all. If he had accepted this "bed of roses" theory, he would have never made it to Rome. On this trip alone, he encountered raging storms at sea, persecution from opponents, poisonous snakes, and shipwreck. Today, many people would feel he should have been carried by some mighty providence above it all. After all, he was doing the Lord's work!

Paul wrote concerning his hardships, "We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we do not know why things

happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going ... this gives us constant opportunities to show forth the power of Jesus Christ within our dying bodies" (II Corinthians 4:8-11, Living Bible). But is that like a God of power to let him endure such difficulties?

Yes, it is just like Him. In His loving wisdom, He allows tough spots, the difficulties to intensify our faith, to draw us into the position of trusting Him to supply our strength. We can get to know Him in a more intimate way as we are brought into circumstances which force us to exercise our faith.

To know Him, to fellowship with Him, and share His sufferings is the ultimate goal for those who have committed themselves totally to His will. Our capacity for knowing Him increases as we are led by Him through the trials of this life, which cause us to lean heavily upon Him, and Him alone. These trials are certainly not very enjoyable at the time and often involve a great amount of struggle and agony of soul. But the trial itself turns into God's marvelous tool to lead us into deeper fellowship with Him by proving His grace to be sufficient!

In what has been called God's love letter to the suffering are the words, "Dear friends, don't be bewildered or surprised when you go through fiery trials ahead, for this is no strange, unusual thing that is going to happen to you. Instead, be really glad--because these trials will make you partakers with Christ in his sufferings, and afterwards you will have the wonderful joy of sharing his glory in the coming day when it will be displayed" (I Peter 4:12-13, Living Bible).

The beloved English preacher, Charles H. Spurgeon, put it this way: "Would you like to be there and see yourself pointed at as the one saint who never knew a sorrow? Oh, no! for you would be an alien in the midst of the sacred brotherhood. We will be content to share the battle, for we shall soon wear the crown and wave the pain."

QUESTION: Did Adam and Eve have only two children?

ANSWER: Many people believe that Adam and Eve had only two sons, Cain and Abel. These two sons are often remembered because of the biblical account of the first murder when Cain murdered Abel.

If these two were the only offspring of Adam, it would

be left up to Cain, who was a murderer and an exile, to populate the human race. However, the book of Genesis explains that Adam and Eve had another son, Seth. See Genesis 4:25.

The Bible does not explain where Cain and Seth found their wives. However, it says that Adam lived 800 years after the birth of Seth, begetting more sons and more daughters. See Genesis 5:4. The exact number is not given.

QUESTION: Why was Jesus baptized? I heard a minister say that Jesus was baptized because He was a sinner.

ANSWER: The minister that you heard was completely wrong! Jesus had not sinned, nor did he ever sin. "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin" (I John 3:5). Jesus Himself gave the reason for being baptized when He said to John in Matthew 3:15, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." The pronoun "us" includes all believers. He had us all in mind! In His baptism, the means of baptism is set forth in a picture. He fulfilled all righteousness for us when He died and was buried and rose from the dead. Baptism symbolizes those things. When a believer submits himself for baptism, and is buried as a dead man, and then raised up as in the resurrection, he is proclaiming his faith in Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

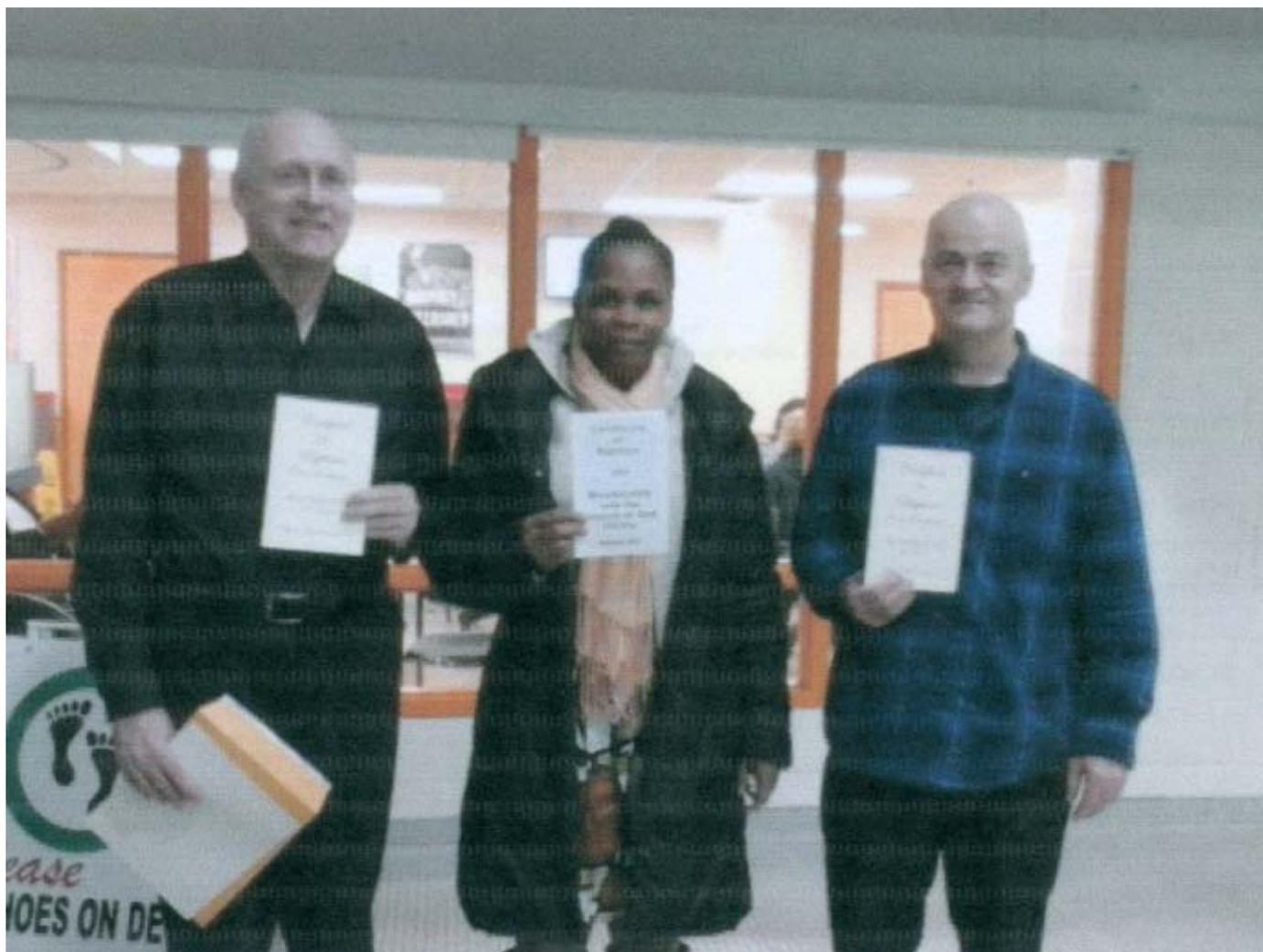
QUESTION: Why do you think that the Greek language was chosen for the first writing of the New Testament books?

ANSWER: You ask a very interesting question. Perhaps God in His wisdom chose Greek as the medium of the New Testament because Greek was already a finished language. It was almost universally employed throughout the world of that day. It is good that God employed the Hebrew and Greek languages for the original manuscripts of the Bible because both of these languages were finished and therefore subject to little or no change through the years that followed. If a new language had been used, such as English is now, it would not have been good because as the years went by the language would be so changed as to make it unintelligible to modern readers.



Canada

Baptized Brothers Benoir and Allain Morin and Sister Hillary Richard.



Nicaragua

The Church of God, 7th Day in Nicaragua.



Brother Osman Pineda (far right) with our Brethren in Nicaragua.



LESSON I

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-11.

Golden Text: Matthew 2:2.

“...Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

NOTE: We are going to start studying the New Testament and the life of Jesus Christ. In this first lesson, we will learn about Jesus' birth. In the first chapter of Matthew, you can read about the generations from Abram to Jesus and also about Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph.

1. Where was Jesus born, and who was the king at this time? Matthew 2:1.
2. Who had seen His star? Matthew 2:2.
3. What did the king do when he heard about the birth of Jesus? Matthew 2:3-4.
4. What did the chief priests and scribes tell him? Matthew 2:5-6.
5. What else did the king want to know? Matthew 2:7.
6. What did he tell the wise men to do? Matthew 2:8.
7. What did the wise men do? Matthew 2:9-10.
8. What did they do when they saw the baby Jesus, and what did they bring him? Matthew 2:11.

LESSON II

PROTECTING BABY JESUS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:12-23.

Golden Text: Matthew 2:12.

“And being warned of God in a dream that they

should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.”

1. Why didn't the wise men return to Herod? Matthew 2:12.
2. What did the angel of the Lord tell Joseph? Matthew 2:13.
3. What did Herod do when he found out the wise men had mocked him? Matthew 2:16.
4. How long did Joseph stay in Egypt with the young child Jesus and His mother? Matthew 2:14-15.
5. What happened after Herod died? Matthew 2:19-21.
6. What did Joseph find out when he arrived in Israel? Matthew 2:22.
7. Where did he go then, and why did he go there? Matthew 2:23.

LESSON III

JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:40-52.

Golden Text: Luke 2:52.

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

1. In what way did Jesus grow? Luke 2:40, 52.
2. Where did Jesus go with Joseph and His mother when He was twelve years old? Luke 2:41-42.
3. What happened when Joseph and Mary were returning home? Luke 2:43.
4. Where did they look for Jesus? Luke 2:44-45.
5. When they returned, where did they find Jesus, and

- what was He doing? Luke 2:46-47.
 6. What did his mother say to Him? Luke 2:48.
 7. What was His answer? Luke 2:49.

LESSON IV

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:1-12.

Golden Text: Matthew 3:1.

“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea.”

NOTE: We will now study about a man called John the Baptist. He was called this because he baptized many people in his time. We do not want to confuse him with John, one of the disciples.

1. What great preacher told the world that Jesus had come? Matthew 3:1.
2. What did John the Baptist preach? Matthew 3:2.
3. What did God want John to do? Matthew 3:3 (first part).

NOTE: What is repentance? It means to be sorry for sin and to ask for forgiveness.

4. What did John the Baptist wear and eat? Matthew 3:4.
5. John lived in the wilderness of Judaea. Where did the people come from to see him, and where were they baptized? Matthew 3:5-6.
6. Who also came to see John the Baptist, and what did he say to them? Matthew 3:7-10.
7. Some people believed that John the Baptist was Christ. What was his response to them? Luke 3:15-16; Matthew 3:11.

Below are some Bible verses about love with a word missing. Finish the verses by adding the missing words.

Use the Bible verse to help you.

1. Love the Lord thy God with all thy _____.
Mark 12:30.
2. We _____ him because he first loved us. I John 4:19.
3. The love of _____ is the root of all evil. I Timothy 6:10.
4. His _____ over me was love.
Song of Solomon 2:4.
5. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his _____ for his friends. John 15:13.
6. Love not the _____ I John 2:15.
7. Love is of _____ I John 4:7.
8. Love your _____, do good to them which hate you. Luke 6:27.
9. Love thy _____ - Mark 12:31.
10. For God so loved the _____ that he gave his only begotten _____, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting _____ John 3:16.

ANSWERS TO JUDGES PUZZLE

1. Abdon 2. Deborah 3. Ehud 4. Elon
5. Gideon 6. Ibzan 7. Jair
8. Jephthah 9. Othniel 10. Samson
11. Samuel 12. Shamgar 13. Tola

THE RIGHT WORDS

Mother always read Ted and Barbara's favorite Bible stories to them on Sabbath afternoon. It was really amazing how many times they wanted to hear the story of the children of Israel and the deliverance from Pharaoh's rule, but today they wanted to hear about Jesus.

"Yes, Mother, a story about Jesus. One where Satan tries to get Jesus to not do what God wanted Him to do," said Ted.

So Mother read: "And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Luke 4:6-8).

Mother wondered if Ted, the younger of the two children, really understood what had been read. He seemed to take in every word. Well, she was to know later.

The next day while working in the flower garden, Mother heard Ted mumbling, tin cans rattling and the old cat howling. She went to the hedge and looked over into the small playground. There was Ted, holding the cat and doing his best to untie the tin cans which were fastened to the cat's tail and mumbling over and over, "Get behind me" as the cat scampered away. Ted stood up. He saw his Mother who had been listening. A broad smile came over his little face.

"Mother," I said the right words and they worked. After I got that old cat tied up, I thought about Jesus. He would not have done that to a cat. I know He couldn't...but old Satan was a telling me. Mother, he did. Now, when I do naughty things, I'll just say the right words like Jesus did."

"They are the right words, aren't they, son?" answered Mother, thinking as she turned back to the flowers how thankful she was to God for a son, who though very small loved Jesus and wanted to follow in His footsteps.

GOLDEN KEYS

"Everyone likes Ned," said Bob. "It must be nice to have people feel that way about you."

"Do you know why everybody likes him?" asked Roland.

"Well, no, not exactly. Do you?"

"Yes," said Roland. "It's because of his golden keys."

"His golden keys? I never see him have any golden keys. What do you mean?"

"He has a whole bunch of golden keys which unlock people's hearts and let them walk right in," explained Roland. "And he keeps them on a wonderful key ring."

"Oh, do tell me more about them!" exclaimed Bob.

"One of his golden keys is, 'Good morning,' He uses it to start the day right. When he wants something, or is asking a favor, he uses the golden key, 'Please'. When anything is done for him, he uses the 'Thank you' key. Even a fine boy like Ned sometimes makes mistakes, but again he has a key to help him; it is called 'Excuse me'. He always closes the day with the golden key of 'Good night.'"

"And how about his wonderful key ring?" asked Bob.

"It is called 'kindness,' and it binds all the golden keys together."

"How wonderful it would be if all of us had golden keys like Ned," said Bob very thoughtfully.

"And how fine it is that all of us who want these golden keys can have them," added Roland.

"Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).

RUTH

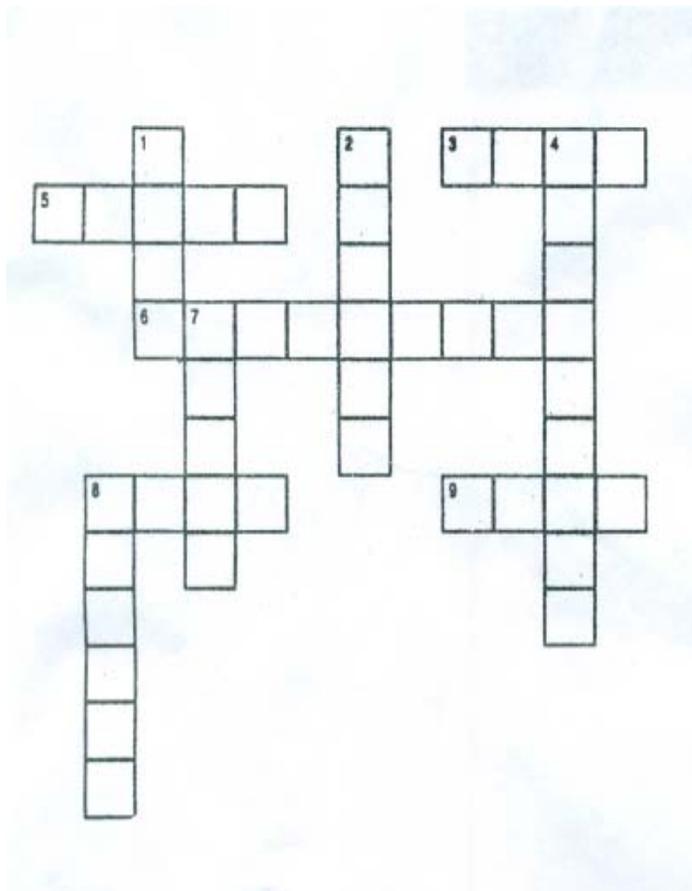
ACROSS

- 3. Ruth's first son's name. (Ruth 4:17)
- 5. Name of Ruth's mother-in-law. (Ruth 1:2)
- 6. City to which Ruth and her mother-in-law traveled. (Ruth 1:19)
- 8. Relative Ruth met in the field. (Ruth 2:4-9)
- 9. When Boaz was sleeping, Ruth went and layed at this location. (Ruth 3:7)

DOWN

- 1. Country which Ruth was from. (Ruth 1:4)
- 2. Ruth's first husband's name. (Ruth 4:10)
- 4. Name of Naomi's husband. (Ruth 1:2)
- 7. Unit of measurement equal to 1.1 bushels. (Ruth 2:17)
- 8. Grain Ruth gathered in the fields. (Ruth 2:17)

For 400 years the Israelite people were ruled by judges. Count the number of letters in each name and fit the judges' names into the puzzle.



LEARNING TO WORSHIP GOD

Learning to worship GOD
 I'm learning every day
 Learning to worship GOD
 As I work and as I play.
 Worship is a word
 That is hard to explain
 Elijah worshipped GOD
 When he prayed for rain.
 Worship is a word
 That explains how I feel
 When I stop to think
 That GOD is very real.
 Miriam worshipped GOD
 With a joyful song
 When she started singing
 Her friends sang along.
 Worship is a word
 That explains what I do
 When I quietly listen
 To GOD'S WORD so true.
 Learning to worship GOD
 As I listen and as I sing
 We can learn to worship GOD
 In each and every thing!

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"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isaiah 40:8).

