

# *The Advocate of Truth*

*Facts About Truth*

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# Some Facts About Truth

Bond Tennant

“Truth is stranger than fiction.” This old saying may be so to some, but not to children of God! To them, truth is very real and precious, and truth eventually wins out. “For his merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD” (Psalm 117:2). In Ephesians 6:14, the Apostle Paul told the Ephesians, “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, ....” Let us now list some facts about truth.

**The Church is charged with the preaching of truth.** “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16).

Truth is a producer of faith. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Faith is necessary for salvation. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

**Unsacred tongues sometimes speak the truth.** A demon possessed girl said, “...These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation” (Acts 16:17).

The demoniac at Gadara asked, “...What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech

thee, torment me not” (Luke 8:28).

A man who had an unclean spirit said, “...Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth?... I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God” (Mark 1:24).

Pilate called Jesus the “...King of the Jews” (Mark 15:12).

A centurion said, “...Truly this man was the Son of God” (Mark 15:39).

However, the Apostle Paul rejoiced that Christ was preached at all. Please read Philippians 1:15-17.

“What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice” (Philippians 1:18).

**Sometimes even selfishness, resentment, meanness, and even cruelty surface when personal possessions, positions, or doctrinal precepts are affected by the preached truth.** The masters of the demon-possessed girl were angry because of their financial loss. “And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers” (Acts 16:19). They lost their hold on her, and they lost face in the community.

Peter and John were commanded by the priests and

elders not to teach or preach in the name of Jesus. Their answer is found in Acts 4:19-20, "But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

**Some try to extinguish truth by force, either willfully or ignorantly.** The angry men at Philippi told falsehoods on Paul and Silas. "...These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans" (Acts 16:20-21). These angry men put Paul and Silas in prison to silence truth.

By the same token, Paul, before his conversion, put many children of God into prison. Please read Acts 9:1-6.

The Apostle Paul told Elymas the sorcerer, "...wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" (Acts 13:10).

Stephen was stoned for preaching the truth. "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye" (Acts 7:51).

Against all opposition, the blind man said, "...I know not: one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see" (John 9:25).

Ahab was silenced by God's prophet. Please read I Kings 22:5-28. Henceforth, all opposition fails!

**No carnal assistance is needed for truth.** The demon-possessed girl was completely set free, and the jailer and his family were saved. "...But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour" (Acts 16:18). "And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house" (verse 34).

Romans 1:16 tells us that the gospel is "...the power of God unto salvation..." "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance..." (I Thessalonians 1:5).

Revelation 22:18-19 tells us not to add or take away

from God's Word. It is sufficient in itself. While in Samaria, Philip proved this. "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in the city" (Acts 8:5-8).

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

**Truth and truth believers cannot be shut up for long.** When Paul and Silas were put in jail, they preached to the jailer, and an earthquake delivered them. Please read Acts 16:25-34.

Peter was put in jail. However, an angel delivered him. Please read Acts 12:7-10.

Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, but God protected him. Please read Daniel 6:4-24.

The Hebrew children were cast into the fiery furnace. However, God spared them. Please read Daniel 3:1-30).

Peter, after being jailed, was delivered by an angel. Then he was found preaching on the streets. Please read Acts 5:15-25).

**Even in adverse circumstances, faithful followers and believers of truth have songs in their hearts.** While in a prison-house, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God. "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (Acts 16:25).

After the apostles were beaten and commanded not to preach in the name of Jesus, "...they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41).

These are some facts about truth. Let us all heed the admonition found in Proverbs 23:23 which is, "Buy the truth, and sell it not;..."

# Sola Scriptura

By David DeLong



The term "Sola Scriptura" means "Scripture only" and it refers to the use of the Bible as mankind's sole written source for living a godly life. The Church of God, 7th Day gives its first doctrinal point as: "The Bible, Old and New Testaments, is inspired as no other writing is, and is complete, infallible and expresses God's complete will to man." This doctrinal point would seem to require no explanation. However, many people and churches today use a number of sources other than the Bible as their written guide for living. Indeed, tradition in many cases has become as important to multitudes of people as the Bible, itself. Let us examine why the Church of God believes in the doctrine of Sola Scriptura so strongly.

In Isaiah 8, verses 16 and 20, we find: "Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples...To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." What is the law and testimony that is being referred to here? When we go to the book of Revelation we find references to commandments (law) and testimony (or faith). Chapter 12, verse 17 reads: "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Also, chapter 14, verse 12 reads: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

The dragon (Satan, see Revelation 12:9) is very upset

with those who keep God's commandments and have the testimony of Jesus. His goal is to destroy them if possible. The keeping of God's commandments and having the faith of Jesus is what makes up the patience of God's saints because these disciples need to endure to the end in both of the categories given above: the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. We understand what the faith of Jesus includes, but what is the related testimony of Jesus? John 5:39 gives us an answer. Jesus said, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." Since the Scriptures testify of Christ, they are also the testimony of Him.

Therefore, we can see that the law and the testimony in Isaiah 8:20 also concerns the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus in Revelation 12:17. Isaiah told us that if people do not speak "according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." In other words, God's law and Christ's testimony can only be found in the Scriptures which Christ wants one to search. The Bible, then, is the source of true spiritual understanding (light).

So emphatic is the Lord about us following the Bible's instructions only that He warns us in Revelation 22:18-19: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy

city, and from the things which are written in this book." The book of Deuteronomy has a similar warning: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you" (chapter 4, verse 2; see also 12:32).

The book of Proverbs, chapter 30 verses 5 and 6, is very much to the point on this situation: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." Jesus even quoted from the Scriptures when He said, "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (See also Deuteronomy 8:3).

When the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy he made it evident that it is the Scriptures which are inspired by God. "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:15-17).

The Apostle Peter also wrote about the authority of Scripture. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:19-21).

Paul gave various qualifications of an elder when he wrote to Titus. Listed among these qualifications is a reference concerning the Scriptures: "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake"

(Titus 1:9-11).

In Titus 1:4-11, including the passage given above, Paul admonished Titus to ordain elders in cities on Crete. These men had to hold "the faithful word" so that they could teach right doctrines and be able to correct those who were not teaching the truth. The false teachings, which were to be opposed, were coming from traditions and commandments of men and were even being taught for "filthy lucre's sake". Some, therefore, apparently didn't care that they were teaching destructive doctrines as long as they received a "paycheck". May this situation never be in the Church of God today!

The Apostle Paul realized that not only were the Old Testament Scriptures the Word of God, but also that the epistles he was writing were the Word of God. For instance, when he wrote to the church in Thessalonica, Paul penned: "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother" (II Thessalonians 3:14-15).

The Apostle Peter also had such knowledge of the New Testament epistles. He wrote in II Peter 3:15-16: "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

James, in his epistle, gives credence to the Scriptures when he wrote: "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:8-12).

Jesus Himself said that the "scripture cannot be bro-

ken" when He spoke with the Jews about Him being the Son of God. John 10:34-36 reads: "Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?" This is a very significant passage for showing that the Scriptures are a unit which give us God's Word. By saying that the "scripture cannot be broken", Jesus was testifying to the fact that the Scriptures will never teach contrary to the truth. Furthermore, man's traditions cannot break the Scriptures either.

In fact, Jesus taught that man's traditions, if contrary to the Scriptures, are of no authority at all. In Mark 7:5-13 we find this situation. "Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

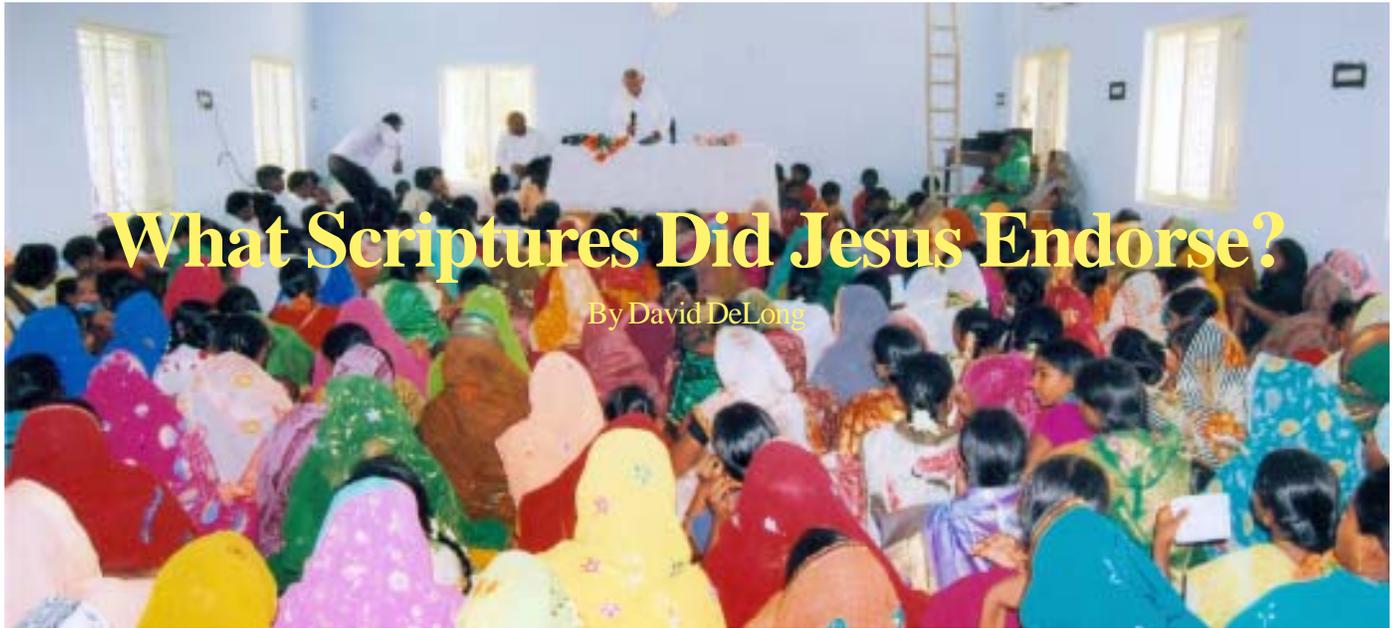
The Lord, after His resurrection, met with two disciples on their way to Emmaus and talked with them about the Scriptures. "And beginning at Moses and all the proph-

ets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself...And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:27,32). Later, Jesus showed Himself to some of the disciples. Verses 44-45 says, "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures".

Paul, we know, taught only from the Scriptures. We learn in Acts 17:1-3: "Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ."

From this study we ascertain that only the Bible, Old and New Testaments, make up the Word of God. Nothing is to be added or taken away from this Word on warnings of great punishments. No other writings have the authority of the Scriptures and none can lead a person to salvation. One will be judged by the words of Christ as we learn from John 12:48-49: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."

Multitudes have been deceived into thinking that the Bible is only a part of the written revealed will of God. However, Jesus is known as the Word of God (see John 1:1,14; Revelation 19:13). This Word is revealed to us in the pages of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Jesus endorsed only the Scriptures as we will see from the next article.



# What Scriptures Did Jesus Endorse?

By David DeLong

In the preceding article we saw that Jesus endorsed only the Scriptures in His teaching and preaching. But which Scriptures were they? Some people contend that a group of books called the Apocrypha should be included in the writings of Scripture. Others believe that there are other books or writings that should also be in the canon of Scripture. How can we know?

Hebrews 1:1-2 informs us: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds". Since God has authorized Jesus to be His spokesman "in these last days", we need to go to the words of Jesus to give us a guide for the Scriptures which He endorsed.

For instance, in Matthew 19:3-9 we learn of a situation where Jesus spoke to the Pharisees about divorce and remarriage. "The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one

flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

In just this one passage of Scripture Jesus taught the truth on the subject of divorce and remarriage and He endorsed at least a couple of Old Testament books. Included in this endorsement is the book of Genesis where the Lord created the institution of marriage (see chapter 2:21-24), and the book of Deuteronomy where Moses wrote about divorce (see chapter 24:1-4). Actually, the books of Genesis through Deuteronomy are a unit of Scripture referred to as "the Law". Therefore, Jesus' endorsement here includes all the books of the law.

In another example He taught about incidents in the lives of Elijah and Elishah. "But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven

was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land; But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian" (Luke 4:25-27). With these teachings Jesus endorsed I and II Kings (see I Kings 17 and II Kings 5).

Matthew 4:12-16 gives us Jesus' endorsement of the book of Isaiah. "Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." Therefore, Jesus endorsed the writings of "the Prophets".

The Lord spoke about Jonah in Matthew 12:38-41. He spoke about Daniel in Matthew 24:15. In fact, Luke 24:44 sums up many of the Old Testament Scriptures which Jesus endorsed. "And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."

Jesus gave no endorsement to books in the Apocrypha, nor to any other books or writings besides the Jewish Old Testament Scriptures. As regarding the New Testament Scriptures, they had not been written yet. However, as we saw from the previous article, these authoritative Scriptures were endorsed by the first of the apostles and disciples of Jesus, and they had the Lord's Spirit to guide them in the writing and selection of these books. Again, the Church of God believes that the Old and New Testaments of the holy Bible are complete and are the only written words needed for man's guidance.

# Give Your Best

By Betty Whetstone

I have the best of intentions  
As I greet the dawn of each day;  
Giving God all the glory and honor  
For what I might do on the way.

But, do I live up to each moment  
Of guarding each thing that I do;  
I have to keep asking the question:  
God, is this pleasing to You?

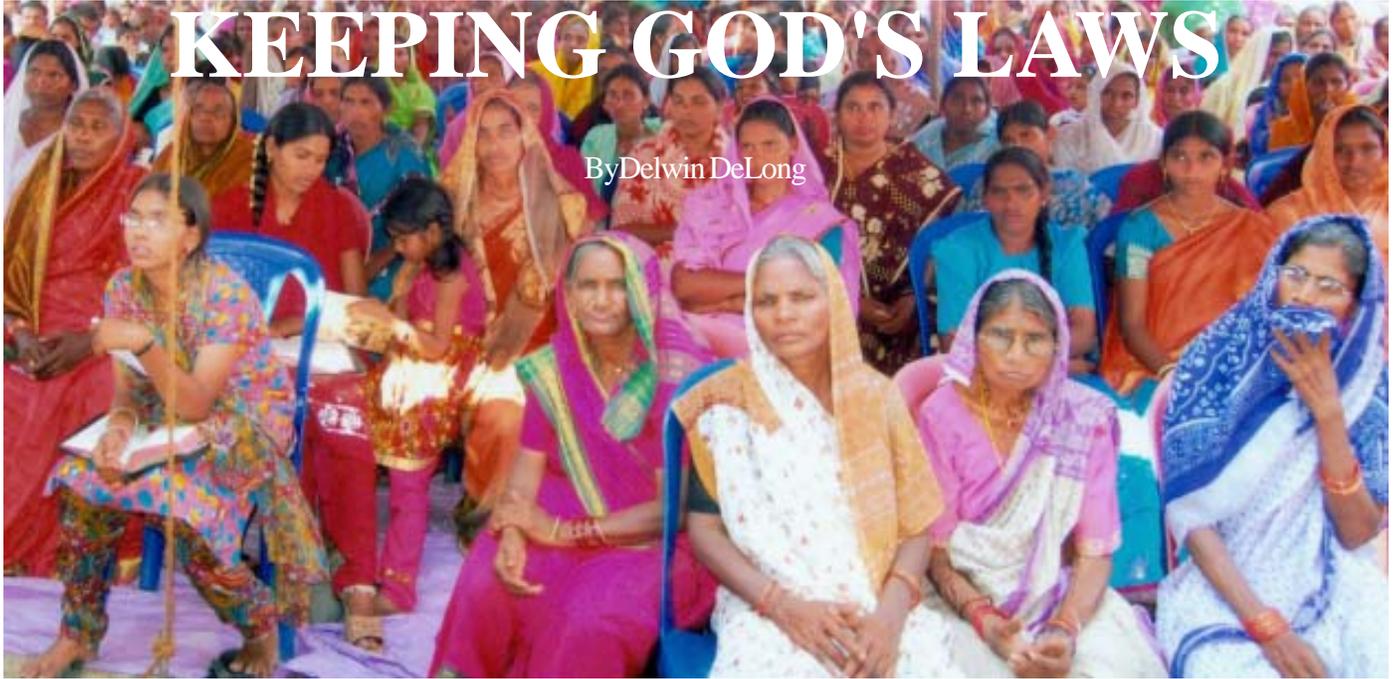
Can I honestly say to a Brother,  
I love and forgive you, my friend?  
For so in my judging of others  
Is how I'll be judged in the end.

Have I left some kind word unspoken,  
Or withheld the touch of a hand?  
At the end of the day, can I honestly say,  
I've done the best that I can?

And when the day is over,  
And I am seeking my rest;  
Can I honestly say, as down me I lay,  
This is one day I've given my best?

# KEEPING GOD'S LAWS

By Delwin DeLong



A problem had occurred in Great Britain called mad cows disease. It seems to be a neurological disease that they have found and could be passed on to humans. Because it takes awhile for it to show up in your body, alot of people in Great Britain quit eating beef.

Many people were concerned about their health on this issue.

We had a speaker at our school who spoke about AIDS. The speaker held up a sign that said this is a picture of a person with AIDS. The person didn't look any different than regular children. The whole point is that you don't know who has AIDS. He went on to point out that the best way of not getting AIDS is to obey God's laws, stay pure and stay monogamous in your marriage. Make sure you obey God's laws. You don't know who has it or how they got it. When we keep God's laws, we will be kept from those things. There are, of course, other ways that this disease may be contracted innocently, but it would have never been spread into the population if God's laws had been kept.

It seems that people get very concerned when they know about those things that will affect them. What about the unclean things that are in this world? Unclean foods, when eaten, affect our health. What we eat will affect

us. God says the penalty for not doing His commandments is death. The penalty for catching AIDS is death. The penalty for sin is death. If people were really conscientious about obeying God's laws then they would save their lives.

Let's turn to II Chronicles 26. There was a king named Uzziah. He was quite a good king. He was sixteen years old when he started his reign as king and he reigned for fifty-two years. But that good king made a mistake. In II Chronicles 26:1-4 we read, "Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Amaziah. He built Eloth, and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers. Sixteen years old was Uzziah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jecoliah of Jerusalem. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did." Uzziah followed the good example of Amaziah, his father, and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord.

In II Chronicles 26:5 we read, "And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper." He was properous and lived well

in his area; and, even when the warriors and the Philistines came against them and the surrounding countries came upon them he was successful in defeating them.

Continuing in II Chronicles 26:7-9 we read, "And God helped him against the Philistines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gur-baal, and the Mehunims. And the Ammonites gave gifts to Uzziah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly. Moreover Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them." Uzziah did some other things for Israel. He made towers for Jerusalem and was very crafty and talented.

"Moreover Uzziah had an host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the ruler, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains. The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valour were two thousand and six hundred. And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy" (II Chronicles 26:11-13). He was well liked, and most of all he kept God's laws and was well blessed because of this.

II Chronicles 26:14-15: "And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones. And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong." The Lord was with him and helped him. In all ways he prospered quite well.

I think a little of this went to his head because he made a mistake. He thought, to himself, "I'm a pretty good individual," and pride got in the way. "But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense" (II Chronicles 26:16). Not even the king

was suppose to do this. Only the priests could burn incense, and he knew this. He allowed pride to enter in and he thought how great I am. I'm going to go ahead and do this anyway and go against the Law of God. He was rebuked. The priest even told him, "don't do this you are going against God's laws." Uzziah was angry now, because the priest said this to a powerful king.

"Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar" (II Chronicles 26:19). If you think of all the good this king had done, and now he had made this one little mistake, how could leprosy be spreading all over his entire body? The leprosy didn't leave Uzziah. He died of it and that ended his reign. What a way for a good king to die after only making one mistake, but he broke God's law. This had a devastating effect on his life, just like the devastation one would get from AIDS.

## The penalty for disobedience is death.

The penalty for disobedience is death. God has set down several laws for us to follow. One is the law of clean and unclean. If God's laws are not followed, the penalty is death. Now if people knew about the unclean foods just like they know about this mad cows disease, they wouldn't be eating unclean foods. They would shun it just like the people shun the beef in England. It is not always evident the harm that is being done to someone eating unclean food, but there are diseases of which no one knows the source. There are people's livers being destroyed and no one knows the cause. Sometimes drinking does undo the liver, but there are other causes also. What about diabetes? What is its cause? God tells us, He knows and says definitely that the unclean foods are

bad for us. He knows our bodies and tells us, DON'T EAT THEM, stay away from them. This is one of the laws that we must obey. He made our bodies and He knows what is good for our bodies.

In the long run, even if someone is not physically harmed, he or she will be spiritually harmed for not keeping God's laws. If you don't die from that particular disease or whatever ailment you receive by eating an unclean food, then you will die that second death which is eternal death. There is no more chance for life beyond that.

## "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3). God knows everything in our lives. We can't hide anything from Him. He watches over His people, and He knows about our lives.

"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD..." (Proverbs 15:8). We know before Jesus came on this earth that when people sacrificed they were sacrificing for sin. Well, if a wicked individual was sacrificing, the Bible says that this is an abomination unto God. He is trying to do something right, yet his whole way of life is an abomination to God.

Furthermore we read: "...but the prayer of the upright is his delight" (Proverbs 15:8). God is so happy when His children pray to Him. It is a delight for Him. Following after His words, keeping His commandments and precepts, is a delight to God.

"The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness" (Proverbs 15:9). We also read in Isaiah where eat-

ing the abominable thing (the mouse and the swine's flesh), is an abomination to God. He does not want to see that happen and He turns away from those things.

"The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words... The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:26,29). He turns His back on the wicked; He doesn't want to have any part in that. But those who follow after His ways are a delight to Him, and He turns and listens.

"When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Proverbs 16:7). We each have a job, and that job is to be God's people. We need to keep ourselves pure, like we are told to do. We stay away from the mad cows disease of the unclean meats if you wish to call it that. We have a job to do. We need to spread His Word and do the things He asks us to do.

In Ezekiel, we are told about the faithful shepherd. We are shepherds so to speak, each and everyone of us, and we need to feed the sheep: we need to do our part in spreading God's Word. "And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?" (Ezekiel 34:1-2). These shepherds were looking after their own interests. They were building up their own wealth and making it easy for themselves. They were not going out and keeping the flock.

"Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered" (Ezekiel 34:3-5). The Lord is telling us we need to be good shepherds and we need to look after

and try to help individuals. We need to try to help the flock and bring them together.

"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them" (Ezekiel 34:6-10).

There were many leaders in the land of Israel that went their own ways and were contrary to God. They didn't do the things that were for God. They did not feed the sheep. We need to take these things as a warning for ourselves, so that we are not reckless shepherds but faithful shepherds.

When we come together, we need to be especially mindful of each other, and we need to make ourselves right with each other in the sight of the Lord. When we come together we wait upon one another and try to help one another by being considerate to one another and being right with one another. We also need to spread the Word and tell others of the correct way and we ourselves need to keep those things and help others to keep those things. Let us be good shepherds one to another.

"But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" (I Corinthians 10:5-6). When the children of Israel came out of the land of

Egypt, they did not obey what God was telling them to do. They followed the ways of wickedness rather than the ways of God.

We do not want to be evil shepherds but we want to be good shepherds. "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND ROSE UP TO PLAY. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Corinthians 10:7-11). These things were written for our admonition. They were written so we could see the proper path to follow. It is imperative that we keep God's laws as good shepherds.

We need to think on these things, keep the commandments of God and his testimonies, and spread the Word that He has given to us.

To be a child of God, obedience is essential. There are many that say the commandments of God are done away with. This could not be farther from the truth. Jesus came to fulfill, not change. He kept His Father's commandments, and He proclaimed, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). All is not fulfilled yet. He must come again and establish His kingdom on the earth.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14). And one last text to end our discourse -- "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12).

God bless you as you think on these things.



# 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.*

## Many Startled By Flash Of Light Over San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO – Hours after a meteor exploded over Russia and injured more than 1,000 people and an asteroid passed relatively close to Earth, residents in California reported seeing an unusual flash of light over the San Francisco Bay area that left many startled and thrilled.

"Based on reports, the light streaking in the Northern California sky was a sporadic meteor, or fireball, and not a major event", said Mike Hankey, operations manager for the American Meteor Society, based in Genesee, N.Y. "The group recorded at least 35 reports of the event", he said.

"Fireballs happen every single night, all around the world," he said.

--From Wire Reports

### Comment

We have quoted Luke 21:25 earlier that tells of "...signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring." One news anchor called the incident of the meteor exploding over Russia and injuring many people a Wake-up Call that it could happen again. Let us quote verse 26 of Luke 21: "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."

Modern technology has made it possible to trace the path of meteors, and they are even able to tell the distance it is from the earth and give warning to the people on earth if the meteor will explode over a populated area. This knowledge that a meteor is forecast to hit the earth could be one of the many factors (we just do not know what all of them are or may be) in the minds of the people which may cause the heart to fail. Think about this idea in connection with Luke 21:25-26.

### Children's TV Viewing

These days, many children are watching violent TV shows, and it is said that they also watch too much TV. Many parents do limit their children in the amount of time that they spend watching TV, but they do not consider changing the channel when violent shows come on.

I read of a study which found that children who are not allowed to watch violent TV shows displayed better behavior than those who do. Hence, limiting the type of shows that children watch is just as important, or more so, as limiting the time they watch TV.

### Just My Thought And Views

The world has gone completely crazy and has totally forsaken God. That is my foremost thought as this column is being compiled. Many events are taking place and have taken place that one would not think could happen.

And more will have taken place between the time this column is finished and you receive the next issue of **The Advocate of Truth**. Many, including me, are victims of information overload. And almost all of these things fit into some Scripture in the Bible. After all is said and done, the signs of the times are really the last days. You may want to read, or reread, an article by Elder David DeLong in the January issue of **The Advocate of Truth** entitled *The Last Days* in which he states, “Actually, the last days began with the first coming of Jesus to the earth.”

Barring natural disasters, all of society’s problems would not exist if God were feared and His commandments were obeyed. I am sure that many, if not all of us, heard and saw views on television of the massacre of twenty children and six adults in the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. That incident sparked a huge gun control debate. That debate is missing the point. It is true that the Constitution of America does guarantee a person’s right to bear arms. However, some are afraid that eventually all possession of firearms will be outlawed if the gun control advocates are victorious. The debate over gun control is worldly wisdom, and worldly wisdom is foolishness with God! Limiting the number of weapons, kind of weapons, or who possesses them will not curb gun violence. The trouble is within each and everyone who misuses the firearm. The solution is spiritual, not physical! My mother would say, “They are barking up a wrong tree.” Tougher gun control laws could do no more than just to soften the severity of the crime.

Another sign of the times that points that we are far into the last days (or at least to me) is that man’s conventional wisdom has become untrustworthy. For one example, election polls and projections erred here in the United States at the time of the last presidential election. Because the economy was sluggish and many were not experiencing prosperity as they thought they should (this is not the only reason), it was polled and projected that the challenger to our sitting president would be elected. That fact has been true in the past. I was one who also expected the challenger to be elected. However, our sitting president was reelected to the dismay of the pollsters.

We must remember that it is God who allows

presidents, dictators, or whoever to rule. God is working out His plan through worldly leaders, and He chooses those who can do it best! I once was wishing for a certain candidate for governor of my home state to be elected. He was running behind in the polls. A loved brother, who was an excellent mentor, of the church told me to remember that the candidate who God wills would be elected. My favored candidate lost the election.

Another failing of conventional wisdom is the rise in the stock market that happened last March. There were poor financial and economic figures then, but the stock market, which is generally lower under these conditions, carved out a new high. They said the investors were having trouble investing in a high-yield investment plan such as CD’s and bank saving accounts that were paying very little interest. Therefore, they said Tina. Tina means There Is No Alternative for investors to generate profits.

Let us rejoice because the signs of the times continue to point toward the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!

--Bond Tennant

## Worldview Of The Child Of God

Recently, the concept of one having a worldview has become popular. Yes, we all have them. The definition of worldview is said to be: 1. The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world. 2. A collection of beliefs held by an individual or a group.

The worldview of the child of God is determined by what God’s Word requires. Here is the view of the world that a child of God has. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world” (I John 2:15, first part). Why must God’s children have this worldview? The answer is found in I John 2:15, second part, “If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Why also does the child of God believe the facts that are recorded in God’s Word? II Timothy 3:16-17 answers that question: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**QUESTION:** Please explain Matthew 8:21-22. Was not Jesus' response to His disciple very harsh?

**ANSWER:** When Jesus called on His listeners to follow Him, one of them answered with a request: "...Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead."

Jesus' response to the would-be disciple seems unduly harsh. After all, shouldn't a faithful son be allowed to a time of mourning? Perhaps the proper funeral arrangements have yet to be made. Maybe his bereaved family needs the support of a son and brother. But in all likelihood, the man's father was not actually dead. The Hebrew expression "let me bury my father" does not really mean "my father has just died." Rather, it was used to put off someone's request into the indefinite future with a vague reference to other obligations. The general sense of the expression is "until my father grows old and dies, I can't act on your request." In the Middle East today, the idiom is still used many times as a form of polite refusal.

**QUESTION:** Is it important for a child of God to have a praying heart?

**ANSWER:** Yes, it is important! Someone once said, "I am convinced that nothing in the body of Christ is so rarely attained as a praying heart." This was a statement which

expressed a lack of the very ingredient that all children of God should possess abundantly, namely a praying heart. As each child of God looks into his heart to do a self-examination, what is the true conclusion he finds therein? Are we of a praying heart, or do we lack this in our daily lives? Do we try to represent the Lord Jesus Christ, however, lack in the power of God within us because of our failure to spend time in prayer with Him? When was the last time there was time spent in quiet meditation and prayer between God and yourself? We do not need to be many hours in prayer at one time. We only need regular set times to pray wherein there is quiet and peace, and we can be close with God in thought and allow ourselves to relax in His presence when He can converse with us through the Holy Spirit. If we fail to nourish our spiritual health and well being through prayer, we will find our lamps will not be filled with oil as were the five foolish virgins Jesus spoke of in Matthew 25:1-13. Like as the wires in the generator and battery of an automobile must be in contact to keep the battery charged with electricity, so we must keep our hearts and minds in contact with God to maintain ourselves filled with the Holy Spirit, which is Christ in us our only hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). The ONLY way this can be done is through a praying heart. Just to think and speak of praying will not suffice. We need to DO it regularly. If we have a daily season of prayer, we will find ourselves in an attitude of prayer between these times of prayer also. We will find ourselves

thinking prayerfully as we go about our daily work. It is a wonderful feeling that God is close, and you can speak with Him at any time and feel His indwelling within you. At this point, you will find spiritual strength available to you that you probably never dreamed existed. This is from a praying heart.

Let us think about this illustration for a moment. A big truck was found stuck alongside the road one day by a passing motorist. After obtaining another vehicle to pull out the truck with a big chain, they began to remove the vehicle. Time after time, the efforts were unsuccessful because the stuck vehicle was so large. Finally, they obtained another large truck and hooked the chain to it. When they tried to pull again, it was a mighty pull, and because of a weak link in the chain, it broke. Just as there was a weak link in that chain, we may have a weak area in our lives due to our failure to have a praying heart. Under the stress and strains that Satan will bring upon us, our “weak link” may break if we do not receive some deliverance. It is true we are promised no more temptation than we are able to bear. However, God wants us to be able to endure some degree of temptation to prove our worth to Him. If we are not strong through a praying heart, it is certain we will not be able to stand even the slightest temptation. Herein then we find one of the main duties of any true saint. The miracles that have been wrought through a child of God with a fervent praying heart cannot be numbered.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is our best example. Jesus prayed much during His life, and especially just before His betrayal and crucifixion. By this, He was filled with the Holy Spirit and remained faithful through all.

May each reader think of these thoughts that have been mentioned, and then take a positive action to insure he possesses a praying heart. By doing this, he can change the quoted words to read thus: “I am convinced that nothing in the body of Christ is so predominate as a praying heart.”

**QUESTION:** Will you please give me some pointers on witnessing?

**ANSWER:** Yes, we will you give you some pointers on witnessing by answering four questions.

### 1. What is witnessing?

To tell what one knows. In every suit of law, the decision of judge or jury depends upon the testimony of the witnesses. Very important matters are often decided by the testimony of one person.

### 2. Who can be witnesses?

a. One who knows something about the case. Many witnesses in law-suits are of no value because they know nothing to the point. Anyone who knows about Jesus can be a witness for Him. A Sabbath School teacher was riding over the western prairies and asked a little boy if he know about Jesus Christ. “No, sir” said the boy, “I don’t think He lives around here.” The missionary witnessed to the boy about Jesus. To know Christ and be able to witness for Him, we must study His Word, and let Him come into our hearts.

b. One who has good character. If a number of men testify in court that a man is in the habit of telling lies, that man is not allowed as a witness. So a person who witnesses for Christ only on Sabbath or in meeting, and against Him at school and at home, is a poor witness.

### 3. Will you witness for Jesus?

Objection and solution: “I am not good enough to talk about Jesus.” Ask Jesus to make you better, to help you to live aright. And perhaps the very effort you make to speak for Him will help you.

### 4. How can we witness for Jesus?

a. By our lives. Everybody is witnessing, either for or against Christ. A child whose father was a judge could not see how his father could decide when so many were talking, but it was easy to understand when he found out that all witnessed on one side or on the other. God, looking on our hearts, knows every day and every hour, though others may not be able to see so clearly, whether our lives are a witness for or against Him.

b. By our words. Often a word has done more than a sermon.

**QUESTION:** How did the word "Bible" come into English?

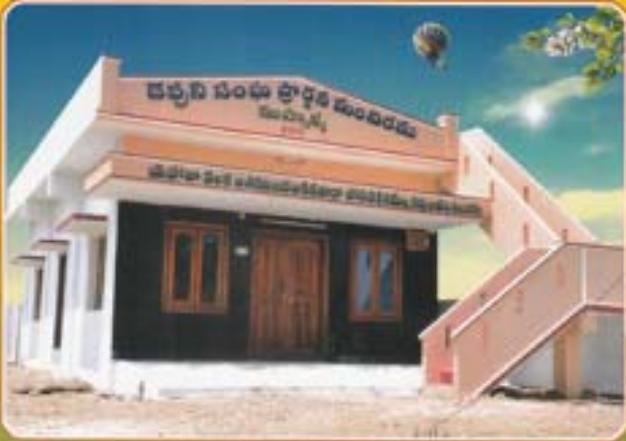
**ANSWER:** The word “Bible” came into English from the Greek and Latin **biblos**, book (from the city of Byblos, where the best writing materials were produced). Ancient books were written on papyrus which was writing material made from tall bamboo-like grasses, or vellum made of parched animal skins. The word “Bible” means “book.”



## India

*An invitation to visit the newly built church at Muppalla, India.*

**INVITATION**  
**THE CHURCH OF GOD**  
 7th Day  
 Dedication Date: 07-May-2013  
 At 11.30AM  
 By Apostle: M. Yehoshuva  
 Chairman- India



**MUPPALLA (V), CHANDRIAPADU (M),**  
**KRISHNA (Dist).**

రవీ | బుధ | గురు నారాణి ||  
 నా మంచరము సమర్పణకు ప్రార్థన మంచరం ఆనందము - యెషయా 18:7

**ఆహ్వానము**  
**దేవుని సంఘ సూతన ఆలయ ప్రతిష్ఠ**  
 తి. 07-05-2013 మంగళవారం ఉదయం 11:45 ని:లకు



**ఆలయ ప్రతిష్ఠకులు :**  
**అపొ. ఎల్లర్. యం. యోహాన్ బువా గారు**  
 తరంరీయా రేఖని సంఘ అధ్యక్షులు, గణపూరు

**సహాధ్యక్షులు :**  
**ఎల్లర్. S. సమీయా రేఖని గారు, మంపాళ్ల**  
**మూల్య ప్రసంగీకులు :**  
**ఎల్లర్. యం. యోహాన్ బువా గారు**

**ఎల్లర్. జి. పురుషోత్తం గారు, నాగిబొండ్ల,**  
**ఎల్లర్. పి.హెచ్. ప్రభు ప్రసాదు గారు, గొరికలపూరి.**

జాంకనూ ఆశ్రమార్చనలకు వారు ప్రసంగించెదరు,  
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# *Myanmar*

*A church meeting with children in Myanmar.*



## LESSON I

**DAVID SMITES THE SYRIANS**

**Scripture Reading: II Samuel 10:1-19.**

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

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

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

1. After the king of the children of Ammon died, who reigned in his stead? II Samuel 10:1.
2. Why did David send his servant to Hanun? II Samuel 10:2.
3. What did the princes of the children of Ammon think David had sent his servant to do? II Samuel 10:3.
4. What did Hanun do to David's servants, and what did David then tell his servants to do? II Samuel 10:4-5.
5. Who did the children of Ammon send for in II Samuel 10:6?
6. When David heard what they were doing, he sent Joab and all the mighty men to meet them. Read II Samuel 10:8-12, and then tell how Joab and the Syrians prepared for battle.
7. As Joab drew near to the Syrians to battle, what did they do? II Samuel 10:13-14.
8. The Syrians gathered themselves together when they saw they were smitten. Where were they at this time, and who went before them? II Samuel 10:15-16.
9. When David heard where they were, what did he do? II Samuel 10:17.

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

## LESSON II

**ABSALOM CONSPIRES AGAINST DAVID**

**Scripture Reading: II Samuel 15:1-12.**

**Golden Text: II Samuel 15:10 (first part).**

**“But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel...”**

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

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

## LESSON III

**DAVID IN THE WILDERNESS**

**Scripture Reading: II Samuel 15:13-37.**

**Golden Text: II Samuel 15:28.**

**“See, I will tarry in the plain of the wilderness,**

**until there come word from you to certify me.”**

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

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

**LESSON IV**

**SHIMEI CURSES DAVID**

**Scripture Reading: II Samuel 16:1-23.**

**Golden Text: II Samuel 16:7.**

**“And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial.”**

NOTE: In our last lesson, we learned that Absalom wanted to become king and go against his father, **King**

David. David flees to the wilderness to escape harm and to protect Jerusalem. Now we are going to study how David is again deceived and cursed and how it grieves his heart to have these things happen to him.

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

**WORD RIDDLE**

- My first letter is in TEN not TAN.**
- My second letter is in OX not OF.**
- My third letter is in TAP not TOP.**
- My fourth letter is in MORE not PORE.**
- My fifth letter is in TAPE not TAME.**
- My sixth letter is in LET not NET.**
- My seventh letter is in TELL not TALL.**

I am \_\_\_\_\_



## BEING A WHISPERER

"I don't like her," said the little girl of a new playmate the other day, "cause she's always whispering. I don't mean in school, but just all the time."

"Well, suppose she does whisper, what harm is that?" said another girl.

"Why, she whispers mean things. She doesn't like to say them out loud, and that's why she whispers. I don't like her a bit."

She was right, too. The whisperer is not a good companion for any one to choose. And being a whisperer is not good for any girl. The things we do not "like to say out loud" are usually things which are better not said at all. When we must lower our voice and take another girl into the corner to say something, the chances are that it is an unkind thing or an unworthy thing to say. Girls -- don't you really think so? Of course, there are sometimes little harmless "secrets" between intimate friends, but they do not keep us whispering all the time. The confirmed whisperer is not a wholesome playmate to have around, for there is no more contagious habit, and we need to avoid its contagion.

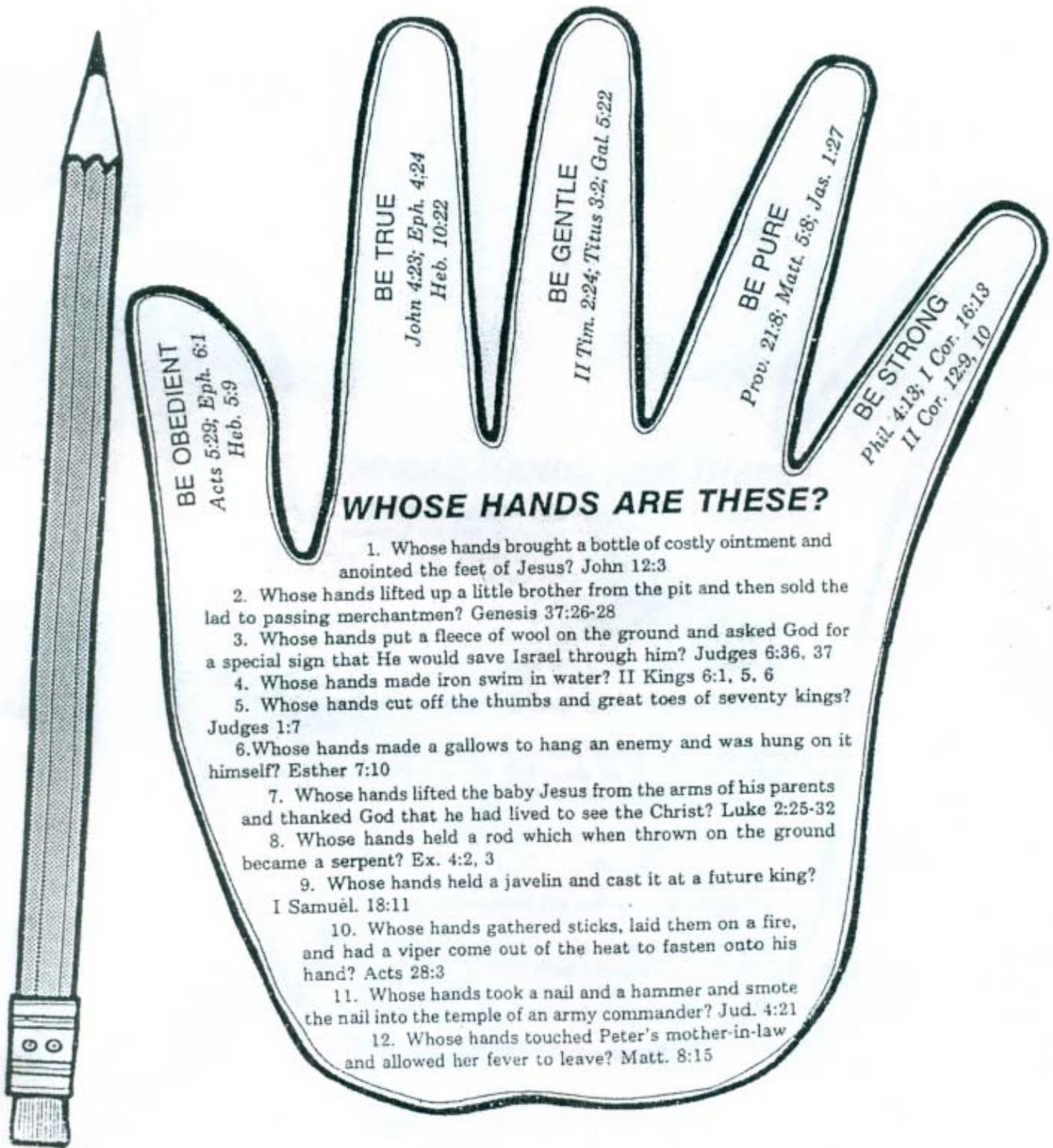
As far back as the days of wise King Solomon, this habit made trouble. In the Proverbs we find the saying "A whisperer separateth chief friends." The little girls in Jerusalem were very much like little American girls today. They had those among them who would take one of a pair of friends into a corner and whisper. "Do you know what Ruth said about you yesterday?" and then repeat some thoughtless word, twisting it perhaps in the repetition so as to seem unkind. Friends can be separated very easily if they listen to whisperers, and whisperers are the same

today, talebearers. "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth" is another of the Proverbs, and the word translated "talebearer" is one that also means "whisperer."

This habit, then, is held up as wrong in the Old Testament. When we turn to the New Testament we find the great Apostle Paul writing twice about whispering to his converts. "Such a little thing!" I hear some boy or girl say, "Why should Paul take the trouble to write about it?" But all the great sins grow from little beginnings, you know; and Paul puts whispering right into the catalog along with "envying, backbiting, tumults," in one place and in another, with maliciousness, deceit, and murder. Paul knew how a whisper of evil has made murder happen in the end; how a whisper of slander has ruined a whole life; how a whispered lie has brought destruction after it. Some of our worst temptations come in a whisper. The less we have to do with whispering the better, boys and girls.

Whatever we are ashamed to say out loud can be dropped from our conversation without losing anything. We shall be better liked by all if we do not yield to the whispering habit. The rules of good manners have long ago settled the point that whispering in company is ill-bred. The ill-natured whisperer, the sharp little laugh -- these will not make us favorites, we can be sure. Being a whisperer is a great mistake for a young person to make. Openness and kindness of speech are the better way. Let us leave whispering and slander and envy and evil thought -- the whole kindred group of them -- out of our lives, and we shall never miss them, but rather profit greatly by their absence.

*"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (James 4:8).*



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## Pentecost

By David DeLong

Upon the day of Pentecost,  
God's Church, in strength, began;  
The Lord gave life to many lost,  
Salvation came to man.

A sound--a rushing, mighty wind  
Filled the prayerful house;  
His power, God would not rescind,  
His fire, none could douse.

The flames then rested on each head,  
In tongues the faithful spoke;  
Known languages that each one said,  
The sleeping, then, awoke.

For sinful hearts were surely pricked  
With words, just like a knife;  
Three thousand souls the Lord had picked  
To gain eternal life.

