

The Advocate of Truth

"And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed" (Matthew 27:59-60).



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

The Need To Be Sealed 3
 We must be holy if we are to be with the Lord.

Tithing 4
 Could we be guilty of robbing God and ourselves?

Hope 5
 Prayer and patience are linked with this virtue.

Honesty 6
 Honesty is always a part of godliness.

All Saints' Day And All Souls' Day 7-9
 The truth behind these celebrations.

God's Timing 10-12
 God is never too early or too late.

Come Out Of Her My People 13
 God is still calling His people out of the confusion of Babylon.

The Signs Of The Times 14-15
 A Vatican visit, a period of war, and other timely news.

Questions And Answers 16-17
 How are the Ten Commandments stated in the Catholic Bible?

The Church Around The World 18-19
 This month we look at India.

The Children's Pages 20-23
Sabbath School Lessons
A Story - "How William Won"
Games and Puzzles

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The Need To Be Sealed

By Moises Torres M.

We have to be sealed with the Holy Spirit of God in order to be identified and taken by the Lord during His coming. Just like any new and finished product is packed and sealed with the company's signet to be identified and sent to its destination we, the believers, have to be sealed as new creatures in Christ in order for us to be able to come out to meet with the Lord Jesus Christ during His return and be taken to the New Jerusalem.

God placed a seal in His people of Israel which will always identify them with Him. The inscription of this seal says "Holiness to the Lord." "And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD" (Exodus 28:36).

This seal was engraved on a plate of pure gold, and Aaron had to wear it on his forehead representing all the people. All the people had to be holy. "And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine" (Leviticus 20:26).

In the time of the New Testament, in our day, the Lord has also chosen and set apart His people, the church, to be holy before Him. They are the called ones from God. His church, or people, also needs to have the seal of God.

Who seals the believers?

"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts" (II Corinthians 1:21-22). God gives us His seal when we convert to Him and become new creatures in Christ.

When and how are we sealed?

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory" (Ephesians 1:13-14). We are sealed with the Holy Spirit at the moment that we believe and get baptized.

Are we recognized by God when we have this seal of holiness?

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (II Timothy 2:19). These words can only indicate that the children of God should stay in a state of HOLINESS.

Should we keep this seal clean and visible?

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:29-30).

From these verses in the Bible, we can understand the need of being sealed by God as new creatures in Christ in order to be identified by the Lord Jesus at His return. The inscription of the seal says HOLINESS TO THE LORD because we are sealed with the HOLY SPIRIT of God.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14).

Brahmanapalli, India

Tithing

By Charles B. Ward Sr.

“For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts” (Malachi 3:6-12).

With all the wrongdoing going on in this world, even in some churches, tithing is the last word some want to hear. But tithing is very biblical. When we don't tithe, not only are we robbing God, we also cheat ourselves out of financial blessings. God is not blind to those who use the pulpit for their own selfish gain. He warns us in Matthew 7:15: “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” God does not expect us to throw our money, or His money, away by entrusting it to someone or some body of people who will not use it to further the gospel of Jesus Christ, but He does want us to faithfully and cheerfully give where the work of Christ is truly being done. If you are

worshipping God at a particular church, and feel this is the place where God has called you to attend, why not give your tithes (to be sent on to headquarters) and offerings there so the needs of God's house can be met?

God tells us in Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." God wants us to test Him so we can see for ourselves that His Word can be trusted. This does not mean that everyone who tithes will become a millionaire. This is not impossible for God to do. It means that since you have invested in the needs of the work of God, He will see to it that you and your family's needs are met. Also other blessings, including financial blessings, will come to help you have the desires of your heart. People will see that God is with you, because every time it looks like you are losing in life, God will turn it around, and people will see that you are winning again. For those who are wondering: do I tithe? Yes, I tithe very faithfully, and very cheerfully. I very much understand the blessing of God. Am I rich? Financially I am not rich at all. However, all of my financial needs are being met by the goodness of God. I am rich in the sense that I care for all human beings, and that is true riches to me--how much one cares, and not how much one has. I care enough to let people know that they are cheating themselves when they are cheating God. Some people buy lottery tickets with very great odds of being rich, and each day their needs are unfulfilled. Invest in God so you and your family's needs can be met. These odds are in your favor.

Brahmanapalli, India



HOPE

by Jonathan (JD) Fowler

Today I'm going to talk about Hope. It's one of the things that we tend to forget about from time to time, especially when we're going through trials. This isn't a good thing because hope is one of the most important virtues to go along with faith and prayer.

In the Bible, Hebrews 11:1 gives a good description on what hope is: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." That's a good description of the word "hope", that "faith is the substance of things hoped for". Hope is what gives us motivation, the hope to do something to make a change in one's life, the hope to comfort you and remind you in hard times that the night may be darkest before the dawn, that there is an end to all trials.

Romans 12:12 tells us: "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer". Hope, patience, and prayer, all three of these virtues are connected. Think about it, whether you're going through a rough spot in your life or it's just everyday living, you have to have hope, patience, and prayer.



These three virtues are like a three-legged stool, each leg has to be the same length to support the stool. Now if you have a deficiency in any of the three virtues (hope, patience, and prayer), just as the stool is unbalanced, you're life and faith will be unbalanced also.

If you don't have prayer, you don't have hope.

If you don't have hope, you don't have patience.

And if you have a complete absence of one or the other, you need to review how that's affecting your faith.

Romans 8:25 says: "But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

Patience, hope and prayer, those three virtues we need to check for in our lives everyday, just as when we're about to go out the door and get into our car we check for the phone, wallet and keys. We need to add these three important items to the list: faith, patience and prayer.

When you're about to go out the door, when you're about to walk into a situation or hard time in your life, take five seconds and give it a quick check: PATIENCE, PRAYER, and HOPE; CHECK.



Honesty

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:1-4).

Paul reveals here by inspiration that honesty is linked with godliness. It is defined as the quality of being free from deceit; fairness and truth; uprightness. It is of much more value many times to have quality rather than so much quantity of something that is inferior in its composition.

Honesty is an attribute of God, and if practiced daily by more people would increase their knowledge of the truth. It is the quality of being free from deceit as before stated, and deceit is having an idea or opinion without sufficient ground; a fanciful notion or estimation of one's self; vanity.

Honesty is a virtue of righteousness and if manifested toward God will always bring good relationships among men everywhere. However, many men practice honesty among themselves, and toward their "neighbor" but leave God out of it. They practice their integrity toward one another, and would not think of defrauding or stealing in any transaction. But in matters that are of first importance toward God, deceit, thefts, robberies, and the breaking of the Commandments is practiced without any remorse, or sense of guilt whatsoever.

In the days of the early apostles when they chose men from among the disciples to look after certain business affairs, the qualification was to select seven men of "honest report", full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. This left the apostles free to give themselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:1-4).

The Regenerated Man

I sincerely seek the new name,
And open a way to reject earthly
fame;

In fact, the truth to be told,
I truly desire to become a part of
this fold.

I often remember this song,
When I think of life's journey and
how long;

It says take time to be holy,
For I know that the beautiful
kingdom will I inherit surely.

Before that new birth,
You begin to think and question
your life's worth;
Am I fit to be in the kingdom,
Or am I heading for eternal
damnation?

But I know I will be comforted,
And with the Holy Spirit I will be
directed

To live my life God-fearingly,
So that I can be in the kingdom
with life for eternity.

By: Sister Isis Richards

The Truth About

ALL SAINTS' DAY and ALL SOULS' DAY

By Bond Tennant

Brahmanapalli, India

The evening of October 31, which is the beginning of November 1, and the following evening November 2 are supposedly memorable days in the Roman Catholic Church. They are days commemorating the saints who have died and the souls of the others who have died. Especially in countries that are dominated by the Roman Hierarchy people make plans for cleaning up and decorating the graves of their loved ones who have departed in death.

Many and varied are the offerings made for the dead on All Saints' Day, November 1, and All Souls' Day, November 2. Besides floral decorations, many present "pan de muertos." This "bread for the dead" is placed near the grave with other portions of food and drink.

For days, bakeries are busy preparing pastries and other confections in the shape of skulls, skeletons and other forms to be a reminder of the dead. The shape of a skull is used particularly to show contempt for death. Weird masks are made to wear and scare away the souls of the dead.

In private homes sweet cakes are prepared, as are candy and various foods preferred in life by the dead relatives or friends. Then the first of November arrives. It is especially for Catholic youngsters. The belief is that children who have died are now saints; so this day is All Saints' Day." In some places, there are parades of children dressed outlandishly. Graves are visited and are decorated with flowers. At the cemeteries, children are seen with pails to carry water, for which the people pay them. The

children request money for a skull or a treat.

In the Catholic countries where this is practiced, the Protestant people and their children do not go along with this Catholic custom. In fact, the Protestants definitely speak out against indulging in this Catholic festival. Are they not Protestants protesting against Babylon and her evil practices? I wish American Protestants would protest against Roman Catholic feasts, but they go right along practicing "Trick or Treating" and putting on false faces on Halloween. What are they protesting against? The only true Protestants in America are those children of God who do not have anything to do with the practices of Babylon. Children of God must "come out of Babylon" in order to be saved for the kingdom. We must be Protestants protesting against the iniquities of Rome.

An altar is installed in many homes on November 2 and there, before a photograph or picture of the beloved dead one, his favorite foods and drink are placed. It is believed that the dead are allowed to return on this day and have fellowship with the living, partaking of the banquet that has been prepared. On this day, "All Souls' Day," homage is particularly rendered to the dead.

But are dead humans actually alive in some form of ghost or apparition? Are dead people actually able to think and their minds alive in some spirit world? Is it possible for the dead to have feelings of joy, pleasure, satisfaction, or pain? Can persons that are dead be appeased by offerings or can they be satisfied with food, drink or raiment? These are proper questions, and we

will try to answer them according to the Word of God, the Bible.

The Apostle Paul, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, wrote that, "...The FIRST man Adam was made a living soul..." (I Corinthians 15:45). The apostle did not write that Adam had implanted in his body an immortal soul. God made Adam of the "dust of the ground" and God "...breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man (Adam) BECAME A LIVING SOUL" (Genesis 2:7). "The first man is of the earth, earthly..." (I Corinthians 15:47).

After Adam disobeyed, God had to keep His Word, "... for in the day that thou eatest thereof (the forbidden tree) thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:7). And God further declared, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:19).

Every man eats the bread until he returns to the ground. No man can eat bread after he has returned to the ground. And the body of man returns to the component elements of the earth from which God originally created him. For only with the Lord is the beginning and ending of life (see Psalm 36:9; Romans 14:8).

The Psalmist also said of the Lord: "... thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust" (Psalm 104:29). A person dead and returned to his dust cannot be pleased or appeased, or be communicated with for he has no faculties or senses wherewith to feel anything. The Psalmist again says: "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day HIS THOUGHTS PERISH" (Psalm 146:4). Obviously, then, a dead person could not enjoy food or drink with the living

The Psalmist is King David. David, the leader of the children of Israel, knew much about the death of man. He knew that no one can communicate with the dead. They are sleeping in the dust of the earth until the day of resurrection. The son born as a result of David's sin with Bath-sheba was dying. David sought the Lord and fasted in behalf of his dying son. But the child died. "Then David arose from the earth, and washed and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the

child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (II Samuel 12:20-23).

David could then do nothing for the child. "For the living know that they shall die; but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.... Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, IN THE GRAVE, whither thou goest." "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit (breath that God breathed into Adam) shall return unto God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 9:5,10; 12:7).

But there is hope – great hope for those who die in the Lord. The Bible assures us that, though the dead return to lifeless dust, the dead will be resurrected by the power of the resurrected Jesus Christ. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40). What a wonderful time that will be for the saints to be resurrected from the dust to be with their Lord. "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:51-54).

We will be able to partake of the "Tree of Life" and share its delightful fruit in the pleasant association with those who have been raised at the first resurrection. All of our needs will be assured by the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God, and then after the second resurrection which is

for the wicked dead Jesus will then swallow up death. Death and hell (the place of the dead) will be burned up, and death will be remembered no more. Read Isaiah 25:6-8; Revelation 20:13-15; 22:1-3; I Corinthians 15: 21-22.

About The Subject At Hand

You have just read about All Souls' Day – All Saints' Day and the truth of the present state of the dead. This article was reprinted from the September 4, 1967 issue of *The Advocate of Truth*. The customs and observations mentioned originated in Babylon. Therefore, they can be called "Babylon Mysteries" from which God's people must come out. Of course, All Souls' Day – All Saints' Day is associated with the observance of Halloween which God hates.

I would like to share with you a few thoughts taken from a tract which was given to me by a friend. Here they are:

1. "Halloween--the souls of the dead were thought to revisit their homes on this day, and the festival acquired sinister significance with ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, black cats, fairies, and demons of all kinds said to be roaming about. The dead are not re-visiting. Halloween is not a day we as Christians should celebrate."
2. "Halloween is a religious day, but it is not a Christian day. In Jeremiah 10:2, the Lord told the house of Israel to 'Learn not the way of the heathen.' How much more should we – His children – heed this admonition. There is so much good to celebrate, rejoice in the Lord and all His provisions and shun anything that has to do with the celebration of darkness, Halloween."
3. "Halloween has many symbols, one of which is the hollowed-out pumpkin carved in the appearance of a demonic face with a lighted candle fixed inside. We Christians also have many symbols, the most important being that mentioned by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians. Chapter 4, verse 19, speaks of Christ being formed in us. Also our God has fixed a light in us (we) like Jesus – are lighting the world – and that's better than any demonic faced pumpkin."
4. "When you think of celebrating Halloween, read I Corinthians 10:21. "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils." Ephesians 5:11 says, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

TODAY

By Betty Whetstone

**There are many games we can play everyday,
From football and soccer, to chess;
There are crosswords, and puzzles,
And many others, that all call for our best.**

**There is a game that is far more important
That I ask you to play now with me;
Just look around you at what life has given,
And play the game of pretend with me.**

**Just pretend that you woke up tomorrow,
And all you have known is not there;
And there is nothing left in your keeping,
Not even a word of your prayer.**

**For today has vanished like vapor,
Not anything left to behold;
For today is as if it never had been,
And you're left standing there in the cold.**

**As you look back on what is now today,
And the things you have left undone;
Do you realize all that you've been given?
Did you cherish a daughter, or son?**

**Today is now gone forever,
Taking with it the things we have done;
The good and the bad gone forever,
Along with our pleasure and fun.**

**And what about all those clothes in your closet?
Have you said, "Thank You, Father, for that?"
And the good car that's parked in your driveway,
And even your dog and your cat?**

**And all the good things that come from the Father
Should recounted be each time you pray;
For all of the good that will come tomorrow,
Is what you thanked God for today!!**

God's Timing

By David DeLong



Brahmanapalli, India

God's timing is impeccable. He is never a moment too early or too late in His words and actions. Even His prophecies, which may take centuries or millennia to unfold, are fulfilled to the smallest detail in His exact timing. For instance, in Galatians 4:4-5 we learn of the coming of Jesus the first time: "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Jesus didn't come to earth as our Redeemer until "the fulness of the time was come".

This should come as no surprise. In God's program there is a time appointed for everything. "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no

man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11).

Not only does the above text inform us that the Lord has a set time for everything, but that people also have a set time to do things in their lives as well. For us to put off doing the things we should, when we should do them, is procrastination. Jesus was the perfect example of a man performing His duties on time. We see a situation in John chapter 11 where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead right on time--not too early, not too late. "Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was" (verses 1-6).

The disciples were probably bewildered why Jesus waited two days before going to see Lazarus. We know that Martha felt that way. In verse 21 we read: "Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Jesus' purpose in waiting, however, was so that Lazarus would die. And then He would raise him to life for the glory of God. The story picks up in verses 7-15. "Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let

us go into Judaea again. His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him. These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him."

The Lord always has eternity's values in view. Many times we are short-sighted and only see the little picture before us. Jesus spoke once again to Martha, helping her to see the bigger picture. "Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world" (verses 23-27).

The Lord Jesus, under the authority of the Father, is the giver of life--now, and in the future to come. "Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had

seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him" (verses 38-45).

Job understood the concept of being under God's appointed time. He proclaimed about the resurrection to come: "O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me! If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come" (Job 14:13-14). We must understand this concept as well.

Jesus preached about the acceptable time to receive salvation. Mark 1:14-15 records: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." The Apostle Paul taught a similar message in II Corinthians 6:1-2: "We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)" We must not procrastinate on this time (NOW) to receive salvation.

Since God is the Author of time, and things need to be accomplished according to His timing, what are we, His servants, to become? We are to be Waiters on the Lord. Psalm 27:14 reads: "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." How does a faithful servant wait on the Lord? Luke 12:35-38 gives us that answer. "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."

Paul writes that we must also wait patiently. "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it" (Romans 8:24-25). James likens this patience to a

farmer waiting for his crops to ripen. "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:7-8).

A good example of the servants of the Lord waiting on God is found in the Old Testament. In the Book of Exodus, chapters 13 and 14, we find the children of Israel looking to the Lord for when they should travel and when they should wait. "And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people." (Exodus 13:21-22). The Israelites were not to travel until the Lord led them, but were to remain in their places until such a time (see Exodus 40:35-38).

However, the children of Israel did not always wait upon the Lord. Soon after He had drowned the Egyptians in the Red Sea we learn: "They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul" (Psalm 106:13-15). The phrase, "they waited not for his counsel" is true often times today, just as it was in Moses' time. Disciples of Jesus must know the counsel of the Lord so that they won't do something they will regret later.

A wonderful promise is given to those who do wait upon the Lord. We find these verses in Isaiah 40:28-31. "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 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."

Jesus, before ascending back to heaven, gave a commandment to His disciples not to leave Jerusalem for a time. "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye

have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence" (Acts 1:4-5). By obeying this command of the Lord these disciples were blessed by receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which can be read about in Acts chapter 2. They waited upon the Lord's timing to receive "the promise of the Father".

We understand what it takes to be a good waiter in a restaurant. The waiter (or waitress) stands by patiently, listens carefully to what is being ordered, and then promptly brings service to the customer. The waiter does not assume what the customer wants. But once the order is placed, the waiter goes into immediate action to do everything possible to please the customer. And, may it be said, the good waiter usually receives a nice tip from the customer. In some respects this is the same thing when we wait upon the Lord. God has already placed the order (or orders) for what He wants in the Bible. As His waiter we need to patiently receive the order from Him, and then go into action to fulfill it. The Lord, being pleased with our service, will richly reward that service.

God's timing is perfect. If we are good waiters upon the Lord now, it will be said of us later: "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isaiah 25:8-9).



Brahmanapalli, India



Come Out of Her My People

The most important thing in the world today is the mighty call of God, calling His people out of the confusion of Babylon, prior to pouring out the seven last plagues, and saying: "...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4).

The beasts of the field, the fowls of the air, and other creatures obeyed that great call in Noah's day, but men hardened their hearts and stiffened their necks and, except for the eight righteous people, all were lost. Those eight people heeded God's warning and were saved.

Dear reader, please fear God and keep His Commandments.

Jesus said: "...Are ye also yet without understanding?" (Matthew 15:16). We are nearing the end of the journey; we have reached the crisis hour when the forces of wrong will be defeated and Jesus will stand in power. "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (I Peter 4:17). A Scripture answer to the above question is this: "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thessalonians 1:7-8).

Now that you have read God's solemn warning, don't you think it will be worth while to give diligence to make your calling and election sure? Certainly it is. Let's receive Christ as Savior, and then keep the whole of God's Law, and not offend in any point. Let us heed the warning

of the third angel's message: "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb" (Revelation 14:9-10). My dear friend, if you wish to know what God would have you to come out of, please read Daniel the seventh chapter.

We will now quote from Daniel, chapter seven, verses 23-25. "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom (Rome) upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." (Please read Revelation, chapters 13 and 17).

We see the curtain being drawn aside in Bible prophecy and things which must shortly come to pass. "For the day is near, even the day of the LORD is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen" (Ezekiel 30:3). May we all be ready for that great "day of the LORD".



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.

Vatican Visit

Not long ago Pope Francis invited the Prime Minister of Israel and a Palestinian leader to the Vatican to discuss efforts to make peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Such discussions are a waste of time. There will never be peace between Israel and the Palestinians until the battle of Armageddon when Jesus returns to fight all of them that come up against Israel and reveals Himself to them.

The Good Stuff

As I have mentioned before in this column, many of the things proving that we are in the last days, such as those in mentioned in II Timothy 3:1-5, are evil. However, we should not forget those who are accepting their lot in life and really have kind hearts.

The CNN news channel has a segment called *The Good Stuff*, featuring those who have risk their lives to rescue those who fall into trouble and physical harm. Only God knows the condition of one's heart.

Random Thoughts About Enduring Hardness

In II Timothy 2:3, the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." A dear church brother once said that a soldier is not really a soldier unless he is always fighting. That is so true! We must fight Satan and his evil every day until we die or are alive at the time of our Lord's return. Sometimes we must endure real hardness in order to not succumb to the wiles and temptations that Satan may shoot our way!

Speaking of being a soldier may remind one of being in the Armed Forces of a certain country. Of course, I am thinking of the Armed Forces of The United States. There is the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. There is also the Coast Guard which is given little publicity, but it performs a valuable service.

Brothers and Sisters of the Church of God (7th day) do not engage in carnal warfare. Therefore, they refrain from joining any one of the branches of the armed forces, as they are conscientious objectors to carnal warfare.

In the days of the draft, the young men aged 18 or older, of the Church of God (7th day) signed with the Selective Service as conscientious objectors. If called to service and passing their physical examination, they would be classified either as I-O or I-AO, depending on the choice of the brother. The I-O classification meant that he did not have to go to be drafted into the Army. He could serve in a civilian institution for the duration of his service time. The I-AO classification meant that the brother could be drafted into the Army and wear its uniform. But he was given modified non-combatant training, so as not to kill (murder) a fellow human being, before being sent to his duty post. He did not bear arms!

Having served twenty-one months in the Army, eighteen of them in Vietnam as a draftee non-combatant medic, I know something of the hardness that a soldier experiences, especially in a war zone. It depends a great deal upon what his duty station requires.

I saw soldiers wading in the rice paddies and eating from cans (C-rations). I saw many pinned down by friendly fire, which means being fired upon by friendly

forces, because it was most difficult to tell the friend and foe from each other. I saw these things from the air when traveling by helicopter to and from various places. I was stationed in a fairly good permanent medical dispensary which supported a helicopter airfield. I did not have to endure much hardship.

There can be a correlation between the hardship experienced by the secular soldier and the soldier for Jesus Christ. The immigration problem comes to my mind. At the time of this writing, the news tells us that many young children from Central American countries are getting across the border into the United States. Many of these children are not accompanied by parents. They want to escape the violence and poor living standards in their countries. What can the US government do to remedy this situation? Let us pray that a solution may be found. Some have even suggested closing the border between Mexico and the United States. This may solve the problem of immigration, but it would be very drastic.

There are also immigrants from other countries who wish to better themselves. These immigrants, not only of the Central American countries, come to the United States because they say the economy is better here than the economy in the European Union and elsewhere. This may be so. However, the economy in the United States is not robust now. The whole world is trying to recover from a great recession which started about five or six years ago. The recovery has been very slow in the United States. The immigration problem is just one of those which puts the United States in a perplexing (no way out) situation.

Period Of War

Wars continue to plague the people of the world! At this time, there is a conflict involving Israel and the Palestinians (Arabs) of the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians fired rockets into Israel, and Israel fired back. There is an extreme group of Palestinians called Hamas who seems to not wish peace under any circumstances. Peace agreements were made, but they did not hold. Hamas launched a drone into Israel, but the Israelis shot it down.

Bible students know of God's care over Israel. He has been with her in all of her battles, since she was established in 1948. Israel has the right to defend herself. Israel's existence is a Sign Of The Times. They report that there are many more Palestinians killed than that of Israelis. Perhaps the Palestinians should stop to consider

why this is true. Could it be because of God's providence over it? The way to stop the killing is for the Palestinians to stop firing rockets into Israel. It has just been told that a ground invasion is planned of the Gaza Strip by Israel.

There also is war in Iraq. Some have called it a sectarian war with the Sunni versus the Shiite. A rogue group of Sunni formed to fight against the government. They thought their national government was not giving them recognition. They wished to establish an Islamic state. They captured large portions of Iraq and a little in Syria. They called their captured land an Islamic state.

The war in the Ukraine is another example of wars and rumors of wars. Eastern Ukraine seemed to want to be a part of Russia. Major sanctions were enforced against Russia because of her invading that territory. The United States wanted stiffer sanctions that the European Union wanted. Perhaps it was because the European Union depends more on Russia for their gas and oil than does the United States.

There is much trouble in South Africa. Kenya and Nigeria, two countries in which there are several Church of God brethren, have experienced havoc in the form of kidnappings and secular religious wars!

The thought is that some must endure hardship at certain times only to sustain their own mortal lives. However, the child of God endures hardship as a soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be pressed into the Kingdom of God when it is established on the earth.

"...we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

Soccer Popularity

Soccer has not been a popular sport in America until the last few months. Could it be that many in America are "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God"?

Coming Around To The Facts?

I read that a biblical scholar discovered that the theory of an immortal soul is a product of Greek mythology. He is coming around to the truth of the subject, but he is not yet there! The idea of an immortal soul dates back to Babylon. It is one of those Babylonian mysteries which children of God must be aware and reject. In fact, the immortal soul theory really began in the Garden in Eden when Satan, in the form of a serpent, told Eve, "...Ye shall not surely die" (Genesis 3:4).



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: How are the Ten Commandments stated in the Roman Catholic Versions of the Scriptures?

ANSWER: Although the Ten Commandments are found in the Roman Catholic Versions of the Scriptures, the faithful are instructed from the catechisms of the church, and not from the Bible. As they appear in these catechisms, the Ten Commandments have been altered. The second commandment, which forbids the making of and bowing down to images, is omitted. The tenth, which forbids coveting, is divided into two.

QUESTION: Can you please tell me when the first modern calendar, similar to ours, was put into use? Has the weekly cycle been altered in any way?

ANSWER: The first modern calendar, similar to ours, was put into use in 45 B.C. by Julius Caesar. The names of the days as we have them now were also used then.

Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory in Mount Hamilton, California, assures us: "The week of seven days has been in use ever since the days of Moses, and we have no reason for supposing that any irregularities have existed in the succession of the weeks and their days from that time to the present." D. W. Cross, *Your Amazing Calendar*, (Taunton: 1972) pp. 6, 7.

QUESTION: What must be the content of the songs that children of God sing in the worship service?

ANSWER: Singing is a part of the praise and worship of God. It is not intended for mere pleasure, entertainment, or for the gratifying of the senses. Colossians 3:16 tells us that singing is to be used as a means of edifying each other. Songs then must be of sound doctrine and harmonize with the Scriptures. They can cause the feeble to be comforted and encourage the faithful to "...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

QUESTION: Luke 11:30 records, "For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation." In what way, was Jonas a sign unto the Ninevites?

ANSWER: The very highest possible authority that Jonah lived, and that he passed through the experience recorded in the Book of Jonah, is our Lord Jesus Christ. He said of Jonah, "**For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold,**

a greater than Jonas is here” (Matthew 12:40-41).

Our Lord plainly says that there lived a man on earth by the name of Jonah and that he was three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish. The words which our Lord uttered are plain and unimpeachable. To deny the fact and history of Jonah is paramount with denying the knowledge and truthfulness of the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and holy Son of God. This is exactly what sneering and unbelieving critics do. We shall not follow their foolish ravings, but emphatically assert that the Lord Jesus put Himself fully and unequivocally on the side of the historicity of Jonah, and we have no difficulty whatsoever in accepting and believing His Word. We can readily and easily receive the words of the Lord Jesus Christ against the words of all the men who ever lived. And to us it makes a little difference whether it was a shark or a sperm-whale or any kind of a sea monster that swallowed Jonah. We shall never be guilty of quarrelling with any one concerning this matter. Let us now turn from the historicity of Jonah and the experience he is said to have gone through to reflect upon the fact that Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites.

It will be observed that the Book of Jonah is not a prophecy, but it is rather the history of Prophet Jonah. Jonah was a Prophet in Israel, and he bore a message of love to the people of God when they were in distress, and he prophesied the “restoration of their coast” from the entering in of Hamath to the sea of the plain which came to pass under Jeroboam (see II Kings 14:25-26). This is the only prophecy uttered by Jonah of which there is a record in the sacred Scriptures, apart from the brief and definite prophecy of warning to Nineveh. How long he functioned in the prophetic office we are not informed, nor what the exact service was which he performed. It seems quite evident that he was the recognized religious leader in his day and time, and it is probable that he was the counselor of Jeroboam II. Whatever prophetic predictions Jonah may have uttered and whatever particular service he may have performed, their record is not found in the Book of Jonah. The Book of Jonah is the history of the Prophet Jonah. He is the central figure of the book and the real teaching of the book gathers about him and centers in him. The Prophet himself, in his eventful history, is really a prophetic forecast in illustrative foreshadowing.

It will be noted that the Prophet Jonah, according

to our Lord Jesus Christ, was an Object lesson to the people of Nineveh. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, **“For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation”** (Luke 11:30). These words are perfectly plain and clear to their statement of fact – Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites – though, perhaps, they are not so plain as to their intended meaning. What, we inquire, is a sign? It is an embodied lesson, an indication of some fact or teaching. Jonah, therefore, was an embodied lesson or a living symbol or an indication of some fact or teaching to the Ninevites. What did the Ninevites see in Jonah, and what lesson did they learn in and by him? Let us see.

It is to be believed that the Ninevites heard the story of his being cast into the sea and swallowed by a fish, as well as the story of his restoration after three nights and three days, upon his repentance in the belly of the fish.

In the first place, then, the Ninevites had a picture and an example of the righteous judgment of God against or upon sin in the Prophet Jonah. They heard and knew that Jonah had been thrown overboard the ship because of his disobedience to God and because of his sin, according to his own confession.

QUESTION: [Is it essential that Christians believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus?](#)

ANSWER: Yes, it is. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, then He was an ordinary man who would have had to die for His own sins and could not have died for the sins of the whole world. To be our Saviour and pay the infinite penalty demanded by God’s justice, His body could not have been created by normal sexual intercourse but only by the creative power (Holy Spirit) of God within the womb of a virgin.

QUESTION: [Who was Drusilla?](#)

ANSWER: The name Drusilla means unknown. Drusilla was the wife of Felix, the Roman governor of Judea before whom the Apostle Paul was tried around 60 A.D. She is mentioned only in Acts 24:24.



India

An outdoor Church meeting in Brahmanapalli, India.





A gathering of some of our Sisters at the meeting in Brahmanapalli.



Brothers and Sisters giving glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.



Praises being offered to the Lord.

LESSON I

ELIJAH IS TRANSLATED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY

Scripture Reading: II Kings 2:1-15.

Golden Text: II Kings 2:11.

“And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we studied about Elijah meeting Elisha and anointing him a prophet. Elisha continues to follow Elijah as he is trained to take over for Elijah when he is gone. In this lesson, we will study about how Elijah gets to another country.

1. What did Elijah tell Elisha to do, and what was Elisha’s reply? II Kings 2:1-2.
2. While at Bethel, who comes to talk to Elisha, and what do they say to him? II Kings 2:3.
3. Where are the next two places that Elijah and Elisha go, and who meets Elisha at these places? II Kings 2:4-7.
4. What does Elijah do in II Kings 2:8?
5. What does Elisha ask Elijah to do for him, and what is Elijah’s reply? II Kings 2:9-10.
6. What became of Elijah in II Kings 2:11?

NOTE: Elijah was taken up in the atmosphere and sent to another country. Ten years later Elijah sends a letter to the king (II Chronicles 21:12). This shows us that it was just as Enoch was translated to another place so that the native people could not continue to harass him (Jude 14, 15).

7. Did Elisha see Elijah taken up, and what did he do next? II Kings 2:12-14.
8. What did the sons of the prophets say and do when

they saw Elisha? II Kings 2:15.

NOTE: You can read more about Elisha and the miracles he performs in the book of II Kings.

LESSON II

DANIEL

Scripture Reading: Daniel 1:3-21.

Golden Text: Daniel 1:9.

“Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.”

NOTE: We are going to study about Daniel and three other faithful Israelites that were selected to work in the palace for King Nebuchadnezzar. Let us find how God blesses these men for their obedience.

1. What qualities did King Nebuchadnezzar want in children that were chosen to stand in the king’s palace? Daniel 1:3-4.
2. Who was chosen, and what was ordered to give to them? Daniel 1:5-6.
3. What new names were given to these four young men? Daniel 1:7.
4. What request did Daniel ask of the prince of the eunuchs, and was God with him? Daniel 1:8-9.
5. Of what was the prince of the eunuchs afraid, and what did Daniel suggest that they do? Daniel 1:10-13.

NOTE: Pulse is eatable seeds such as peas, beans, or lentils.

6. Did the prince consent to Daniel’s idea, and what happened at the end of ten days? Daniel 1:14-16.
7. What did God give to the four young men for their obedience? Daniel 1:17.

8. When King Nebuchadnezzar asked to see the children that were chosen, what did he discover about Daniel and his three friends? Daniel 1:18-21.

LESSON III

DELIVERANCE FROM THE FIERY FURNACE

Scripture Reading: Daniel 3:1-30.

Golden Text: Daniel 3:17.

“If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.”

NOTE: In our last lesson, we met Daniel and his three faithful friends. God blessed them. In chapter two of Daniel, you can read about King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and how God helped Daniel interpret this dream. Daniel is made ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief of the governors over all the wise men. We will now study about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and how God delivers them from a fiery furnace.

1. What did King Nebuchadnezzar make, and who did he order to come and see it? Daniel 3:1-3.
2. What were these people ordered to do in Daniel 3:4-5?
3. What would happen to those who did not worship the golden image, and were there people who obeyed this? Daniel 3:6-7.
4. Who did not serve the king’s golden image? Daniel 3:8-12.
5. King Nebuchadnezzar is very angry at the report he hears and orders the three men to come. What did he ask of the three men, and what was their reply? Daniel 3:13-18.
6. What did the King order to be done to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Daniel 3:19-21.

7. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and to the men who threw them into the fire? Daniel 3:22-23.

8. What did King Nebuchadnezzar see in the furnace, and what did he say to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? Daniel 3:24-27.

9. After seeing the miracle of the three men being saved from the fire, what did King Nebuchadnezzar say, and what became of the three faithful men? Daniel 3:28-30.

LESSON IV

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Scripture Reading: Daniel 5:1-31.

Golden Text: Daniel 5:5.

“In the same hour came forth fingers of a man’s hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king’s palace:...”

NOTE: We last studied about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being saved from the fiery furnace. In chapter 4 of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar has another dream that Daniel interprets for him. In this next lesson, we will now study about King Belshazzar and how Daniel is called to help him.

1. Who is Belshazzar and what do we find him doing in Daniel 5:1-4?
2. While King Belshazzar is at his feast, what strange thing does he see happen? Daniel 5:5. What did the king do after he saw this hand write on the wall? Daniel 5:6-7.
3. Could the King’s wise men interpret the writing on the wall? Daniel 5:8-9.
4. What did the Queen suggest that the King should do in finding out what the message is? Daniel 5:10-12.

(Continued on page 23)

HOW WILLIAM WON



Just as the clock struck two, the door opened, and William Radcliff hurried through the hall carrying his violin.

At the age of seven, William had shown such a marked taste for music that his parents had sacrificed to give him lessons on his violin. Now, at the age of twelve, he was earning money to pay for them himself.

A few months before the story opens, a great violinist, Mr. Frederick Van Fossen, had made a wonderful offer to the boys under thirteen. A valuable Stradivarius was to be given to one who, on the first day of January, played the most skillfully and pleasingly for him.

Knowing the old musician's odd ways, William was working hard on an especially difficult piece, hoping that he would be the fortunate boy to win the violin.

William belonged to a Sabbath School class which had for its motto "Win One." He had never tried to do this, for he himself had not yet been won for Jesus. But on this day, as he listened to the earnest words of his teacher, a new light entered his soul, and he resolved that not only would he take Jesus as his Saviour, but that he would try to "Win One" for Him.

That afternoon he was to play before Mr. Van Fossen. As he was walking toward the studio, a great conflict was

raging in his soul. Knowing the old gentleman to be satisfied, William felt that here was his opportunity to "Win One" for Jesus. But what could he do or say? If he asked Mr. Van Fossen to take Jesus as his Saviour, the old man might become angry and refuse to listen to his playing.

Then suddenly, as he stood in the presence of the noted musician, a great resolve formed in his mind.

Quickly, lest he should become fainthearted, he drew his bow across the strings. Then softly and tenderly he played the strains of an old familiar hymn, "Jesus, I My Cross have Taken."

As he finished playing, Mr. Van Fossen arose and led him to the door. "My chance to win the violin is gone, Mother," said William a little later, as he told her the story. "I did not play the piece on which I had practiced, for I wanted to win him for Jesus, and now I have lost everything."

But just as the sun was touching with golden fingers the peaks of the distant hills, and painting the sky with myriads of wonderful colors, a note was delivered to William. The words of the message were, "Come and see me at once -- Frederick Van Fossen." Breathlessly, William entered for the second time the beautiful studio of the noted individual. Would he be angry with him?

"My boy," said the old gentleman, "Why did you play that hymn for me today?" As William told of his accepting Jesus as his saviour, and explaining his desire to "Win One" for Him, the tears trickled down the man's chest.

"That was my mother's favorite hymn," he said. "When you played it this afternoon, I fancied I heard her voice calling me to take Jesus as my Saviour. My boy, your Captain is my Captain. This day begins a new life for me. Here is the violin. You have not only won it, but you have 'Won One' for the Lord Jesus."

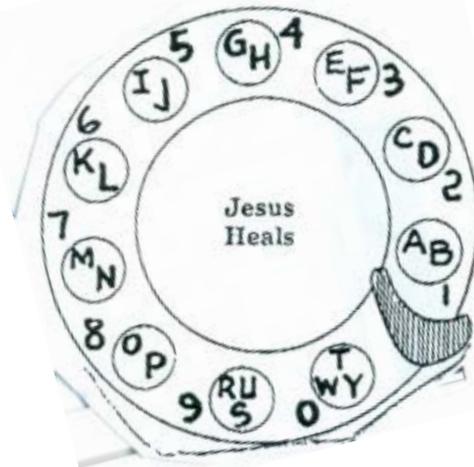


(Continued from page 21)

5. When Daniel was brought to see king Belshazzar, what did he say to him? Daniel 5:13-16.
6. Summarize in your own words what Daniel tells the king in Daniel 5:7-24.
7. What were the words that were written on the wall, and what did they mean? Daniel 5:25-28.
8. What was Daniel's reward, and what became of King Belshazzar? Daniel 5:29-31.

Refer to the telephone dial to identify the people Jesus healed. Convert the number sequences to the appropriate letters on the dial. For example, 7-1-7 on the dial spells M or N, A or B, M, A, and N are the letters that spell man.

1. 7-1-7 0-5-0-4-3-9-3-2 4-1 7-2
2. 0-8-7-1-7 0-5-0-4 8-6-1-4-9-3
3. 7-1-7 8-3 7-8-1-6-3-7-1-7
4. 9-8-7 8-3 7-8

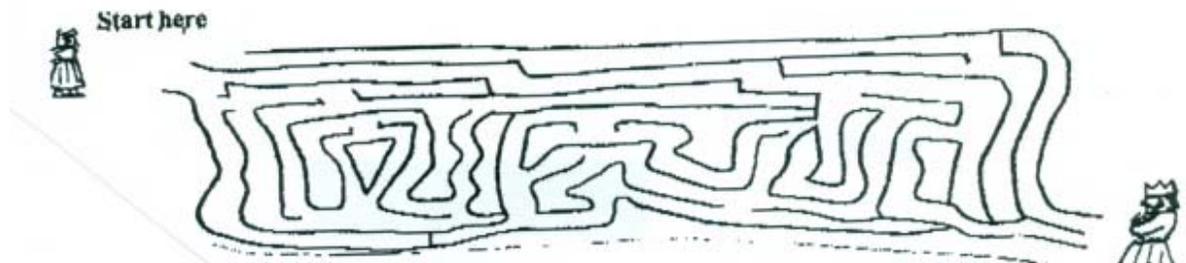


ARE YOU IN NEED?
 Are you sad and lonely, dear?
 Jesus Christ is always near.
 Are you fretful, peeved and blue?
 Jesus is a Helper true.
 Are you wishing for a friend?
 Jesus' friendship will not end.
 Are you longing to be pure?
 Jesus' Blood can cleanse for sure.
 Are you wishing for some love?
 You can have it from above.
 Are you needing ANYTHING?
 Ask the lovely Heavenly King.

THE VOICE OF GOD
 By Henry Boye

*To hear the Voice of God,
 You need not climb a steeple;
 Look around you everywhere,
 He dwells among the people.*

Can you get Moses to the King through this maze?



Answers to Telephone Puzzle: Luke 6:5; Mark 5:34; Luke 14:1-5; John 4:49; Matthew 9:2; Luke 8:41-42; John 5:2,9; John 9:1-14.

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Autumn

By David DeLong

Whirls of golden colored leaves,
Ironweeds, and frosty sheaves;
Pumpkins laying on the vine,
Days once long are in decline,
Full moon glows before a pine,
A spider, dew-webbed, weaves.

This is the chance to gather fruit,
To lay in store for leaner times,
And taste God's gifts of leaf and root,
While saving up our lowly dimes;

Warmth of Summer, now, is fading,
Robber time keeps up its raiding;
Autumn's mixed with apprehension,
Beautiful the bluish gentian,
Yet, there comes a kind of tension,
Cold nights start parading;

Still, God is very much in charge,
And He won't leave us, we are told,
For His heart's filled with love so large,
And has been from the days of old.

