

*The Advocate of  
Truth*





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# A WOMAN WHO POSSESSED GREAT FAITH

Bond Tennant

India

“Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour” (Matthew 15:21-28).

Many women of the Bible can provide thoughts for Mother’s Day. Let us consider the woman mentioned in

the above text who had great faith. She was a woman who received an answer to her prayer. She was a Canaanite, a Syro-Phenician.

She told her problem to Jesus. The mother who takes her problems to Jesus is blessed. There are many mothers today who have many problems. No doubt, this woman also had other problems, but they all seemed small compared to her daughter’s illness. The illness of her child or children is the most distressing problem for good mothers.

This woman of great faith believed that Jesus was the promised son of David. She believed in His deity. She believed in His power to answer her request. She believed He was interested and would grant her request. At first, Jesus didn’t answer her, and the disciples wanted to send her away. But she persisted in spite of discouragement. Finally she received her answer from the Lord, and her daughter was made whole from that very hour. We need more mothers who possess great faith.

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY**



India

## CORBAN

### Learning To Give

By Moises Torres M.

Corban, from the Greek, is a transliteration from the Hebrew qorban, which means a “gift” or “offering” to God. Jesus used this expression when speaking to the Pharisees and scribes who thought that they could honor

their parents by just giving them money or other material things.

“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” (Mark 7:11-13).

This same declaration is recorded in Matthew 15:4-6: “For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.”

These misconceptions the Pharisees and scribes had could now be hidden in the church. At some point, we could fall in a light and conformist religion if we do not address to men the matters of the law, "judgment, mercy and faith". The Pharisees and scribes did great in the paying of their tithes, but they didn't have mercy, understanding and faith. The Lord rebuked them by saying, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe

of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone” (Matthew 23:23).

In these days, we could also fall into a comfortable and conformist state of just giving our tithes and offerings and forget about the attention our brethren need in the church. If we tithe but don't help in the physical work and don't participate in the many functions and activities in the church, we are then practicing a hypocrite religion and do not have God's Holy Spirit. Let us recall what the Lord Jesus said: “...It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Therefore, we should give of our time, work, attention, and our love. We must not think, “It is my gift to God (CORBAN), whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me” referring to material or monetary contributions. Therefore, we are not free from our liabilities just because we pay our tithes and offerings. We should also give our time, work and good will. In other words, we have to contribute judgment, mercy and faith.

# Lies, Lies, Lies!

By Michael George

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44).

“All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies” (Psalm 25:10. Abraham is the father of all the faithful. “For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Romans 4:3). “Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all” (Romans 4:16).

Now Satan is called the father of lies. Among the six things the Lord hates is a lying tongue (See Proverbs 6:16-19). We must be very careful not to brand our father Abraham a liar. Remember it is God who said “...that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws” (Genesis 26:5). “And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him” (Genesis 18:17-19).

Deuteronomy tells us, “The secret things belong unto

the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 29:29). We also read, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14). Do we assume that Abraham went down into Egypt on his own accord? Had not God commanded His angel to tell Joseph to go down into Egypt as we read in the New Testament, we might have well accused Joseph of negligence. “And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt; And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son” (Matthew 2:13-15). Could not God keep the young child in the land of Israel safe from Herod? But God’s way is the best way although we may not see, according to one of our hymns. God planned prophecy and revealed to His prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

“And Abraham journeyed from thence toward the south country, and dwelled between Kadesh and Shur, and sojourned in Gerar. And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man’s wife. But Abimelech had not come near her: and he said, Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation? Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this. And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her. Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine” (Genesis 20:1-7). God had prepared to slay Abimelech and His people for Sarah’s sake.

“Then Abimelech called Abraham, and said unto him,

What hast thou done unto us? and what have I offended thee, that thou has brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin?...” (verse 9). Abraham affirmed in verse 12: “And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.” “And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said unto her, This is thy kindness which thou shalt shew unto me; at every place whither we shall come, say of me, He is my brother” (verse 13).

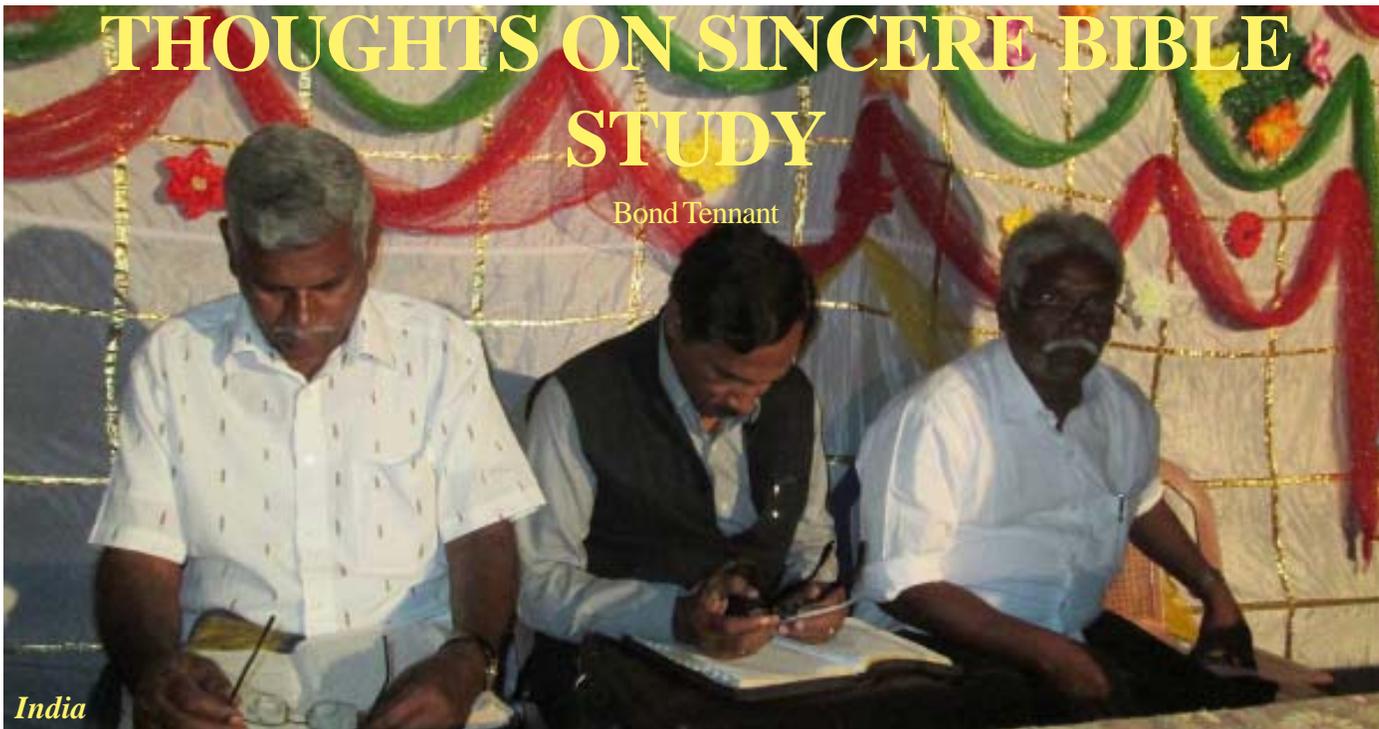
Also Isaac said the same thing as his father Abraham. “And Isaac dwelt in Gerar: And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister” (Genesis 26:6-7, first part). The following is another example. We know that Lot was Abraham’s nephew, therefore his brother’s son. Let us see how he is described in Scripture: “And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people” (Genesis 14:14-16).

“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us” (Romans 8:33-34). My brethren, neither Abraham nor Isaac lied. We are all children of God and brothers and sisters! When Abraham departed from the land of Egypt and the land of King Abimelech, he was a very wealthy man. We can surely say by the word of the Lord that it is He that giveth us power to get wealth. “But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day” (Deuteronomy 8:18).

From henceforth, let no one accuse our faithful father Abraham or his son, Isaac, of telling lies. Abraham was a man who had many sweet communications with God and with His Son Jesus Christ.

# THOUGHTS ON SINCERE BIBLE STUDY

Bond Tennant



India

The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15). This is the only proper motive for Bible study. First, let us examine ourselves to make sure that we are sincerely endeavoring to learn the truth and God’s will. The heart of all men is deceitful. Let us constantly be on guard lest we find ourselves misusing God’s Word in an attempt to justify and prove some private viewpoint of our own, or perhaps some special activity in which we wish to engage. From God’s standpoint, this special activity may not be wrong. It might be a special service for which we might be naturally adapted. However, if it is not done to the glory of God, it is in vain.

Also, we should ask ourselves whether or not we are wholly motivated by the desire to know and do God’s will. “Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed. Thus, they understand but little of what they read,” wrote a poet. We might think that we have no pre-adopted ideas to prove, but let us be on guard! We do not want to be workmen who shall be ashamed.

Let us note that proper Bible study in itself is but a preparation for the good works which have God’s approval. We must be God’s approved workmen.

Through study, we endeavor to rightly divide the word of truth, in order that we may be workmen who will not need to be ashamed. In that day, He must not profess to us, “...I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matthew 7:23).

In order to know what God wants us to do, it is necessary to rightly divide the word of truth. We must divide it dispensationally. For example, God instructed His people, Israel, to actually slay their enemies, but to do that now would certainly not be demonstrating a zeal for good works. Jesus told His disciples, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” (Matthew 5:43-44).

Let us cite another example. Jesus told His disciples not to go to the Gentiles. That restricted commission is not binding today. After His resurrection, Jesus said, “...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:18-20).

# THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

(Galatians 5:22-23)

By Sister I. M. Richards

The **Love** of God is unmeasurable, it's unchanging and it's unending,  
It's a quality God shows to man, uncompromising.  
With **joy** Christians have a sound mind,  
Knowing that God never leaves or forsakes us once we're walking in line.

There is inner **peace** when serving Jesus wholeheartedly and true,  
Keeping in mind that His blessings are sure and will always be there for you.  
Never murmur against your trials and tribulations,  
For with **longsuffering**, it brings you closer to perfection.

**Gentleness** and **goodness** are qualities to be found in us,  
For they are important when interacting and communicating with people of this universe.  
So that we can encourage them to accept the true **faith** as we have once done,  
And enjoying the benefits of responsible living.

The meek shall inherit the earth as it is written,  
For such **meekness** cannot be uninvited to that glorious wedding.  
Moreover as Christians **temperance** is all we need to endure,  
Knowing confidently our Lord, our Savior, our King has plenty in store.

# THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

*Reprinted*

*It has been edited for more clarity.*

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7).

"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb..." (Revelation 19:9).

The Children of God are looked at in two different ways in the Holy Bible. First, as forming a great Body, the Church of God which is the Body of Christ. Read Acts 20:28; John 2:21; I Corinthians 10:16-17. Secondly, after we have put on Christ and His righteousness (the wedding garment), we are then invited to that great Marriage Supper of the Lamb and are the adornment of the Bride of Jesus Christ. Both of these premises have their full counterpart and commentary in other portions of Scripture.

So many people think that the Church is the Bride of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Because there are three places in the Bible where it says the Church should be pure as a Bride, or that the Church should be prepared LIKE a Bride, does not mean that she is the Bride of the Groom who is Jesus. The Church must be subject unto Christ like a wife is subject to her husband, but again this does not call the Church Christ's wife. Read Ephesians 5:22-26; II Corinthians 11:2. We must practice to be pure and chaste as if we were married to one husband. But again this does not say that we are "The Bride of the Lamb".

Notice the different parables put forth by Jesus concerning this subject: The one concerning the five wise and foolish virgins of Matthew 25:1-13: Ten virgins are going to the Marriage of the Lamb. None of them are called the Bride of Jesus. They are all ready to meet the Bridegroom. The wise ones "went into the marriage when

the Bridegroom came, and the door was shut.” We read of the parable of the Children of the Bridechamber. Again the Children of God are guests in the Bridechamber when Jesus says, "...Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?" (Luke 5:34). Again, there is no mention that the saints are the Bride.

Then we have the parable of the wedding garment (see Matthew 22:1-14). Every saint must put on the Righteousness of Christ as his wedding garment. When the saints are invited to the great feast (another parable in Luke 14:15-24) they are given their wedding robe. There will be some who will think they do not need this garment. They think their own righteousness is good enough. But we read that our own righteousnesses are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). We must put on Christ and His righteousness in order to be invited into the Kingdom of God. Read Matthew 6:33; II Peter 3:13. "And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:11-14).

To the chosen, Jesus calls, "Come for all things are ready." It seems that some, beside not putting on a wedding garment, have all kinds of excuses for not coming to the Wedding. One person bought some property, another had just gotten married, a third had bought some oxen. The events were all more important than to accept the wedding invitation. Along with the excuses two of the three even begged to be excused. What is man coming to? You can just see the evangelists of today, begging the Lord that they are doing a great work and must continue their work to save souls, in their own garments, and cannot come to the Wedding supper of the Lamb. A person must strip away the robe of sophistication and become like a little child clothed in trust, and faith, and love. Jesus said, "...Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Everyone must lay aside his own garment of sin and come clothed in repentance. Jesus also said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

All these verses show us that we are the guests, and we read this in Revelation 19:9, "...Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb..." You cannot deny such language. Then you ask, "Who is the Bride of the Lord Jesus?" John saw her and wrote of her as follows, "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal" (Revelation 21:9-11). The saints will adorn the Bride of Christ with the righteousness of Christ. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God" (Revelation 19:7-9). The New Jerusalem is called "...the mother of us all" (Galatians 4:26). Children of God will be received one by one at the marriage feast. We must remember that we are members of the Body of Christ. He, the groom, is the head of the Body. The saints form a part of the ones of the queenly bride of Christ, and we must be fit guests to usher the bride, the New Jerusalem, in to the Groom. It will be a glorious public celebration with all the heavenly host cheering that the Lamb is worthy.

"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal (The Bride of Jesus, the New Jerusalem): and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within; and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for

ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:6-11).

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever” (Revelation 5:11-14).

The wedding of the Lamb is an individual experience of each saint. One by one, each as the groom chooses, one here, another there, souls give themselves to Feast. The Wedding Banquet will be held after the saints of all ages have been caught up to meet the Groom in the air (I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:13 to the end). The groom comes at the “Reaping Phase of His Second Coming.” So shall the saints be with the Lord forever. “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2-3). “The Marriage Supper” will be the solemnity of the whole Body of Christ, collective partnership, one and another, with the Groom. Just as man and wife will not part again, (in the Lord) so the feast will be the “Tie that Binds.”



## A FACE IN A MIRROR

By Betty Whetstone

*When I look at my face in a mirror,  
I'm quite pleased with what I see;  
For in all this world, there is no other girl  
That is as fashioned exactly like me.*

*There is no limit on what I can do,  
I can cook, I can sew, I can plan;  
But when all of these things I have ac-  
complished,  
I still came from the rib of a man.*

*And man, with all of his wisdom,  
When it comes to accounting his worth;  
He can really lay no claim to greatness,  
He was formed from the dust of the earth.*

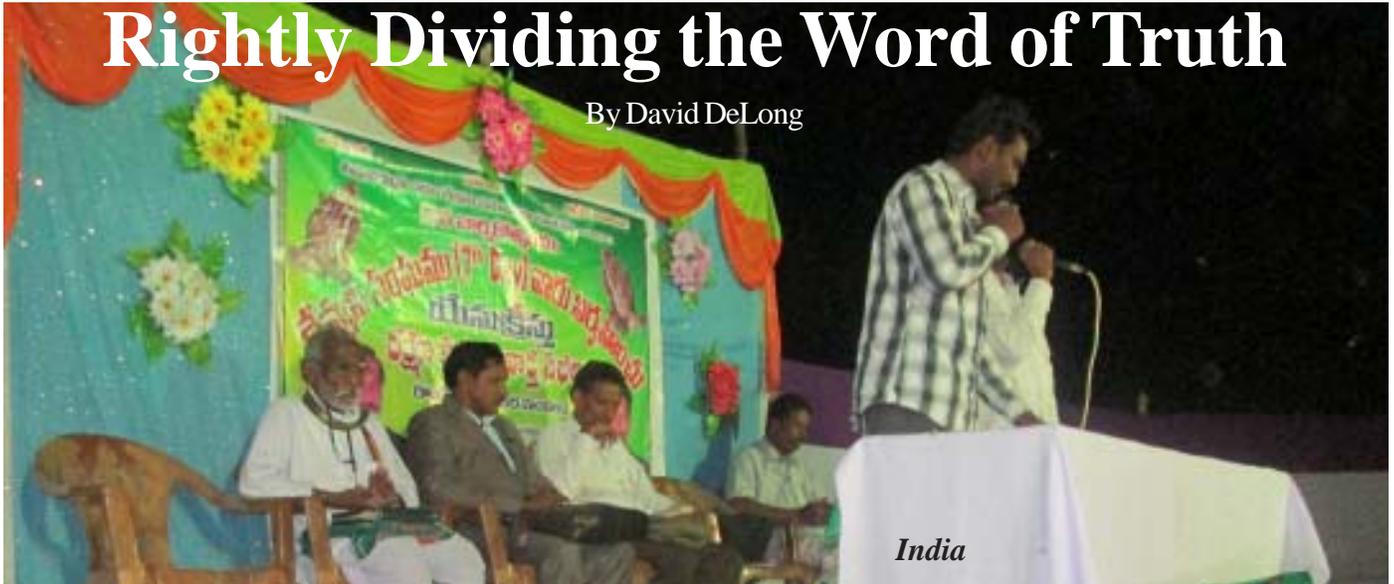
*So I'll borrow some words from the Scrip-  
tures,  
That were spoken from the great Apostle  
Paul;*

*For the good he would be doing,  
He can't see to manage all.*

*So, I see my face in the mirror,  
And no good do I come to see;  
These words weren't made to condemn  
others,  
This poem is all about me!!*

# Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

By David DeLong



India

In the July 22, 2013 edition of "The Advocate of Truth" I wrote two articles, "Sola Scriptura" and "What Scriptures Did Jesus Endorse?". In these articles I explained that the Bible only, Old and New Testaments, is the written Word of God and that no other word is necessary for the guidance and salvation of mankind. This is also a doctrinal point of the Church of God, 7th day. However, knowing this fact is still not enough for one to understand the truth of God's Word. Let us see why.

We know there are a multitude of Bible interpretations in the world today. This is probably the main reason why there are so many different denominations and churches as well. If everyone who read the Bible interpreted it in the same, correct way, there would be only one church existing in the world instead of the hundreds or thousands that do exist.

This is extremely important because we are told in the Book of Ephesians: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (chapter 4:4-6). The "one body" referred to in this passage of Scripture is the body of Christ, or the church. Furthermore, we read in Ephesians 5:25-27: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and

without blemish." One body--one church--therefore needs the nourishment of one Word. And that Word, the Bible, must be partaken of in the correct way. So, how should one interpret the Bible correctly?

First, let us always remember that the Bible actually interprets itself. By this I mean that one passage of Scripture will many times have one or more other passages of Scripture that make a comment upon the first passage, and thus these passages shed more light upon it. For instance, in Matthew 13:3-9 Jesus tells the story of the sower and the seeds. Since the story is in parable form the disciples did not understand what it means. Jesus then explained the parable's meaning in verses 18-23. By doing this, Jesus was letting His Word (which became a part of the Scriptures) comment upon the first passage (also Jesus' Word and a part of the Scriptures). The disciples (and us) then know the meaning of the parable and we don't have to guess its meaning or try to interpret it for ourselves.

This process of letting Scripture interpret Scripture is the proper way to read the Bible, and it is also known as rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15 says: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Let us see how strictly that our Lord Jesus rightly divided the word of truth. In Luke 4:17-20 we find Jesus in a synagogue on the Sabbath day. "And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was

written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him."

In the passage of Isaiah 61:1-2, from which Jesus was reading, He purposely left out the phrase "and the day of vengeance of our God". Apparently this was so because He was addressing His audience concerning His first coming, which was a time of healing, mercy, and grace. The day of vengeance of our God is referring to His second coming when there will fall the punishments of the Lord upon the unbelieving, including the seven last plagues. Jesus rightly divided the word of truth to the point of stopping His reading of the Scriptures in mid passage. He gave only the pertinent Word that was needed at that particular time. To do any more than that could have greatly confused His listeners.

II Peter 1:20-21 plainly tells us: "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." Some people try to apply the prophecies of Scripture to their own way of thinking, and thus it becomes a point of "private interpretation". We know from the Bible text above that this should not be the case. The Scriptures must speak for themselves.

For instance, though Genesis chapter one is not a prophecy of Scripture, some try to place long periods of time into it to allow for evolution to have taken place. The literal six days of Creation are misinterpreted by some to mean eons and eons of time. How do we know when a passage of Scripture is speaking to us literally and when it is speaking to us figuratively? Always read the Bible literally, just as a friend would send you a letter, unless the Bible itself makes it clear that the passage is not literal. A case in point is the Genesis chapter one passage in which the account of the Lord's Creation is told as history (literally) not figuratively. Otherwise, the seventh day Sabbath of Genesis 2:1-3 would also not be literal. The Lord created the entire universe that we know of in six literal days

and then He rested upon the literal seventh day Sabbath. The Bible does not give us permission to read into these verses anything more than a literal interpretation.

However, in a few other places of Scripture the Bible does give us permission to believe that a day represents a year or some other time period. Ezekiel chapter 4 is one such place. When the Lord spoke unto Ezekiel about how Jerusalem would be besieged we learn in verses 4-6: "Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year."

Again, in Numbers 14:33-34 we learn of the day for a year principle. Some of the children of Israel had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years for the unbelief in not taking the land that was searched for 40 days (see Numbers 13:25). "And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise."

Some people take this principle too far. They believe that nearly every prophecy takes in the day for a year principle. This will lead them into error. The Scriptures tell us when a day represents a year. Also, we find in II Peter 3:8; "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." This verse needs to be considered carefully. Here, one day could represent a thousand years, but we must not use the verse out of context. Rightly dividing the word of truth allows the Scriptures to interpret themselves.

Another example of how some people get caught up in error is found in the Book of Daniel, chapter 8. Let us examine some of the topic presented there to see why. "In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first. And I saw in a vision; and it

came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai. Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great. And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes. And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power. And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand. Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered. Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed" (verses 1-14).

This prophecy, which the Prophet Daniel witnessed in vision, would cover a time period of 2,300 days. The interpretation of the vision was told to Daniel in verses

19-26. This was the history of the Medo-Persian Empire being conquered by the Grecian Empire under Alexander the Great as we learn from reading this passage of Scripture with world history. Alexander died at an early age and his Empire was then divided up among his four generals. A descendant from the general Seleucus, who was known as Antiochus Epiphanes, was represented by the "little horn". He conquered Israel (the "pleasant land") and desecrated the "sanctuary" of God in the temple for a period of 2,300 days. Then the sanctuary was cleansed by the Israelites. This is an example of how history can sometimes aid us in the study of the Scriptures, especially when studying prophecy.

This is a fascinating study. The problem is that some people believe that the 2,300 days represent 2,300 years, and that the sanctuary was in heaven not in Jerusalem. Let us remember that in this prophecy we are not given permission to allow days to represent years. In fact, when we read verse 26 we learn: "And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days." So, the days in this vision are made up of evening and morning just as the days in Genesis chapter one are, thus showing them to be literal days.

In a very few places in the King James version of the Bible we have incorrect translations, based upon the ideas of men. One such false translation is located in Acts 12:4. Here Herod is trying to take Peter to kill him. We learn: "And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people." The word "Easter" is a mistranslation and should read "Passover". This error is easily found and corrected in many marginal readings of the Bible or can be found in a Bible reference book. Some have probably justified their keeping of the pagan holiday of Easter by reading this mistranslation. However, we still recommend the King James Version of the Bible as the official English version.

Certainly it takes effort to rightly divide the word of truth. But the Scriptures give us the keys for properly doing so. We cannot trust in the traditions of men. God's Word, and its rightly dividing, is all that is necessary for our salvation and well being. May the Lord help us all to learn how to rightly divide the word of truth.

India



# God's Time

09/03/2015 23:14

A celebrated French painter, Daumier, once defended his way of painting by saying: "One must be of one's time." Another notable French painter, Ingres, replied by asking a question: "What if one's time is wrong?"

This is a question to be remembered, for it goes deep into life, and has a wide application. There is a higher standard of right than that of contemporary fashion. Again and again, the apology for one's conduct is made: "After all, one must be of one's time."

This happens in many ways. A businessman may say: "I don't like these sharp practices, but the time declares that it must be 'dog eat dog'; after all, one must be of one's time." Some people will say of the practice of serving liquor in their home and their habit of drinking: "I don't like it, but what can I do? One must be of one's time." Or, one may say: "I hate to put so much money into the expense of showing off, into keeping up with the neighbors. I would a lot rather put some of it into something for human welfare, but everyone else is doing it, and one must be of one's time."

But there is a tremendous answer to all such apologies: "What really counts in individual life and the life of society is not man's time but God's time. The important thing to consider is not: "What is being done this season?" It is: "What has God done for all seasons?"

In country districts it used to be quite common among people who did not like daylight savings time to use the phrases: "City time" and "God's time." In the things by

which people determine their actions, there is a difference, often, between what is fashionable and what is God's Word and will. There is a glorious affirmation in the reply of Peter and John to the high priest in Jerusalem of the difference between God's time and man's time: "...We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).

What time do we use in setting our life's course?

## Some Great Thing

We need to learn as Naaman had to learn that God's greatness is reflected in the ordinary men. He meets us when we least expect Him, while we are doing or fulfilling our obligations. All of life is a miracle and all of nature is a shining glory. His healing hand is put upon us as we walk along a little river like the Jordan. And He finds us, usually not through some great one, but through some good, sincere, and humble man.



# 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.*

## IN OTHER WORDS

I wish to share with you two occasions that I remember when I was younger. They have to do with the wording of II Timothy 3:1-7. The words are taken from two translations of the New Testament. While their wording may not be the same and may not mean exactly the same as that found in our beloved **KING JAMES VERSION**, which is the official Bible translation of our church, I believe their words also are appropriate for Signs Of The Times in these Last Days. Let me quote the words of II Timothy 3:1-7 from these two New Testament books and tell you of my experiences.

**I.** I remember when I graduated from high school in 1961, the pastor of the church, of which I was then a member, gave me a graduation present of a book that he had in his library called **THE NEW TESTAMENT IN BASIC ENGLISH**. “But be certain of this, that in the last days times of trouble will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, uplifted in pride, given to bitter words, going against the authority of their fathers, never giving praise, having no religion, without natural love, bitter haters, saying evil of others, violent and uncontrolled, hating all good, false to their friends, acting without thought, lifted up in mind, loving pleasure more than God; having a form of religion, but turning their backs on the power of it: go not with these. For these are they who go secretly into houses, making prisoners of foolish women, weighted down with sin, turned from the way by their evil desires, ever learning, and never coming to the knowledge of what is true.”

**II.** I cannot forget, during our Sabbath School in the

Church of God, that a dear sister once in awhile would read the answer to a question from J.B. Philips’ **THE NEW TESTAMENT IN MODERN ENGLISH** along with the words found in the **KING JAMES VERSION**. “But you must realize that in the last days the times will be full of danger. Men will become utterly self centered, greedy for money, full of big words. They will be proud and contemptuous, without any regard for what their parents taught them. They will be utterly lacking in gratitude, purity and normal human affections. They will be men of unscrupulous speech and have no control of themselves. They will be passionate and unprincipled, treacherous, self-willed and conceited, loving all the time what gives them pleasure instead of loving God. They will maintain a façade of “religion”, but their conduct will deny its validity. You must keep clear of people like this. From their number come those creatures who worm their way into people’s houses, and find easy prey in silly women with an exaggerated sense of sin and morbid cravings—who are always learning and yet never able to grasp the truth.”

## A LAWMAKER’S VIEW OF THE POOR

I recently read that a well respected lawmaker gave his standing on the poor among us. It said that he believes that the poor are always going to be with us in some way or another because the words of Jesus tell us so. These words of Jesus are found in Matthew 26:11. The discussion which brought on the subject of the poor was income inequality. The politician gave the impression that it is just no use to consider the subject of income inequality

because the poor are always going to be with us.

### **THOUGHT ON THE SUBJECT**

We know the words of Jesus, “For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always” (Matthew 26:11) are very true. However, this lawmaker did not cover the Scriptures which tell us to aid the poor. There were poor in the land of Israel. Deuteronomy 15:11 records, “For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.” Psalm 41:1 records, “Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.” We see that the poor were being considered in Jesus’ time. We know that Zaccheus told Jesus, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold” (Luke 19:8). Jesus told a young man, “If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me” (Matthew 19:21). Faith based charities do a great deal to aid the poor. However, it is not possible for these charities to do everything. When it comes to government, discussion about the government anti-poverty programs is necessary. However, those in poverty, through no fault of their own, cannot be forgotten. Some object to these programs because they believe that the ones who receive benefits from these programs spend the benefits they receive on non-essential items and vile pleasures. This we know is true, but many deserve help.

### **AMERICAN SECURITY**

Is America secure? According to an article in the **Houston Chronicle** entitled *Poll: Americans feel insecure about nations*, many do not think so. The article is by Jill Colvin and Jennifer Aglesta of the Associated Press. The article is as follows:

WASHINGTON – Americans lack confidence in the government’s ability to protect their personal safety and economic security, a sign that their widespread unease about the state of the nation extends far beyond politics, according to the latest Associated Press-GfK poll.

With Election Day about a month away, more than half those in the survey said Washington can do little to effectively lessen threats such as climate change, mass shootings, racial tensions, economic uncertainty and an unstable job market.

“I think what we’ve got going on here in America is

the perfect storm of not good things,” said Joe Teasdale, 59, who lives in Southwest Wisconsin and works as an assistant engineer at a casino.

For many of those questioned in the poll, conducted before doctors in Dallas diagnosed a Liberian man with the Ebola virus, the concern starts with the economy.

The poll found that 9 in 10 of the most likely to vote in the Nov. 4 election call the economy an extremely or very important issue. Teasdale is among those who say the slow recovery from the recession is a top concern.

Despite improvements nationally, business is far from booming in his state, Teasdale said. He’s been supplementing his stagnant salary by renovating and renting out duplexes and has little faith the situation will improve soon. He wants government to get out of the way of business. “If you’re putting so much restriction on them where it isn’t practical for them to expand or grow, why should they?” Teasdale asked.

### **BEHEADING 'SCARY'**

Those surveyed also pointed to events such as the protests in Ferguson Mo., that followed the fatal police shooting of an unarmed black 18-year-old and the beheading of a woman in an Oklahoma food processing plant, apparently at the hand of a suspended co-worker.

“This is the first time I’ve felt insecure in my own country,” said Jam Thomas, 75, of Stevensville, Mont. “Especially after the beheading in Oklahoma. That’s scary.”

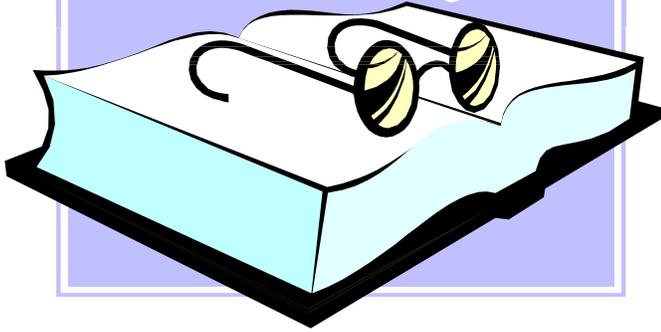
The poll found that Democrats tend to express more faith in the government’s ability to protect them than do Republicans. Yet even among Democrats, just 27 percent are confident the government can keep them safe from terrorist attacks. Fewer than 1 in 5 say so on each of the other issues, including climate change.

“There’s too many people who still don’t believe that it’s happening,” bemoaned Felicia Duncan, 53, who lives in Sharonville, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, and works as an office manager at a mechanical contracting company.

Urbanites tend to be more confident the government will keep them safe from terrorist threats than do people living in suburbs and rural areas. Younger Americans are more confident than older people that the government can minimize the threat of mass shootings. When it comes to quelling racial tensions, Hispanics are more confident than are blacks and whites.

# BIBLE

## Study



# Questions and Answers

**Question:** Can you give me a few thoughts on how to best nurture my children?

**Answer:** The responsibility of properly rearing children has been one of ease. Since the beginning of time, there is that same challenge facing every parent. It is only natural that some parents will do, to the best of their knowledge, their utmost to rear their child or children properly. Sometimes it is a lack in that very knowledge that will hinder a nurturing experience for the child. The following are some ideas to consider as the parents move forward in the rearing of their youngsters.

**BE A BOOSTER:** Help the young ones to build their confidence. This begins as early, and even earlier, as when they take their first steps. And success achieved by the toddler should be praised with honest and sincere comments. If there arises the need for any criticism, it should be coupled with some praise and instruction. Be certain that the good is always pointed out, and make the suggestion of more practice to improve results.

**LET THEM EXPLORE:** Let youngsters learn about the things around them. True, they may become a little soiled a time or two. However, a little dirt can be washed away. Hard feelings expressed do not leave the mind as easily, and if a continued barrage of negative thoughts persist, a lot of damage will result. A brief example will help to show the difference. Two very skilled readers entered into the first grade at school. The teacher, recognizing their potentials, asked if the two would rather

move ahead. One student was very interested to go as far as possible, while the other preferred to remain in the regular class. It is easy to see which student will excel in their school activities and most likely excel in later life. Through a parent's encouragement to explore to their utmost, and praise for doing so, children can enjoy a life of continued fulfillment in their projects.

**FOCUS ON SUCCESS:** There was once a young athlete who came to the coach for some help. This young person seemed to never fully live up to his potential. The coach gave the student four darts and asked him to toss them at a target across the room. "What if I miss?" asked the young man. The young person's initial reaction gave away a possible reason for his disappointing athletic career. Focusing on succeeding, in a situation, rather than the possibility of failure is good advice to instill in any young person. Those who gain in this respect are those who will try – fall short – get up and correct the error and try again.

**LISTEN TO THEIR DREAMS:** When your youngster comes home saying that they would like to be in some profession which may fall short of your expectations for them, remember that they are mostly dreaming and reacting to something they may have seen that day and were impressed with it. This is usually the case. This is the time to politely express either the dangers involved in such a profession if that be the case. However, the comment should remain in a positive vein of thought. Consider, for a moment, what you may have wanted to

do at their age as opposed to how it really turned out in your own life. When the time comes, you will find that they will be quite realistic in their choice of work.

**ENCOURAGE PROBLEM SOLVING:** A young boy ran to his mother when he realized his legs were too short to climb the first step to the slide. “How could you reach that step?” was his mother’s words, instead of boosting him onto the step. The child thought for a moment, then suggested using his wagon which he brought along to stand on first. Once that was done, the rest was easy. The ability to think of the possibilities is very important in a child’s mind.

**GIVE THEM A CHANCE:** The old saying that “practice makes perfect” still holds true. The sharpening of any skill, or talent, only comes from practice and more practice. Giving the young one plenty of opportunities and encouragement to practice is a vital necessity. The encouragement to “keep it up” – even when a mistake is made - helps to erase that disappointing feeling which may arise. By giving them a chance will result in blessings later.

Encourage them to partake in a club or organization of interest, one which is in line with God’s will in their lives. Some young people operate best in a class room, while others perform best on the playground. Being active in an area, where one feels at home, helps to build confidence.

The encouragement to speak up in class and learn to express themselves is very helpful, and will be very beneficial in years to come. If a rehearsal in the home is necessary, it is worth the time so the young one will be prepared to stand before his peers.

**TEACH THE THREE “Rs”:** Respect, resourcefulness and responsibility are the basic characteristics parents should develop in their child. The one who is taught to “abide by the rules” (respectful); who keeps trying new ideas when the setbacks occur (resourceful); and who faces up to the consequences of his actions (responsible); is the very one needed most and desired by God and society.

In conclusion, it is the example set by the parents that really matters. As parents, we cannot speak continually of the faults of our neighbors and co-workers and expect our son or daughter to develop a proper respect for others in general. If we dodge our taxes, it is impossible to preach about our responsibilities.

As a parallel, we are reminded that if we want a healthy child, a healthy diet is necessary. What you put in is what you get back. The same holds true with a child’s character development also. The love and concern directed at a youngster returns in an inner strength and confidence to be witnesses by the parents who give it and by those who have the privilege to associate with the person in later years.

**Question:** Will you please comment on the three temptations from the devil that Jesus faced in Matthew 4:1-10 and their instructions to children of God?

**Answer:** As Jesus Christ faced three temptations at the beginning of His ministry, so we children of God face similar temptations as we carry on the task of bringing the truth to the world.

Jesus’ first temptation involved turning stones into bread to assuage His own hunger. So we are tempted to make our aim feeding the hungry. But Jesus answered Satan: “**...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God**” (Matthew 4:4). Did Jesus feed the hungry? He certainly did! In fact, He also stated that one day we shall also be judged upon whether when He was hungry we gave Him to eat (see Matthew 25:35). However, it was not this which brought in the Kingdom. Christ’s mission, and ours as His body, is more than feeding the hungry and liberating the oppressed.

In the second temptation, Jesus was asked to be spectacular. “**...If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down...**” (verse 6). We as believers are prone to chase the spectacular in our ministries. How often do we depend on people with spectacular academic credentials, amazing salesmanship, fantastic preaching ability, astounding linguistic skills, or unbelievable managerial knowhow? Maybe our world work of the present should receive its impetus from the “foolish and the weak.”

Finally Jesus was offered political power. It is a constant temptation for the church to want to receive “the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them” as a means of gaining power and prestige. We will not condescend to governments (even our own) for the sake of political power, but rather will choose the road of prophetic speech. In everything, we will name the name of Jesus – the only name by which mankind’s liberation is possible.



## India

Meetings in Rompimalla Village, March 7-9 and Gosaveedu Village, March 15-16.





LESSON I

JESUS CHOOSES TWELVE APOSTLES

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:1-22.

Golden Text: Matthew 10:22 (last part).

"...but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."

1. Name the original twelve apostles. Matthew 10:2-4.
2. What did Jesus give the twelve apostles? Matthew 10:1.
3. To whom did Jesus send the apostles? Matthew 10:5-6.
4. What were the twelve apostles to do? Matthew 10:7-8.
5. What else did Jesus instruct the apostles to do? Matthew 10:9-14.
6. What do you think Matthew 10:16 means? Are God's children still sheep in the midst of wolves?
7. Did Jesus tell the apostles they would be well liked, and could they endure to the end? Matthew 10:22.

NOTE: The word "apostle" means one sent forth, a messenger or an ambassador. Jesus knew His mission on earth would be a short one, so He chose twelve disciples and taught them so they might go out and preach the gospel.

LESSON II

JESUS SPEAKS WITH AUTHORITY

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:14-35.

Golden Text: Mark 1:22.

"And they were astonished at his doctrine, for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes."

1. What did Jesus say in Mark 1:15?
2. Who did Jesus see as He walked by the sea of Galilee, and what were they doing? Mark 1:16.
3. What did Jesus mean in Mark 1:17?
4. Where and why did James and John leave their father? Mark 1:19-20.
5. Where did Jesus go at this time, and what did He do there? Mark 1:21-22.
6. What did the man with the unclean spirit cry out? Mark 1:23-24.
7. What miracle was performed in Mark 1:25-27?
8. Who was sick with a fever, and was she healed? Mark 1:30-31.
9. What do we find Jesus doing in Mark 1:35? Why do you think He did this?

LESSON III

JESUS FORGIVES THE SINFUL WOMAN

Scripture Reading: Luke 7:36-50.

Golden Text: Luke 7:48.

"And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven."

1. Who invited Jesus to eat with Him? Luke 7:36.
2. Who wept at Jesus' feet? Luke 7:37.
3. How did she wipe Jesus' feet? Luke 7:38.
4. What did the Pharisee think of Jesus when He let the woman wipe His feet? Luke 7:39.
5. What story does Jesus begin to tell Simon in Luke 7:40-42.

6. Jesus asked Simon a question in verse 42. What was Simon's answer? Luke 7:42-43.

7. Did Simon give Jesus water, a kiss, or anoint Him? Luke 7:44-46.

8. What did Jesus say to Simon and then to the woman? Luke 7:47-50.

9. What were Jesus' final words in Luke 8:16-18?

NOTE: This parable can also be found in Matthew 13:3-17 or Mark 4:3-20. Read, and try to find some other parables that Jesus told.

**LESSON IV**

**THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER**

Scripture Reading: Luke 8:4-18.

Golden Text: Luke 8:11.

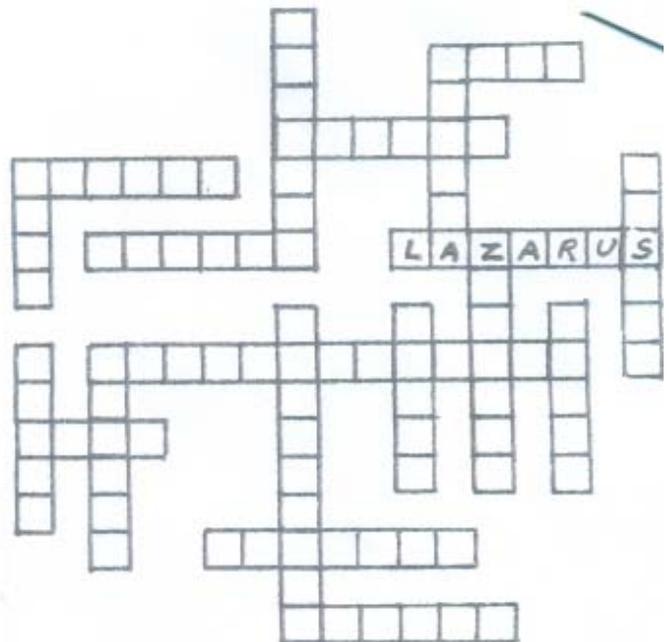
“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”

NOTE: A parable is a story using something real in life to give a different meaning than what was first thought. Jesus told many parables.

1. How did Jesus speak to the people that came to hear Him? Luke 8:4.
2. Tell in your own words what Jesus said in the parable found in Luke 8:5-8.
3. What did His disciples ask Him, and what was Jesus' reply? Luke 8:9-10.
4. What does the seed represent? Luke 8:11.
5. What do “those by the way side” represent? Luke 8:12.
6. What do “they on the rock” represent? Luke 8:13.
7. What does “that which fell among thorns” represent? Luke 8:14.
8. What does “that on the good ground” represent? Luke 8:15.

**JESUS' FRIENDS**

The Bible tells us of many people who were friends of Jesus or who loved Him. Below are names of nineteen of His friends. Fill in the blanks with their names by counting the number of letters.



- PAUL MARY JOHN JAMES  
 PETER SIMON JOANNA JOSEPH  
 ANDREW MARY MAGDALENE MARTHA  
 PHILIP THOMAS SIMEON MATTHEW  
 LAZARUS STEPHEN ZEBEDEE ZACCHAEUS

**ANSWERS TO THE BIBLE QUIZ**

1. Thirty
2. Judas
3. Bought a potter's field to bury strangers in.
4. By hanging himself
5. Pontius Pilate

**ANSWERS TO A BIBLE ZOO**

1. Badger (Exodus 26:14)
2. Ass
3. Elephant furnished ivory from its tusks (I Kings 10:18).
4. Dog
5. Camel

**NICER TO HELP THAN TO TELL**

By Fern Row Casebeer

Grandma had come to stay with Lonnie and Lee while Daddy and Mother were away for the evening. Lonnie and Lee helped Grandma get supper. Lonnie put the plates on the table. Lee put a knife and fork and spoon by each plate. Grandma dished up food onto the plates. Then they sat down to the table and bowed their heads. Lonnie asked Jesus to bless the food. After they had eaten, Lonnie and Lee helped Grandma wash and dry the dishes.

"Will you play a game with me?" Lonnie asked when the dishes were put away.

"Yes," said Grandma. "You get your marble game, and I will play with you." For a while Lonnie laughed and had a good time playing the game with Grandma. His marbles were ahead of Grandma's most of the time. Then Grandma caught up, and it looked as if she would win the game.

Lonnie was not so happy now. He wiggled around in his chair. He made ugly faces. Finally he slid off his chair and crawled under the table. He screeched and howled and made ugly noises.

"I think it will be better to put the game away now," said Grandma. She gathered up the marbles and put them into the box. And Lonnie went off into a corner to pout.

Now Lee picked up his blocks from the floor where he had been playing with them. He put them on the little table where the marbles had been. Lee was having a good time playing with blocks. But out of the corner of his eye, Lonnie was watching Lee. Lonnie lay down on the floor and began to roll around. Finally he rolled under the table where Lee's blocks were. Then Lonnie's feet suddenly went up into the air. The end of the table went up with Lonnie's feet. And away went Lee's blocks all over the floor.

"Lonnie!" said Grandma sternly. "You must pick up Lee's blocks and put them back on the table." Slowly Lonnie gathered up the blocks and placed them on the table.

"Now, Lonnie, you may go to your room for a while and think things over," said Grandma.

In a little while Lonnie came back from his room. He snuggled up close to Grandma and whispered in her ear.

"Grandma, you won't tell Mommy how naughty I was,

will you?" he asked.

"No," said Grandma, "we won't need to tell Mommy about it."

"I won't be naughty anymore," Lonnie promised. And he kept his promise.

A few days later Lonnie and Lee were spending the evening with Grandma. Lee did not want to eat his supper. He only wanted to eat cookies.

"But you must eat your bread and butter and vegetables and drink your milk before you have cookies," said Grandma.

"I do not want bread and vegetables and milk. I want cookies," was all Lee could say. And he acted very naughty.

"Grandma, you had better tell Mommy how naughty Lee is," said Lonnie. Grandma looked at Lonnie with a twinkle in her eye.

"I know a little boy, who, a few days ago, asked Grandma not to tell Mommy how naughty he had been. Do you know that little boy?" Grandma asked, smiling at Lonnie.

Lonnie smiled a faint little smile and nodded his head. Yes. He squirmed in his chair. He tipped his head first to one side and then to the other. He was thinking hard. Soon he looked up at Grandma seriously.

"Grandma," he said, "If you tell Mommy about Lee, you would have to tell about me, too, wouldn't you?" "That is right," said Grandma. "If I tell on Lee, I must tell on you." Lonnie squirmed and thought some more. Then he looked at Grandma and smiled.

"Grandma, I guess you better not tell Mommy about Lee," he said. Then he began to help Lee. He told Lee how good the vegetables were. He coaxed Lee to eat his supper.

"Grandma will give you cookies after you eat your bread and butter, vegetables, and drink your milk," he told Lee.

Lee began to eat. Soon the food on his place was all done. He was ready for his cookies. Then Lonnie and Lee were both happy as they ate their cookies together.

"I am glad I helped Lee to be good," said Lonnie.

"It is nicer to help others to be good than it is to tell on them, isn't it?" Asked Grandma.

"Uh-huh," Lonnie nodded as he took another bite of cookie.



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**"As for man, his days are  
as grass: as a flower of the  
field, so he flourisheth"  
(Psalm 103:15).**

