

# *The Advocate of Truth*



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# Mother's Day

By David DeLong

Every year, Mother's Day is celebrated in honor of motherhood. It is the second Sunday in May in which many people, or churches, celebrate this day, honoring mothers in general, and their own mothers, specifically. Sometimes, a carnation is worn on this day: a colored one if the person's mother is still living, and a white one if the person's mother has passed away.

A Mother's Day, called "Mothering Sunday", was celebrated many years ago in England. Yugoslavia, and other nations, have celebrated their own Mother's Day. The first known suggestion for a Mother's Day, in the U.S., was in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe. Her suggested date for this observance was on June 2, for the purpose of peace. She held a Mother's Day, for a number of years, in Boston.

A Kentucky school teacher, Mary Towles Sasseen, began observing a Mother's Day in 1887. Then, in 1904, Frank E. Hering of South Bend, Indiana, started a campaign for celebrating Mother's Day.

However, in 1907, Anna Jarvis of Grafton, West Virginia and Philadelphia, started campaigning for a national celebration of Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May. She also began the tradition of wearing a carnation. In 1908, churches in Philadelphia and Grafton started celebrating Mother's Day. In Grafton, the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church honored Anna's mother, Mrs. Anna Reeves Jarvis, in memoriam. Anna Jarvis was recognized, by resolution, as the founder of Mother's Day at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1912.

President Woodrow Wilson, on May 9, 1914, gave national recognition to Mother's Day when he signed a joint resolution of Congress which recommended that the executive departments and Congress of the federal government celebrate this day. In 1915, President Wilson

proclaimed Mother's Day an annual national observance. --From, "The World Book Encyclopedia", M, page 843.

We wish to honor our mothers, living and deceased, this second Sunday in May. Let us now look at two mothers, from the Scriptures, who had a great influence upon their sons. First, we will study about Hannah, the mother of Samuel. At first, she could have no children. But she prayed to the Lord and finally He gave her the child, Samuel. In I Samuel 1:24-28 we read concerning Samuel: "And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there."

Hannah's vow to lend Samuel to the Lord had a tremendous impact upon the young boy. And even all of his life, Samuel followed the Lord and the Lord blessed him. In I Samuel 3:19 we learn: "And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground."

The second instance of a good mother's example is that of Timothy's mother and grandmother. In II Timothy 1:5 we read: "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." True faith in the Lord is often passed down generationally, as we likely find in this letter by Paul to his son in the faith. Timothy was influenced by his godly grandmother and mother to be a good servant for the Lord.



# FORGIVENESS FROM GOD

Bond Tennant

It is important to know that repentance and confession of sin precede forgiveness from God. David is a good example of this. In Acts 13:22, David is described as a man after God's own heart. However, because he was a member of the human race, he committed sin. Two unrelated incidents in his life demonstrate this important truth. David committed adultery by taking a beautiful married woman, named Bath-sheba, to his bed. In an attempt to cover up his sin, he also arranged for the death of her husband, Uriah, the Hittite, who was one of his bravest and most faithful officers.

However, David repented and confessed these abominable sins which he had committed. We find the words of his prayer to God recorded in Psalm 51:2-5: "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Another example of David sinning was when he directed Joab to number the Israelites. Perhaps this was because he was beginning to rely upon the number of people available for battle, rather than continuing to trust in the Lord for victory. Joab warned David against doing this. God was displeased with David's actions. Again David recognized his transgression and confessed his sin upon realizing the error of his ways. "And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee,

do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly" (I Chronicles 21: 7-8).

Comparing David's sin with Bath-sheba and the taking of a census, one might tend to overlook the seriousness of this second matter. In I Corinthians 6:9-11, the Apostle Paul speaks about some gross sins that, if committed, are a barrier towards entering into the kingdom of God. Many, who are now children of God, may have committed some of those sins prior to their conversion, but now, having been washed by the blood of Jesus, they no longer engage in such practices.

**"Nevertheless, if we harbor unrighteous thoughts, engage in evil surmising or speaking, all of which might seem to us as being less serious sins, we would not be manifesting purity of heart."**

Nevertheless, if we harbor unrighteous thoughts, engage in evil surmising or speaking, all of which might seem to us as being less serious sins, we would not be manifesting purity of heart. Purity of heart is necessary if we would receive God's approval. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). When we discover we have fallen short in any of these or related areas, even when we may feel they are relatively minor sins, let us promptly repent of the error of our ways.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).

# Boanerges

Jerry Womble

I was hoping that word would catch your attention. It is the word that Jesus used to describe two of His disciples and it means “sons of thunder”. If we read Mark 3:13-21 we see Jesus calling the twelve to be with Him and they would have powers to preach, heal sickness and cast out devils. I think this ability was one of the reasons that Jesus called James and John, the sons of Zebedee, sons of thunder. Simon was the only other one of the twelve that received a special surname, Peter, meaning a small stone of the same qualities of the larger one. He gave these special names to certain disciples showing particular characteristics that would be in their lives. Jesus was showing that James and John had a special gift going forward from that time; in some way it would be thunderous. James and John would follow Jesus all His life and make a strong stand for Him as in Luke 9:53, 54 when a village would not receive Jesus and the brothers wanted to call down fire from heaven and destroy the town. Jesus shows them a better way when He answered saying that He did not come “to destroy men’s lives, but to save them”. This could be a time when the sons of thunder turned their aggressive attitude to spiritual thunder because after Jesus’ death we have books of the Bible written by them that show love, healing and direction of life. John, in his book, portrays Jesus as the Son of God and documents many things of His life, from his baptism to His resurrection. James is a book showing faith, telling us that we need works to show our faith and ends, telling us that the prayer of faith will heal the sick.

We do not need to be thunderous in our life but rather to be a faithful witness of our commitment to God, the Father, and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

# WHAT MUST I DO FOR SALVATION?

By Barry Waybright (deceased)

Salvation is the ultimate goal of all Christians. “To be delivered” is the wish of all people with any religious feeling, whether they are pagan or Christian, Moslem or Buddhist. “What must I do to be saved,” the rich man asked Jesus. Saved? Saved from what?

What is the one thing that hangs over mankind so heavily everyone seeks a way to be delivered from it? What ultimate happening does man fear so much that no matter what background, race, color or creed or status in life, he searches continually for a way to escape it? There is one thing that is a surety in all reaches of life, a thing that is totally unavoidable. That is death.

Why must men die? What causes death? God did not create death. He wishes death on no one. When God created the universe, He never intended that there be anything like death. Why then, when no man wishes to perish, and God wishes death on no one, is there death?

Long before God began His Creation, He knew what it would take to make His Creation happy. Therefore, before God created man or the angelic beings, He established a set of rules forbidding His Creation to do the things that would bring about unhappiness. When one does not do according to the laws of God that God set down, he is said to transgress God’s law. The transgression of God’s law is sin. God promises a reward to all those who do as He bids and requires a debt from those who do not. This is found in Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The wages of sin is DEATH. That is how it came to be. God did not create death, nor did He create the sin that brings about death.

Satan was the first to sin when he rebelled against God by coveting the things that belonged to God. Sin was introduced on earth when Adam disobeyed God by eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. He coveted the things of God. It was then that the first lie was told. Adam and Eve were both warned that if they ate from that one tree they would die. Satan deceived them by saying, "Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). Therefore, death came into the world because of man's disobedience to God.

Who then, among men, is guilty of this death brought about by sin? "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). All men are guilty, and men must die because of their sins.

How then can man talk of salvation? All men are deserving of the very same thing they hope to escape. How can man expect to retain something he has already lost? It is like hoping not to pay for something after we have bought it on credit. Where is hope?

Over 1900 years ago, there was one man who lived on this earth and never broke any of God's laws. This was Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus became a mortal man, risking His eternal heritage because of the possibility of succumbing to the carnal desires that accompany mortality, yet He overcame all to live a sinless life. Still, despite His perfect life, Jesus died on the cross, executed like a common criminal. Why then did He have to die?

Being without sin, it was not required of Jesus to give His life. Had He not been crucified, He might still be alive as a mortal today. Not only did He keep all of God's spiritual laws, but also all of God's physical laws. Jesus' health would never have failed Him. Yet He died. Are God's promises of none effect? On the contrary, Jesus was resurrected and sits today on the right hand of God as a reward for a truly faithful life. He now has eternal life.

Now, let us ask, what was the purpose of His dying when He had done nothing to deserve death? He owed no debt, yet a very great debt was paid that day on the cross.

Friends, Jesus died for YOU AND ME. He paid the debt that YOU AND I owe God for our sinfulness. Jesus offers the whole world an opportunity to accept the life He has given for the one we have lost. Yet, though He offers this new life to all, only those who really want it may obtain it. What must we do then to receive this

wonderful gift?

First of all one must realize that because of his sins, he is doomed to perish. Then he must repent and ask for forgiveness for all the wrongs he has committed. And remember, repentance not only means to feel sorry for what we have done but to set out to change ourselves so we no longer sin. When this is done, the debt can then be paid.

Before we accept the life that Jesus offers, we must first give Him our own. In a sense, we still have to die for our sins. This is done through baptism. When we are baptized, we are "...planted together in the likeness of his death..." (Romans 6:5). When we come out of the water, we are risen with Him "...in the likeness of his resurrection". Though we still have the same body when we come out of the water as we had when we went in, a change must take place before we can put on the new life that Christ offers us. We must be willing to change every aspect of our old life, if necessary, to live our life anew in Christ Jesus.

The old person that we once were must literally be destroyed before the new life that Jesus gives us can be accepted. It is still His life even though He has given it to us. We live our new life for Jesus and not for ourselves. This means keeping all the words "...that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). We can serve sin no longer.

With this, our lives are changed from unhappiness from serving sin to happiness from serving God. And if we are faithful to the end, God promises to give us a crown of life and happiness with Him forever.

Because of Jesus, and only because of Him, we can now escape the eternal death penalty which we all deserve and mankind fears so much. We can now live a new life of happiness and have hope of eternal life with "joy unspeakable". This is the free gift that God offers to those who will serve Him and sin no more.

Will we accept this wonderful gift of life and means of escape, or will we ignore the promises and perish with the wicked? Think about it.

*Reprinted*



# The Unwritten Word

Daniel Cruz

What can be said that hasn't been said? God has provided us instructions that guide our lives. His words mold and shape us by the hearing of the Word. It touches us to the core of our hearts and opens the eyes to see His goodness in all things. It gives us the freedom to walk as a repented sinner into His glorious understanding. This is not a fairy tale or something that is fictional. It's the Word of God given unto all who will hear and find joy in the Truth. Does our faith reflect the qualities and benefits that we've acquired by following God? Do we read and dismiss the Word or do we apply God's teachings in our daily walk? I hope to help resolve the title of this article by helping us to see that our lives, as children of God, should reflect that which is written but, not seen.

So let us begin with a profound verse that is familiar and yet still resonates the follower's faithfulness. Hebrews 11:1 reads: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." The verse clearly reminds us of a practice that must be completed daily. We cannot wish for things that are temporary and not reflect upon our purpose for God. It can be said that God provides, and He does. Our faith on when and how He does shows patience and understanding. Romans 5: 1-2 tells us: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Verses 4-5 says: "And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is

given unto us." We add to the kingdom daily by our actions and those to whom we witness. Nothing that we do in this life should be in vain. God's promises are not for the unfaithful. They're for those who hear and practice His Word.

Have you been asked, "what makes you smile, or why are you happy?" And you respond with, "it is God in my life." You feel a sense of joy and accomplishment when others see God working through you. It reflects the understanding that can only come from The Lord. Proverbs 10:17 reads: "He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth." Solomon, considered the wisest of his time, showed understanding and followed the ways of God. However, he also stated the consequences of knowing God's purpose for His own, and they go astray. It is evident that we must reflect our faith by our actions. The disciples of Jesus were made aware of their calling and that Jesus fulfilled His promise unto them. John 14:17-18 teaches us: "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." These are words that generate our walk and give us strength to carry the loads that we bear. Our life is full of valleys and peaks. Yet, if we truly know what God wants from us, the Word will reflect and speak volumes to all in our surroundings. Let us not limit the Lord or allow our fire to be consumed by the things in our surroundings. Let us hold on to our faith so that others can see the Word of God in us. AMEN!

# THE SACREDNESS OF ONE'S WORD

## Something Missing Today In Society

Reprinted and condensed from the December 13, 1976 issue of *The Advocate of Truth*

From the pages of Indian history comes to us the story of two young Creek braves, Watka and Deer. They met at an Indian conference. They both fell in love with the same Indian maiden who was also present. Trouble arose. There was a short fight, resulting in the death of Deer. For this homicide, Watka was tried under the laws of his tribe and was found guilty of murder and sentenced to be executed a day in August. Immediately on conviction the condemned Indian was released on parole, as others in the same circumstances had been, it being not an infrequent tribal custom. No bond, no surety of any kind, nothing but Watka's word to report for execution was required.

Watka could kill his rival in love in the heat of passion, but he would not violate his word, once given, to do what he was supposed to do. Watka married the girl on whose account he had fought and killed Deer and when the day of execution approached he made preparations to die, making every possible provision for his widow.

But the tribal fathers in the council decided to forestall the execution. Watka was a very valuable player on the famous Indian baseball team, and a number of games in which he was needed to play had been scheduled. For this reason, and this alone, he was reprieved till the last day of October, in order that he might fulfill his baseball engagements. The games ended. Watka had been in many different states playing ball. He had so many chances to escape where he would never be found. But Watka had given his word, and on that day of appointment he presented himself before the warden for execution.

An incident not unlike this is related of a Bay State Tory, Dick Johnson, in the Revolutionary war. After his arrest, upon his personal word to the sheriff, he went about his usual work, in and out. When it was time for him to be tried for high treason, he set off alone and walked through the forest to Springfield, Mass. to be tried for his life. But a member of the Massachusetts Assembly, knowing this

man to stick by his personal convictions and beliefs, rescued him from the rope. His plea for the Tory was that, "A man had a right to his beliefs in this new country, and that was not a reason for an execution." What I am saying is that, one time, a man's word was as good as anything: money, bonds, surety, etc. The only thing that resembles this kind of virtue anymore is the Bible. The Bible is the only Word that we can trust in anymore. If we live by this wonderful Book and obey it, we will also keep our word, and we will be justified for it.

Then, also, we come across an old story of the Punic captive, released that he might advise Rome to make peace. "But, Regulus, what will become of you?"

"I gave my word to return, and I will keep it. But do you refuse to make peace?"

Who would not go far to see such men as Damon and Pythias, the one ready to die as a substitute for his friend and the other voluntarily ready in his place at the death block when the hour struck?

When the sacredness of one's word is matched in the attributes of his character throughout, all that constitutes a man, then we find that there is something in a man (or woman) greater than his occupation or his achievements, grander than acquisition of wealth, higher than genius, more enduring than fame. "The truest test of civilization," says H. W. Emerson, "is not the census, not the size of cities, nor the crops, no, but the kind of men the country turns out."

Montaigne kept his Castle gates unbarred during the wars of the Fronde, because his reputation for integrity was better defense than a whole regiment of horsemen.

"Your lordships," said the Duke of Wellington in Parliament, "must all feel the high honorable character of the late Sir Robert Peel. I was long connected with him in public life. I never knew a man in whose truth and justice I had greater confidence." Are not the characters

of great men the dowry of a nation? Chateaubriand said he saw General George Washington but once, yet it inspired his whole life. To Washington, Jefferson once wrote: "The confidence of the whole nation centers in you." Of Abraham Lincoln, his great antagonist, Senator Steven A. Douglas said that there was safety in the very atmosphere of the man. Manhood is above all riches and overtops all titles. Character is greater than career. "Character must stand behind and back up everything, the sermon, the poem, the picture, the play. None of them is worth a straw without it."

Martin Luther said at a government building dedication: "The prosperity of a country depends not on the abundance of its revenues, nor on the strength of its fortifications, nor on the beauty of its public buildings, but it consists in the number of cultivated citizens, in its men and women who are enlightened and have character." The value of personal integrity is inestimable. Character is best built and cultivated by learning and keeping the Ten Commandments. A person who is God fearing and obedient can be trusted, and his integrity will be pronounced. Where is that person who can keep his word today? Why are there so many divorces today? Again, it is a lack of keeping your word. When you say, "I do," to keeping your husband or wife, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness or in health, till death do you part," and then dissolve that marriage because you are tired of matrimony, is a lack of character, and you are breaking your word as well as the Commandments of God.

This quality, which we sometimes speak of as characterizing, "a man we can tie to," is always at a premium in any place in the world. People of their word are Commandment keeping people.

A man of character that we can tie to is always at a premium all over the world. It is said of the personal experience, "That one good, strong, sound man is worth a thousand men without character and without stability in building up the Church of God." Give us a man, or woman, young or old, rich or poor on whom we know we can thoroughly depend, who will stand firm when others fail. He is a friend faithful and true, the advisor honest and fearless, the judge just and chivalrous, a teacher of truth and righteousness. In such a person there is the Kingdom of God and a fragment of "The Rock of Ages."

## KNOTTY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TRINITY

Bond Tennant

One of the most confusing, if not the most confusing, doctrines of Christendom is that of the trinity. God is claimed to be triune--the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as three persons, in one God. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.

Even the most enlightened minds must conclude that the doctrine of the trinity is virtually impossible to understand. Most are content to simply say, "It is a mystery," which is to be believed, for certain, but cannot be understood. They forget Jesus' words to His followers that it was "given unto" them to "know the mysteries" of God's Word, and "...blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear" (Matthew 13:11,16).

The following are five questions that should be asked by every believer in the doctrine of the trinity:

1. Was God Himself out of conscious existence for nine months after the conception of Jesus?
2. Was the child Jesus God?
3. Did Jesus pray to Himself?
4. Was Jesus' agony and prayer in Gethsemane a charade because He was asking for help from Himself?
5. Did God die on the cross Himself and remain dead until He raised Himself from the dead?



# Whom Do You Serve?

By David DeLong



Jesus said that no man can serve two masters (see Matthew 6:24). Joshua, in the Old Testament, made a bold declaration when he challenged the Israelites before his death. He said: "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

I ask this question, Whom do you serve? because there are many distractions in life that can keep our focus from serving the Lord, or serving Him as fully as we should. Take, for instance, peer pressure. This is a subject that probably affects young people more than us more elderly folks. Peer pressure had an adverse effect upon Rehoboam's decision in dealing with the people under his leadership.

Solomon, Rehoboam's father, had made the service of his people grievous. They wanted Rehoboam's yoke to be lighter on them and they would serve him. In I Kings 12:6-7 we learn: "And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever."

To whose counsel did Rehoboam listen? "But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke

which thy father did put upon us lighter? And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (verses 8-11). This was from the Lord (see verse 15). And it seems to be a classic example of a person being swayed by peer pressure.

Another way that people are sometimes distracted from following the Lord fully is by their attitudes. These attitudes are often shown by customs of clothing worn to show off a person's beauty. This appears to be the case of the women of Jerusalem of which Isaiah spoke: "Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and

instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty" (Isaiah 3:16-24). The apostle Paul said this about women's fashions: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (I Timothy 2:9-10). The guys should also dress modestly, not resembling a gang member or other worldly person.

I used to teach high school students, but have now been retired from it for almost two years. Sometimes I run into a former student that I had. Just the other day I spoke with a former student who wanted to show me his baby. A young woman was standing near him, and I asked him: "Is this your wife?" He said something like: "She's my girl friend, but we'll probably get married some day." Many people today think nothing of living together before they are married. But guys or girls do not have the right to treat each other as if they were married when they aren't. The Scriptures teach us: "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:18-20).

When a man and a woman go on a date to get to know each other better, the Lord expects them to stay pure. That means abstinence from sex until married. A good way to keep from being tempted is to either double date, or have a good friend or relative to chaperone the date. I know that sounds "old fashioned", but it works. Only use behavior which will glorify the Lord. For instance, a rule that some may make in dating, is no kissing at all until you are engaged to be married, and then only a brief "good night" kiss, not a prolonged one. Of course, this is a man's rule, not God's rule. Some may need to abstain from kissing until marriage. Keep yourself pure!

We all, if we are healthy, need to work for a living. This is expected by the Lord (see II Thessalonians 3:10-12). The challenge, here, is to have a job that does not require us to work on the Sabbath. The Lord expects us

to keep the seventh day Sabbath holy, no exceptions. The fourth Commandment tells us: "...But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work..." (Exodus 20:10). Jesus said "...Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days" (Matthew 12:12). Some may take the expression "to do well on the sabbath days" to mean that it is alright to work at your job on Sabbath because you are doing well and supporting your family. But that was not the intent of Jesus' saying.

Some may say that they don't make enough money to pay tithes to the Lord. However, one cannot afford to not pay the Lord His tithe. A blessing is given by the Lord on one who does pay tithes, and a curse is given by the Lord on one who does not pay tithes (see Malachi 3:8-11). No matter how little or how much a person makes, he or she can definitely afford to pay tithes.

Do you keep worldly traditions that the world has invented? This involves the celebrating of Sunday, rather than the seventh day Sabbath (Saturday), for worship; Christmas; Easter; Valentine's Day; and any other pagan/Catholic traditions. God implores His people to abstain from any celebration of pagan traditions (see Jeremiah 10:1-5). A person might reason: "well, we're not celebrating these festivals or holidays for their paganism, today." But, notice what the Patriarch Job said in Job 14:4: "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one." This means that a person cannot say that one can now "christianize" an observance that onetime had its origin in paganism. You can pour as much clean water into a mud hole as you like, but the mud hole will not come out clean. Anyway, the Lord is not honored by our keeping of pagan traditions.

Finally, who are your heroes? This says a lot about a person. Who do you admire and look up to? Is your hero a worldly entertainer, such as Lady(?) Gaga? Is he or she an in-your-face sports superstar? It's not so much the person as the attitude they represent. Or is your hero the Lord Jesus Christ and other godly people such as portrayed in the pages of holy Scripture? Again, I say that there are many people or situations in life that can keep our focus off of the Lord. Whom do you serve? The answer to that question will determine your life, or death, for eternity.



# The Church of Can't

By David DeLong

Some people look at the Church of God, 7th Day and do not wish to join because they focus on the things we cannot do, and they are not willing to give those things up. Though there are many more things that the Church of God, 7th Day can do, there are a number of things that we are forbidden to do. For instance, nine out of the Ten Commandments say, "Thou shalt not..." Even the fourth Commandment which says, "Remember the sabbath day..." also says, "...in it thou shalt not do any work..."

We are also forbidden to keep the pagan holidays such as Christmas, Easter, and others. How many people are willing to give up these holidays? Our diet is restricted by the Scriptures to not eating the unclean meats. Just about every restaurant offers a whole host of unclean meats such as bacon burgers, etc. Also, the Lord expects us to pay Him a tithe, or ten percent of our income, as well as an offering. Many people are just unwilling to make these sacrifices in their lives.

There is a reason why we are told to do, or not to do, these and other things. Jesus never once said, "indulge yourself and follow Me." In Matthew 16:24 He emphatically said: "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." One of the ways we deny ourself is by not doing what the Bible forbids us to do. In Luke 9:23 Jesus furthermore said: "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." So it's not a one time thing that we deny ourself, but rather, it is on a daily basis.

Jesus made this teaching a little stronger in Matthew 10:37-39. He taught: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he

that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." So denying ourself is actually losing our life for Jesus' sake now so that we will gain eternal life, later.

The Lord Jesus had this to say about following Him: "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour" (John 12:25-26). Serving Jesus means that we will imitate His example, and follow His teachings.

Notice how the apostle Paul viewed denying himself for Christ: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Philippians 3:7-8). Compared to knowing Christ, he viewed all other things in his life as dung, or manure.

What is it of which we deny ourself? Paul, in writing to Titus said this: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:11-12). It is ungodliness and worldly lusts of which we are supposed to deny ourself. So, anything that does not consist of ungodliness or worldly lusts we can do. However, we are to put Christ first in our life even if we are allowed to do, or have, something. Remember, that Paul considered everything but dung for the sake of Christ.

Now, Peter, and the other original apostles, gave up everything for the sake of Jesus. Peter, therefore, had a

question for the Lord about what they should receive. This question may be upon your mind as well. In Mark 10:28-30 we read about Peter's question and Jesus' answer to him. "Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

The fruit of the Spirit is given to each follower of Christ (see Galatians 5:22-23). Jesus emphasized three of this fruit: love, joy, and peace that His disciples would receive. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me" (John 14:21-24).

In John 15:11 Jesus spoke of the joy that His disciples

would receive. "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." And in John 14:27 and John 16:33 He spoke of the peace that they would receive. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid...These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

By trusting in the Lord, Jesus mentioned the provisions that the Father would give to His servants. In Matthew 6:33-34 Jesus assured His followers: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

The most beautiful city imaginable will also be the home of the redeemed. The New Jerusalem, with its precious stones and pure gold will house the righteous for eternity. Those who have followed Jesus in this life; those who have denied themselves for the sake of the Lord; those who have lost their lives for Jesus by living His standard; in short, those who belong to the Church of Can't now, are not really a deprived people. We are the most blessed of anyone on the earth.

## God Is Good

By David DeLong

God is good, all the time,  
He will end all sin and crime,  
But till then, we must endure  
In this world, and still stay pure.

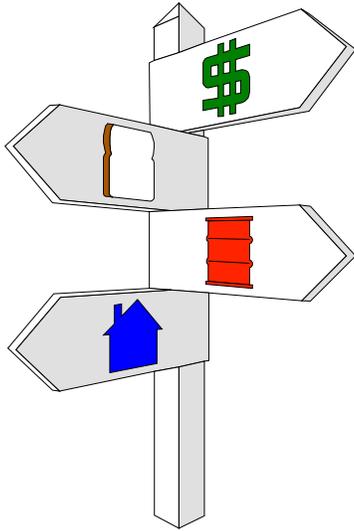
God is good, He will bless  
Those who want His righteousness,  
Teach His Word, so all can hear,  
And be filled with godly fear.

God is good, be patient yet,  
Your good works He won't forget,  
Follow Christ, and live His way  
In this wicked world, today.

God is good, He will send  
His Son, Jesus, in the end,  
Occupy, until He comes,  
Work the cities, towns, and slums.

Even in the countryside  
Teach about the One who died,  
God is good, and He is true,  
And He loves us, me and you.

God is good, so trust in Him,  
And your light will never dim;  
But, persecution, for His sake,  
Shall all the godly undertake.



# 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.*

## POLITICAL CHAOS

As of this writing, Donald Trump is ending the second week of being our president. President Trump's administration is off to a rocky start. All members he has nominated for his cabinet have not been approved by the Senate, and some have called him an unconventional president. Two of the members he has nominated for his cabinet have been approved by the Senate. They are the Secretary of State and the Ambassador to the United Nations which hold different views from what he put forth in his campaign. Also President Trump issued an executive order banning all immigrants and refugees of seven countries from entering the United States. There were protests throughout the United States and even in some foreign countries.

President Trump does seem to be faring much better in keeping his promise to create and keep jobs in America by reworking trade agreements and giving certain incentives to businesses. However, he needs cooperation from the Senate and the Congress.

Let us pray for all of those who are in authority in our country. They consist of our president, United States Senate and Congress, and the many leaders in all of the fifty states.

### Comment

Chaos in the political world is a sign of the times affecting not only the United States, but the whole world. It is a sad fact that this is happening more and more in America. I remember when I was much younger that the politicians and those running for any office were much more respectful to each other regardless of their political

party affiliation, and they would only put forth the facts.

Just recently I heard the term "alternative facts". What are "alternative facts"? Are they just different ways of looking at a situation? I do not believe that they are! Also in speaking of the media coverage of the election season, the term "fake news" came into being. Fake news is really news that is a lie, and many people believe everything they hear or see.

America's problems in the political world, and in society as a whole, are spiritual, not physical!

## DOOMSDAY CLOCK

Have you heard of the doomsday clock? There was an interesting article by Jonah Engel Bromwich that was published in the Houston Chronicle. It was entitled Doomsday clock moves closer to midnight. The following is the article:

It is getting closer to midnight.

On Thursday, the group of scientists who orchestrate Doomsday Clock, a symbolic instrument informing the public when the Earth is facing imminent disaster, moved its minute hand from three to two and a half minutes before the final hour.

It was the closest the clock had been to midnight since 1953, the year after the United States and the Soviet Union conducted competing tests of the hydrogen bomb.

Though scientists decide on the clock's position, it is not a scientific instrument, or even a physical one. The movement of its symbolic hands is decided upon by the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The organization introduced the clock on the cover of its June 1947 edition, placing it at seven minutes

to midnight. Since then, it has moved closer to midnight and farther away, depending on the board's conclusions.

Thursday's announcement was made by Rachel Bronson, the executive director and publisher of the bulletin. She was assisted by theoretical physicist Laurence Krauss, climate scientist and meteorologist David Titley, and former U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

In the op-ed for the New York Times, Titley and Krauss elaborated on their concerns citing the increasing threats of nuclear weapons and climate change, as well as President Donald Trump's pledges to impede what they see as progress on both fronts, as reasons for moving the clock closer to midnight.

"Never before has the Bulletin decided to advance the clock largely because of the statements of a single person," they wrote. "But when that person is the new president of the United States, his words matter."

In 1990, at the end of the Cold War, the clock was at 10 minutes to midnight. The next year, it was a full 17 minutes away at 11:43.

But over the next two decades the clock slowly ticked back. By 2015, the scientists were back in a state of unmitigated concern, with the clock at three minutes to midnight, the closest it had been since 1984.

"Unchecked climate change, global nuclear weapons modernizations and outsized nuclear weapons arsenals pose extraordinary and undeniable threats to the continued existence of humanity," the bulletin said. "World leaders have failed to act with the speed or on the scale required to protect citizens from potential catastrophe."

These failures of political leadership endanger every person on Earth," it added.

### Comment

Of course we do not find the term "Doomsday" in God's Word. The term gives the impression that all of a sudden everything and almost everyone will be destroyed. The concept of the Doomsday Clock leaves the impression that the world rotates between good times and bad times, but the world is getting more wicked as the years go by. The scientists could put their knowledge and ideas to better use. The idea of the Doomsday Clock is futile, because God only knows the beginning from the end, and it does not include a Doomsday!

We remember the song "God will take of you". Therefore the children of God do not worry about a Doomsday which will never occur.

## GLOBALISM AND ISOLATION

No nation is an island to itself when it comes to the economy. Each country must deal with other countries. This is called globalism, but some countries would wish to isolate themselves and build up their own economy and nation. This is called isolation. President Trump has said that he will put America first Americanism, not globalism.

## FLAWED DEMOCRACY

I heard a commentator say that America is no longer a full democracy, but it is now a flawed democracy. Is there any democracy that is really a full democracy without any flaws?

## CANDIDATES AND CHURCH

The following is another article which appeared in the [Houston Chronicle](#) written by Allan Turner. It is entitled *Survey: Leave politics out of the pews*.

It sounded good at first, or, at least, Republican candidate Donald Trump thought it did. But his pledge to allow churches to endorse political candidates without losing their tax-exempt status fell flat with the faithful, a new LifeWay Research poll indicates.

Trump described his call for repeal of the Johnson Amendment, which prohibits such endorsements, "my greatest contribution to Christianity and other religions."

Repealing the amendment also was included as a plank in the GOP's party platform.

Religion News Service reports that 79 percent of Americans participating in the new telephone poll thought such endorsements were inappropriate. The percentage of those not supporting endorsements was down 7 points from a similar survey in 2008.

"Americans already argue about politics enough outside the church. They don't want pastors bringing those arguments into worship," LifeWay executive director Scott McConnell said in a written statement.

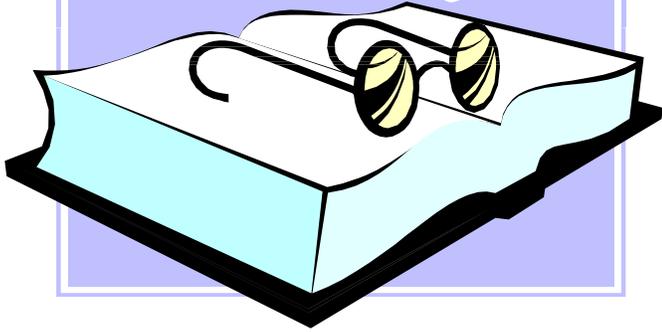
Forty-three percent of poll participants said it was acceptable for pastors to endorse candidates outside their church roles; 52 percent said churches should not forfeit tax-exempt status for making endorsements.

The new poll found 27 percent of self-identified evangelicals, a group that includes Southern Baptists, considered church political endorsements appropriate.

Only 1 in 5 Protestants, 13 percent of Catholics, 18 percent of non-Christians and 21 percent of those without religious preference agreed.

# BIBLE

## Study



**QUESTION:** I try to get as many people as possible to just join the church of which I am affiliated. What is wrong with that?

**ANSWER:** As we look around us in these last days, we find many different religious beliefs. In the United States, there is probably more evidence than elsewhere due to the religious freedom in this country. At the present time, the cults are very popular with many people. The leaders possess something the members are looking for. The members feel that they have found the very spiritual “utopia”. They accept this new-found shepherd completely. They are given something they never had before which is usually the feeling of really belonging to something. Once the new member has joined the group, his natural desire is to have others join too and enjoy that which he has found. This type of feeling will hold true within any type of religious belief.

For the most part in the United States, the different groups of believers go about trying in some way or another to find new converts from either other groups or from among those with no religious affiliation at all. The Bible example used for this is the Apostle Paul and his activities as he and the other apostle made the statement that the Gospel “was preached to every creature which is under heaven.” Yes, Paul was of a religious belief wherein he gave his whole life and breath to try and bring the Gospel to others.

It is this same thought today that brings out those of a

# Questions and Answers

religious conviction to try to bring new members or converts into their particular group or organization. It is also at this point where many do not realize the mistake they are making. From the ministers to every regular member they are trying to promote their assembly or church. On the surface, it appears good and proper. However, the main ingredients have been left out. I would ask you this: to whom or what did you join or try to get others to join? Were you promoting the Methodist or the Lutheran Church, or perhaps some Church of God somewhere? If this is your goal, you are in error. Many have spent countless hours to proselyte others – and to where? It was to their own group of people, and the important points were left out completely. The first missing point was the Lord Jesus Christ, who was left out somewhere. The second is that one does not bring someone to Jesus Christ. He brings Jesus Christ to that individual. How many times have we heard, “If I could just get that one into the church,” or, “I’m going to work extra hard on that person because we need more in the church?”

I do not doubt the sincerity of that person. However, I do wonder about the method. Is that really the proper way? You might ask, what then is the proper way? The proper way is that once we have the Lord within us, the Holy Spirit, it is our duty to BRING HIM to others. This is God’s will to all who are His. The thing to keep in mind is that we are GIVING or trying to give, and not trying to take in or draw unto ourselves. Herein is true charity.

The Scriptures teach there is only “one body”, which is the Body of Christ, or the Church of God as we can read many times. We also understand it is the people who make up the Church or assembly. Therefore, do we join the Church only and that is all? If that is all, we are certainly most miserably deceived. The Bible teaches there must be repentance and baptism and that the individual must receive the Holy Spirit within in order to be of the

Body of Christ. Thus then, it is only through an operation accomplished by God Himself and in that way ONLY in which we may become part of that Church which Jesus bought with His blood. It is not of anything we ourselves did to become a child of God. We did not “join the church” as some may think. It was God who joined us, or made us part of His Church. Here then we can better understand the text in Acts 2:47, “...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Here also we can better understand the words of Paul when he wrote, “I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase” (I Corinthians 3:6-7). Again we realize that it is God who really adds to His Church. The Apostle Paul never claimed anything of his efforts, nor glorified from those who saw Christ through him. It was all of God. Paul never preached the church in his travels, it was always the Lord Jesus Christ. He was of the Body of Christ, and many others became brethren through accepting what he preached and lived, but they did not join the church. It was God who saw fit after seeing their repentant heart, to place a portion of His Holy Spirit within, thereby adding to the Church.

Let us remember these thoughts when we are witnessing for Christ in our daily lives. The intent is to bring Him TO them. Through a pure heart within ourselves, this is exactly what will be accomplished.

**QUESTION:** Will you briefly describe kindness, and explain why children of God must display it?

**ANSWER:** Yes, we will. Kindness is an old-fashioned virtue of just being nice!

Kindness manifests itself in a pleasant attitude, even when tempted to be sharp or critical. Kindness gives, asking nothing in return, for that is its nature. Kindness seeks occasions to compliment others and does so freely.

Kindness is transparent. It has nothing to hide. Its words and deeds have no hidden motive behind them. There is no subtlety to kindness, nor does it have people wondering, “What’s up.” There is such a wholesomeness about it that it brightens any atmosphere and brings hope to even the most despondent.

Here is an excellent test for children of God: judge us by our kindness. If we are not kind in word or deed, then mark it down that we are church members only – that our religion is in our heads, not in our hearts! For it should be

impossible to have Christ in the heart and be unkind in anyway.

True kindness not only prepares men for another world; it makes them good citizens in this world. There ought to be no such thing as an unkind child of God. Those in whom Christ is formed will show it!

**QUESTION:** What are three attributes, mentioned in God’s Word, that we must possess to keep on caring, loving, and doing right?

**ANSWER:** There are really more than three mentioned in the Word of God. We will list three important ones.

### **BE STRONG**

**“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might”** (Ephesians 6:10). God knows our weakness, and He never wearies. **“He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength...But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”** (Isaiah 40:29, 31).

### **BE PATIENT**

**“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus”** (Romans 15:5). Tenderly, a gardener cares for his plants waiting for the harvest. He cannot reap the same day that he plants. **“For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise”** (Hebrews 10:36).

### **BE FAITHFUL**

God counts little things. He who is faithful in little will be rewarded with much. We must not give up in the middle of the race. We receive the prize at the end! When we are tempted to give up, let us think of Jesus who loved us to the end. He said, **“....: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”** (Revelation 2:10).

**QUESTION:** Why is it necessary to tell God what our needs are when He knows them beforehand?

**ANSWER:** It is because we are told to do so. **“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God”** (Philippians 4:6). An earthly father gives his children things for which they ask. He possibly would not give things to his children if they do not ask for them.



## Mexico

**A church meeting being conducted by some of our brothers and sisters in Mexico.**





*Various pictures from Apostle Ricky Herrera's ministerial trip to the brethren in Mexico.*

*LESSON I*

*IDOLS*

*Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 8:1-7.*

*Golden Text: Exodus 20:3.*

*"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."*

*NOTE: What is an idol? It is an image or symbol consecrated as an object of worship; anything we give excessive affection to.*

1. Should we make images or bow down to anything other than God? Exodus 20:3-6; Leviticus 26:1.
2. What are we told to flee from so that we will not be tempted? I Corinthians 10:13-14.
3. If we sacrifice to an idol, to whom are we sacrificing? I Corinthians 10:19-21.
4. What idol did the children of Israel have Aaron build after they were delivered out of Egypt? Exodus 32:7-8.
5. What King of Israel worshipped Baal, and how did God feel towards him? I Kings 16:30, 32-33.
6. What event did Elijah participate in to show that God was the true God and not Baal? I Kings 18:36-38.
7. What three men were saved by God for not bowing down to golden idols? Daniel 3:14,16,18. How did God save them?
8. What other things does the Bible tell us to avoid worshipping? Deuteronomy 17:3.

*NOTE: We all need to watch that we do not put anything before God. God gave us all our treasures, and we want to be careful that we do not think more of the things around us than in thinking of God.*

*LESSON II*

*THE 7TH DAY SABBATH*

*Scripture Reading: Isaiah 56:1-7.*

*Golden Text: Exodus 20:10.*

*"But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates".*

1. What did God do when he finished creating the heavens and the earth? Genesis 2:1-3.
2. On which day should we worship the Lord? Exodus 20:8-11.
3. What happened to the children of Israel when they worked on the Sabbath? Exodus 31:14-17.
4. When the children of Israel polluted the Sabbath, what did God say He would do? Ezekiel 20:21.
5. How will you delight yourself in the Lord? Isaiah 58:12-14.
6. What will the Lord give to the people who keep His Sabbath and do the things that please Him? Isaiah 56:4-6.
7. What did Jesus do on the Sabbath? Luke 4:16.
8. Did Jesus change the day that the Sabbath was to be kept? Hebrews 4:4-11.

*LESSON III*

*STEALING*

*Scripture Reading: Malachi 3:7-15.*

*Golden Text: Exodus 20:15.*

*"Thou shalt not steal."*

1. Who will not inherit the Kingdom of God? I Corinthians 6:9-10.
2. What are we told not to do in Leviticus 19:13?
3. Who did Jesus say was a thief and a robber? John 10:1, 8-11.
4. Usually stealing is accompanied by other sins. Name one in Luke 10:30.
5. What happened because one man had stolen money that was not his? John 12:3-6; 18:2-5.
6. What treasures can thieves not steal? Matthew 6:19-20.
7. What was called a den of thieves? Mark 11:17.
8. Who was crucified with Jesus? Matthew 27:38.
9. What was told to those who have once stolen? Ephesians 4:28.

**LESSON IV**

**LYING**

*Scripture Reading: II Kings 5:20-27.*

*Golden Text: Exodus 20:16.*

*"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."*

1. Who is the father of all lies? John 8:44.
2. What was Cain's answer to the Lord in Genesis 4:9-10? Could his lie hide his evil deed?
3. Who is a liar? I John 2:22.
4. What will happen to all liars? Revelation 21:8.

5. What was Peter's lie? Matthew 26:71-75.
6. Who is better than a liar? Proverbs 19:22.
7. What does I John 2:4 state?
8. What was the result of Gehazi's greed and lies? II Kings 5:27.
9. What are lying lips? Proverbs 12:22.



**HOW MOTHER'S DAY STARTED**

Mother's Day is held the second Sunday in May.

Anna Jarvis of Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, is given credit for starting Mother's Day. Her mother's name was Anna Reeves Jarvis.

Ms. Jarvis spent a lot of time and money traveling around the country making speeches about Mother's Day.

She also asked people to write letters to their moms even if they lived in the same town.

In 1914, President Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a special day.

Answers to Animal Mothers on page twenty three.

1.c, 2.h, 3.k, 4.g, 5.a, 6.j, 7.c, 8.l, 9.f, 10.b, 11.i, 12.j,



## TEACHING ANIMAL BABIES



By: Audrey O'Connor

Instinct is a word often heard when people speak of sometimes unbelievable things animals do. It is supposed to be a knowledge which all animals have at birth, which tells them that certain things must be done, and certain other things must not be done. Too many times we just say, "That is instinctive," when an animal's actions seem to show more cleverness than we feel he should have. If we were to watch animals with their babies some day, we might change our minds about so many things being "instinctive."

It is easy to think that birds fly just by instinct, but still, nearly everyone has seen mother birds coaxing their fluffy little babies to try their wings. Once in awhile a young bird will be afraid to throw himself out into the air. Some eagles have been known to knock a few sticks out of their nests in order to make the timid baby fly. Other species of birds climb onto the edge of their nest with food for the youngsters, and persuade them to climb up to secure it. Then it may even hold the food far enough away that the little one will have to jump to get it.

Many birds are taught to swim and dive, as well as to fly. These birds' mothers are very patient, and also very clever about showing their broods how to go about managing themselves in the water. Some ducks will hold the ducklings between their beaks and necks, then dive

with them. Other swimming birds are in the habit of letting the little ones get all settled on the mother's back, then sliding quickly down under the water. After a few such performances, the young birds find they do not need any help, and do as much swimming and diving as they like, all by themselves.

The thought of a young hippopotamus learning to swim gives us a really laughable picture. But quite often the baby is not the least bit in favor of trying, and mother hippo must spend much time showing him how he can get around in the water.

Almost all animals teach their babies going through the acts that they with their young ones try. Since the parents cannot tell their offspring what to do, they must show them. Most of the time the little ones will follow their mother closely, imitating everything she does, or at least, making an attempt at it. But the times when baby is just a tiny bit afraid to go ahead are the times when we can see that he does not do everything "by instinct."

Right in our own houses, we can watch mother cats and dogs teaching their kittens and pups. At first, it may not look like teaching when a mother cat rolls around and pushes her kitten with her paws. But she was taught in this way by her mother, and she is teaching her baby. For cats have not forgotten how to hunt and to protect themselves by fighting as they did when all cats were wild. Trips to the zoo become a great deal more fun when we remember all the things the animal babies must be taught. Watching sea lions plunge and fall grows much more interesting if we stop to think of all the practicing the young ones have to do when they are learning to land on rough shores with the waves pounding at them, and when they are learning to climb after their parents over the sometimes sharp, sometimes slippery rocks.

If there happens to be an opossum in the zoo you visit, you are very lucky indeed. You might possibly have a chance to see one of the most amusing 'lesson hours' in all the animal world. The mother opossum will have all her babies on her back, their funny twist tails wrapped around hers... which sheds stiffly over their heads so that they can hang on tightly. Don't forget that she is teaching them when she carries them this way. Before long they will have learned enough of the art of climbing to take care of themselves. Until then, mother opossums patiently give them their schooling.

ANIMAL MOTHERS

Almost everyone lives in some kind of family. At the zoo and in the wild, animals sometimes live in families too. But we don't call mother animals, "Mom", or father animals "Dad." Animal babies aren't called "children" either, they are "offspring". Animal mothers and fathers and babies have special names by which they are called. See which mothers' names you can match up with the correct animal by placing the correct letter in the blank beside each animal. Some of the words in the Mothers' list may be used more than one time.

ANIMAL

- 1. deer \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. elephant \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. fox \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. goat \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. hog \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. horse \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. kangaroo \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. lion \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. ostrich \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. sheep \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. swan \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. zebra \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. goose \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. bear \_\_\_\_\_

15. chicken \_\_\_\_\_



MOTHER

- a. sow
- b. ewe
- c. doe
- d. roe
- e. goose
- f. hen
- g. nanny
- h. cow
- i. pen
- j. mare
- k. vixen
- l. lioness



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## Mother

By Betty Whetstone

In my many poems about blessings,  
It seems I have left an important one out;  
So I am setting forth now to correct myself,  
For this one is worth telling about.

I tell about this one special person,  
Who has been there right from the start;  
She has been with us for every moment,  
And we have always been close to her heart.

She cherished each of us as babies,  
And as we grew remained always the same;  
Her love for us never once faltered,  
It always burned bright as a flame.

She was with us on up thru adulthood,  
Sharing all of our worries and pain;  
And offered up a prayer for our comfort,  
Never speaking one word of blame.

How do we thank God for this blessing,  
For someone who has always been there?  
This special one we call our mother,  
And thank You, our God, is our prayer.