



The Advocate of Truth

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THE LOVE CHRIST COMMANDED

Bond Tennant

An outstanding example of Jesus was His view of love. He said, **“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”** (John 13:34). This is a love far removed from man’s instincts that it must be commanded: **“A new commandment I give unto you...”** Jesus Himself was the first to comply with it. Jesus did not ask His followers to do anything that He was not willing to do Himself! Therefore, He is our perfect example.

“Love one another;” He said, **“as I have loved you.”**

We can learn about this mutual love that Christ commands. It is a special love shared by those who belong to the family of God. We learn something about the nature of Christ’s love by observing His love for His disciples. Christ’s love was unselfish. It was pure love because there was no jealousy or rivalry on the part of Christ. It was practical. His love was shown in His deeds. Everywhere He went, it was evident.

What made this a new commandment? Christ’s love was age old in its principles, but it might be called new because of its complete expression in the life of Christ. He was our perfect Example, a perfect life fully lived. The commandment was no longer expressed in cold, lifeless words; now it was living flesh and blood. Christ’s love was new in the motives it inspired. Jesus’ first love was to please His heavenly Father (John 8:29). His disciples could share that love if they had the honesty of heart that this love required and if they had their Master’s perseverance and His desire to do right.

What is the result of this love? **“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”** (John 13:35). The effects would be

inward and outward. Others will see it. Levels of achievement in various fields have always been distinguished by different outward marks. Uniforms identify soldiers of different countries. The Pharisees and Sadducees had their distinguishing phylacteries and ceremonies. Coats of arms identify various kingdoms. The coat of arms for Jesus was these three words: **“Love one another.”** Then He added, **“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”** He did not say if ye have wealth and learning, or if ye have a long face or a pious smile, but if ye **“have love one to another.”**

Someone has said that in the early centuries the bond between believers was so intense that the persecuting pagans exclaimed, **“See how these Christians love one another!”** Even if believers cannot meet to worship or sing praises all the time as they like, they still can imitate Christ’s love in a hostile world.





EXALTING ALMIGHTY GOD

By Bibi Shimoon Allicock

It is very important to exalt, and give praises and thanks unto Almighty God. "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device....God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all naions of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us" (Acts 17:28-29; 24-27).

Since we are the offspring of God, how can we, in our right minds, put many different things before Almighty God, or carved images of various things and bow down and worship them, taking them to be gods over us? In the wholesome words of Almighty God it is declared that, "and the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Becasue he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; where of he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

Let us study the wholesome words whereby we would be able to see that after He had shown forth some of His mighty works to mankind, how that some of the Patriarchs of the Holy Book exalted, and gave praises and thanks unto His most wonderful Name.

After Moses and the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry land, Moses did not feel mighty, lifted up and

powerful, because he was the leader at that time over the children of Israel but humbled himself and exalted, and gave praise and thanks unto Almighty God. "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble. And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them. Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters. Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them. Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation" (Exouds 15:1-13).

We saw in verse 9, Pharaoh's army exalted themselves, saying that, "...I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw

my sword, my hand shall destroy them". They didn't know or acknowledge that Almighty God is the greatest. Thus in verse 10, He destroyed them instead. "Thou (almighty God) didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters."

The wholesome words of Almighty God tell us that if we humble ourselves in the sight of Him; He will exalt us in due time. But if we exalt ourselves, He is able to bring us down. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time...For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted (I Peter 5:6; Luke 14:11).

The devil exalted himself above Almighty God, thus he was thrown out of heaven: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet. Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned... Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more" (Isaiah 14:12-20; Ezekiel 28:18-19).

The Psalmist, David, always exalted Almighty God for His wonderful works, thus he was taken from being a shepherd boy, to being a king. "Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the

sheep, to be ruler, over my people, over Israel: And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great men that are in the earth" (II Samuel 7:8-9).

In Psalm 146, David encouraged that we should not put our trust in princes nor in the son of man, because at some point, they will fail us, also they will die someday, but Almighty God will never fail us, neither will He die, because he liveth forever and ever, even unto eternity. But we must exalt Him, and give praises and thanks unto Him. "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever. Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous: The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down. The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion... While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being... Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul... I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever... Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite... I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations... Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite" (Psalm 146:3-10 first part; 146:2:1; 145:1; 3-13; 147:5; 145:5-13; 147:5). Amen.

STRENGTH and BEAUTY THROUGH STRUGGLE

By Carlo Rasmussen



This is a story about an amateur naturalist who was watching an Emperor Moth struggling from its crystalis stage. The young naturalist became very interested as the moth made progress from its cocoon. It was noticed how this moth had to squirm, push and exert great strength and effort to free itself. Because of such a struggle the moth was putting forth, the naturalist felt sorry for the creature, and using a penknife, enlarged the hole in the cocoon to make it easier on the moth. In a short period of time, the young naturalist discovered something very unexpected. The moth emerged from the cocoon quite easily; however, something was wrong. Its wings were imperfect and did not appear healthy as they should. The moth could flutter around feebly, but could not fly because of the imperfect wings. It was sickly because the health of the creature was hindered by the lack of effort required to free itself from its cocoon. Frail and sickly the creature did its best only to have died before day's end or be overcome by its enemies.

In this story about the young naturalist and the Emperor Moth, we can receive great wisdom for our lives. We should be reminded that the Lord made a wonderful creation for all of us to appreciate and enjoy. However, in His creation the Lord has also provided us with examples whereby we may benefit greatly in our daily lives. We are advised through His Holy Word to watch His creation and learn from what we may see there. When Job was answering those who put him down in his time of trial, he said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, "*But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee: Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee...and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee. Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought*

this?" (Job 12:7-9)

For those who would be lazy, the Lord reveals the examples of His creation in Proverbs 6:5-8. "*Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler. Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.*" In Psalm 104, we find more about the creation of God and can receive more wisdom for ourselves.

It is God's will that life in general requires an effort on the part of all the living. Man must work that he may eat. This same principle applies to all life. As mankind is engaged in making a living, it is very evident that there is an effort and struggle involved. It is necessary for the children and young people to understand this principle in their lives that they may grow up to be physically and mentally healthy adults. If parents "enlarge the cocoon" so-to-speak, they are not really helping but rather bring a hinderance upon the young. Small responsibilities around the house and later responsibilities in the community are very necessary to proper development of the young. It is a wonderful thing to observe a young person who has learned the godly way of life as he steps into adulthood and fulfills the responsibilities thereof.

By learning this necessary principle in life, a person has already been prepared for a greater experience to come. We speak here of the life of the child of God. Sooner or later in the life of everyone will come the opportunity to know and follow the Lord Jesus Christ, (some now and some in the age to come). When a person comes to know the Lord in truth, that person needs to understand what could lie ahead for him because he has intended to embrace the Commandments of God and the

testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is the necessity of “works” and a definite struggle involved with being a child of God. Let us not be deceived by those who state, “Believe on the name of the Lord Jesus only, and you will be saved.” Faith alone will NOT bring salvation. Know ye not that “...*the devils also believe, and tremble....that faith without works is dead?*” (James 2:19-20).

The child of God is made alert to this fact through the letters of the Apostle Paul. Paul writes of the “race” of the believer. In I Corinthians 9:24-25 we read, “*Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.*” Paul also wrote of this struggle in Romans 7:22-23), “*For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*” Jesus Christ expressed this truth in Luke 14:27-33 when He said, “*And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest, haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*” As we can see, there lies ahead for all who wish to follow Jesus Christ a way which may not be very easy. There is going to be a struggle involved for every disciple of Christ.

We find also from the Lord and from the Apostle Paul a promise for all who will engage themselves for the Lord. Jesus knew what was in store for His disciples, therefore He left the promise of the Holy Spirit of God to be with them through all their trials. In the sixteenth chapter of

John, Jesus calls the Spirit of God the “Comforter”. He knew He was soon to depart from His disciples and gave them the promise of the Holy Spirit which would guide and direct them through all things. In the seventeenth chapter of John, we understand the concern Jesus had for His disciples as He prayed most fervently for their welfare in the age to come, the last days. We receive further assurance from Paul as he wrote, “*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*” (I Corinthians 10:13). Here we understand the love and mercy of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The way has been provided if we do our best.

Along with the struggle of the individual, there is also the struggle of the people of God as a single Body, or Church. As a unit, the Church of God, which is the Body of Christ, must maintain a constant struggle against the adversary of God. This great contest is recorded in the twelfth chapter of Revelation. We read of the Church, “a woman”, who is pursued and constantly attacked by a “great red dragon”, which is the devil. The pursuit of “...*that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan,...*” (verse 9) against the Body of Christ will continue until Jesus comes to this earth and binds up the adversary. Jesus has

yet to appear at this writing, therefore the pursuit continues as the devil goes about “...*seeking whom he may devour*” (I Peter 5:8). The Church of God must be aware that the “enemy” is about and will stop at nothing to bring about the downfall of anyone in the Body. The enemy was working during the time of the early Church as we may understand from Paul’s letter to the Galatian Church. Those who would have the saints regress into the Levitical Priesthood worked very hard to bring down the true freedom found in Jesus Christ. Then there was the great apostasy taking shape of which Paul wrote about, and is revealed in Revelation. These are part of the devices used by the adversary against the Church of God.

Jesus said to His disciples before He sent them out, “*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves*” (Mathew 10:16). This is the guide for the

Church of God today. It is necessary for the Church of God to know and be very aware who its enemies are. The enemies of the Church are those who would promote doctrines which are not found in the Word of God. Any doctrine which would be against the Commandments of God and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ would be of the "antichrist" thus being an enemy of the Church. The Church must not forget who its enemies are and not to think for a moment of courting with such who would compromise with the Word of God. We are to "...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). This tells us then that there is a very real struggle for the Church of God as it continues through this present age.

Dear Reader, let us consider these thoughts. We may liken ourselves unto that moth which must struggle its way from the cocoon. In a way, we are also in a stage of struggle, which will continue until Jesus comes for His

saints. It is God's will that we struggle through this time, for it is our portion in the trial of our faith. This short time cannot be compared to that which lies ahead if we continue faithful. If we compromise with the Word of God, we would be following the bad example of the young naturalist and opening up the cocoon for easier passage. In the end, we would be found not fit for the Kingdom of God to come. Jesus will reject all that "...offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire..." (Matthew 13:41-42).

Let us all contend for the faith and be strong during these few remaining days of this age that we may hear the Lord say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant". At that time His saints, those who have struggled all their lives, will truly be a sight of beauty to behold as they stand upon the Sea of Glass dressed in white with the Lord Jesus Christ.

He that hath an ear, let him hear.

--Reprinted



The Fear Of The Lord

By David DeLong

Fearing the Lord ranges from a healthy respect for Him from His disciple, to a feeling of terror of Him to the unbeliever. This is the way it should be. A healthy respect for the Lord keeps a disciple in a proper relationship with Him, and a feeling of terror to the unbeliever hopefully will bring that person to repentance. Proverbs 1:7 informs us: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

The proper attitude about fearing the Lord is found in Psalm 2:11. This passage of Scripture reads: "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling." It is a joy to serve the Lord, but we must also serve Him with a certain amount of trembling. We must never take the Lord for granted. Yes, we can depend upon Him to take care of us. We can always depend upon His Word. But, we must never trifle with Him. He is the majestic, holy Ruler

of the universe and we must respect Him as such.

It is not a natural thing for a person to fear the Lord. Rather, it is a thing to be learned. Deuteronomy 4:9-10 instructs us: "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children."

Fearing the Lord involves the keeping of His commandments. We learn this from Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God,

and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Also, Deuteronomy 8:6 teaches us: "Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him."

While we are keeping the commandments of the Lord, we must be also shunning evil in our lives. Proverbs 3:7 reads: "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil." As a matter of fact, to fear the Lord means that we hate evil. Proverbs 8:13 says: "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

The Lord has some secrets that He only shows to certain people. Psalm 25:14 tells us about one of those secrets. "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant." He only shows what His covenant is to those who truly fear Him. God's covenant is based upon His holy Ten Commandment law as we can discern from Deuteronomy 4:13: "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone."

Some things that we learn about the fear of the Lord are as follows: it is clean (Psalm 19:9); a person who fears the Lord will not suffer want (Psalm 34:9); it is a heritage (Psalm 61:5); salvation is nigh those that fear Him (Psalm 85:9); God grants mercy to those who fear Him; the Lord pities those who fear Him; His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who fear Him (Psalm 103:11,13,17); the Lord takes pleasure in them that fear Him (Psalm 147:11); the fear of the Lord prolongs a person's days (Proverbs 10:27); fearing the Lord is a treasure (Isaiah 33:6).

Not fearing the Lord, or fearing Him improperly, is and will be the problem of the wicked. Romans 3:18 tells us about the unconverted man: "There is no fear of God before their eyes." When the Lord comes again, these unconverted people will have an improper fear of the Lord. We are informed in Isaiah 2:10-22: "Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Leba-

non, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?"

A person who leads or rules over others must do it in the fear of the Lord. This was a qualification that Moses used when he selected men to help him judge the children of Israel. Exodus 18:21 shows us: "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens". Furthermore, we find in II Samuel 23:3: "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." This is still a qualification for those who govern today.

Jesus made it plain that we must fear the Father in heaven. He said in Matthew 10:28: "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." The early disciples walked in the fear of God. Acts 9:31 informs us: "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied." This was a part of the success of the growth of the early church.

As I mentioned before, the fear of the Lord is a learning process. It is something that we must practice. II Corinthians 7:1 tells us: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthi-

ness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." The Apostle Paul also instructed us to be: "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21).

The Apostle Peter exhorted us to: "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (I Peter 2:17).

Those of us who fear the Lord should always be in the process of praising Him. In Revelation 19:5 we read: "And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great." This is similar to the command in Psalm 22:23: "Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel."

Those who fear the Lord really have nothing else to fear. The Psalmist asserted that he, being on the Lord's side, would not fear evil: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

Many women in today's world seek to be beautiful and admired. But the writer of Proverbs makes it plain that a woman's real beauty comes from inside her. We learn from Proverbs 31:30: "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."

In fact, Peter said that anyone can find acceptance with the Lord. Acts 10:34-35 records: "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

A day is coming when the Lord will remember those who have feared him. "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not" (Malachi 3:16-18). Furthermore, we learn in chapter 4, verses 2-3: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves

of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts."

The Eclipse

By David DeLong

I saw an eclipse of the sun today,
The earth began getting dark;
I saw through darkened glasses
That the sun had lost some of its spark.

But, soon the eclipse had passed away,
The sun was as bright as ever;
I put away the glasses,
I was done with my endeavor.

Now we see darkly through a glass,
"But then face to face";
Now we only know in part,
But someday the fulness of grace.

We then will need no light from the sun,
"The Lamb is the light thereof";
The holy city, for all the saints
Will be filled with God's own love.



Keep Your Eyes Upon Jesus

By David DeLong



It is sometimes difficult to keep one's eyes constantly upon the Lord Jesus Christ. But that is what we need to do to be victorious over sin in this life, because Satan is ever lurking to derail our walk with the Lord. There are times when our focus in life becomes centered upon our spouse or children, our job, house or car or other possessions, our position, and even our self: health problems, etc. How, then, do we place our focus upon the Lord Jesus and not upon these and other things?

We do this partly by beholding the glory of the Lord. II Corinthians 3:18 reads: "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." When the disciples Peter, James, and John were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, their attention was focused on Jesus, especially when the Father in heaven said, "...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (Matthew 17:5). Though these disciples were afraid of the voice from heaven, it was impressed upon their minds the greatness and preciousness of Jesus to the Father. In II Peter 1:15-18, Peter emphasized this honor which was given to the Lord Jesus by the Father. "Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." This episode to Peter, James, and John

so impressed them concerning Jesus that it helped them to keep their focus on the Lord for the rest of their lives. As we behold the glory of the Lord, the same thing will help us to keep our focus upon Him as well. The Spirit of the Lord will change us into the image of God's glory. We learn that after the Father in heaven had spoken to these three disciples, this concept emerged: "And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only" (Matthew 17:8). This should be our goal: to see Jesus only.

In every situation or circumstance in our lives, we can get into the habit of praying what the Father's will is for us. This is what Jesus did and it kept His eyes upon the Father in heaven constantly. In John 8:28-29 we learn: "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

In a prophecy concerning Christ, we learn from Isaiah 50:4-5: "The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back." From early morning until Jesus went to sleep at night His eyes were continually upon His Father in heaven. We can have our eyes constantly upon the Savior as well.

Carrying the Word of God with us wherever we go can help us keep our focus upon the Lord Jesus. If carrying a large Bible with you is too unhandy, then carrying a

small pocket New Testament in your shirt pocket or purse may be just the thing. I like to carry such a small, New Testament with me practically every where I go, and then when I have an opportunity I take it out and read it.

Another way that we can keep focused upon the Lord Jesus Christ is to continually rejoice in Him. Philippians 4:4-8 reminds us to, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to be praising the Lord constantly. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:18-20).

Looking for ways to minister to the Lord will help keep us focused upon Him. Witnessing when we have an opportunity; helping others in the name of the Lord; starting up a Bible study in our home; etc. These are ways to minister for the Lord and keep our eyes upon Jesus.

There are so many things that can distract us from focusing upon Jesus. Let us be the overcomers in life that He wants us to be as we keep our eyes upon Him.

\$ 1,000 For A Text

Dear friend of the Bible: Did you know that we will give \$1,000 to anyone who produces a text of Scripture saying that the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, is the Sabbath, the Lord's Day, or even a Holy Day. Many people believe it is in the New Testament. Suppose we read all of the eight texts in the New Testament that mention the First Day of the week and see if any of them ever call the first day of the week, the Sabbath, the Lord's Day or even a Holy Day.

Our first text is Matthew 28:1: "In the end of the sab-

bath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre." Well, it isn't there.

Our second text, is Mark 16:2: "And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun." And it isn't there.

Our third text is Mark 16:9: "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils." Again, it isn't there.

Our fourth text is Luke 24:1: "Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them." We see it isn't there.

Our fifth text is John 20:1: "The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre." So, it isn't there.

Our sixth text is John 20:19: "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you." And it isn't there. The disciples were not even holding a meeting here. They were afraid the Jews would imprison them on the charge of taking away the body of the Lord.

We have two more places in the New Testament to search. If we can't find it there, then we must conclude that the first day of the week is not to be kept by Christians as the Sabbath, the Lord's Day or even a Holy Day.

Our seventh text is Acts 20:7: "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight." Here is a farewell supper given Paul at Troas on what we would call Saturday night. He preached until midnight. If we read further we would find he continued his speech until break of day. Paul, on Sunday morning, then walked 17 miles from Troas to Assos. So this text does not help us to get the thousand dollars, as this was a night meeting, and had nothing to do with keeping the first day of the week as the Lord's Day. (Day in the Bible begins in the evening).

Our eighth and last text is I Corinthians 16:1,2: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the

first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." Here we have Paul's instructions for the people to gather from their fields things for the poor saints at Jerusalem on the first day of the week, and to lay it by him, or her, in store. He did not tell them to take it to the church on the first day of the week. So we see that this text doesn't help us. In Revelation 1:10, we read about John: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet". Nowhere in all the Bible is there a single hint that the Sabbath has ever been changed from the seventh to the first day of the week or that the Lord's day is the first day of the week. It would behoove every Christian to check up on this vital important subject. By breaking a commandment of God, we will miss the kingdom of God. We must keep the fourth commandment as well as the other nine.



THE FIERY FURNACE

(From Daniel, chapter 3)

By Betty Whetstone

*Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon,
And ruled with a hard, heavy hand;
Then one day he set up an image
To be worshipped by all in the land.*

*Then he called all his rulers together
To help decide the best way to go;
They decided to play only music
As a sign for the people to know.*

*There were three Jewish captives in Babylon
Who honored and worshipped the Lord;
Knowing well that their lives were in danger,
And that their heads might fall to the sword.*

*But they steadfastly held to their promise
To honor and worship the Lord;
They would die, if they must, to defend Him,
And so was their final word.*

*Perhaps you failed to hear music,
"NEB" said with a sly, evil grin;
I'll give you another chance to worship
By playing the music again!*

*But Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego
Stood strong, with backs straight as a rod;
Refusing to bow to an image,
Upholding their promise to God.*

*Then old "NEB" flew into a rage,
It's off to the furnace you go;
We'll see if your God can save you,
And it won't take long till we know!*

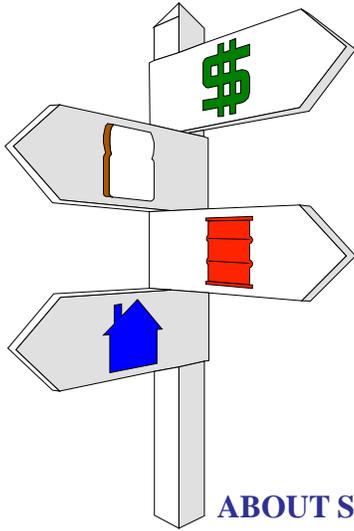
*I want the furnace heated
Seven times hotter than before;
The captives were then bound and dragged up
Without protest, right up to the door.*

*Old "NEB" was very astonished
When three voices called out a name
As they were thrown in by their captors
Right into the heart of the flame.*

*Then as "NEB" looked into the furnace,
He quickly drew back with a shout;
Not the three we cast into the furnace,
But there are four men walking about!*

*The door then quickly they opened,
And three men stepped into the air;
No sign on their bodies from burning,
Not even as much as a hair!*

*The king then destroyed the image,
And gladly gave out the news;
From this day forth when they worship,
It will be to the God of the Jews!*



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.

ABOUT SATANIC RITUALS

Satanic rituals are still being held in the twenty-first century. The following is an article which appeared in the **Houston Chronicle**. It is entitled ‘*Satanic*’ ritual cited in woman’s slaying: Witness told police that gang members had ‘wanted a soul’ **By Brian Rogers**

She was a sacrificial offering to the “Beast.”

Dumped on a southwest Houston street, the young woman known only as Genesis was killed in a satanic ritual by two members of the violent MS-13 Salvadoran gang after she disrespected their shrine to Satanism, prosecutors said Thursday in court.

“The Beast didn’t want a material offering. It wanted a soul,” a witness told police.

When the witness woke up the next day, the prosecutor said, “Genesis was gone.”

The chilling allegation is at the center of a still-unfolding case that includes murder and kidnapping, massive cocaine dealing and sex trafficking by two members of a street gang that prides itself on violence.

The two men – both of whom are living in the U.S. illegally, prosecutors said – have been charged with murder in the death of Genesis and with kidnapping the teenage witness, who was held and abused for weeks. Officials are asking for the public’s help in identifying the dead woman, who is believed to have been in her late teens or early 20s.

Miguel Alvarez-Flores, 22, also known as “Diabólico,” told police that he was the leader of a local set of the infamous Salvadoran gang MS-13, prosecutors said in court.

He is accused of directing another member, 18-year-old Diego Hernandez-Rivera, to kill Genesis, who was

shot in the face and chest and whose body was found lying along the curb in the 9900 block of Sharpcrest Street on Feb. 16.

Police investigating the slaying were aided by the witness, a 14-year-old girl who apparently escaped from the gang after being held against her will, traded between men and used for sex for weeks.

The teen ran away from school around Feb. 2 to an apartment on Glenmont, where gang members were packaging up large amounts of cocaine. She eventually was taken to an apartment on Gessner with about six MS-13 gang members who assaulted her again. She was forced to ingest drugs and alcohol to keep her intoxicated before escaping after about two weeks, prosecutors said.

While she was there, she told police, Alvarez-Flores tattooed the image of the Grim Reaper from her knee to her foot.

The teen knew Genesis and told police what happened.

Alvarez-Flores and Hernandez-Rivera were arrested this week, charged with murder and aggravated kidnapping. They appeared in court Thursday before District Judge Maria Jackson and are being held in the Harris County Jail in lieu of \$300,000 bail.

Jackson appointed lawyers for both men. One of the appointed lawyers, Emily DeToto, said she was waiting to see the statements to police before calling them “confessions.”

Both men, formerly of El Salvador, are not in the country legally. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency has placed an immigration hold on them, and they would be held by federal authorities if they make bail, according to Harris County prosecutor Lisa Collins.

The men appeared laughing and smiling at cameras in an overnight appearance at a magistrate court, where a night judge read them their rights.

The case is reminiscent of the 2014 murder of 15-year-old Corriann Cervantes, who was killed by two friends who told police they did it to sell their souls to the

Devil.

Teenagers Victor Alas and Jose E. Reyes were both sentenced to life in prison without parole after being convicted of strangling, stabbing and sexually assaulting the teen. They had carved an upside-down cross in the girl's abdomen after fatally bludgeoning her with the heavy porcelain lid of a toilet tank after the three did drugs and drank alcohol together in a vacant apartment.

The case, with its connections to the occult, drew comparisons to La Santa Muerte, a ghostly female character believed to be the spirit of death.

It is not unusual for gang members and other violent criminals to light candles and pray to La Santa Muerte, who is sometimes portrayed as a Grim Reaper in women's black robes.

Comment

It is most difficult to believe that such satanic rituals and Satan worship are rampant in this twenty-first century.

Members of MS-13 really worship Satan. Therefore they are Satanists! Let us quote from one source on the internet. "Satan worship involves ritual practices as part of their ceremonial precept. They do everything that is opposite the truth and the commandments of God. They do everything that is bad and perverted. They do whatever makes them feel good, no matter what the consequences may be to others. If Christians consider anything good, to them it is bad. They say that it is good to do bad things to people."

Let us quote I Timothy 4:1. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Satanists may have never been in the faith, but they do give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

THINK ABOUT THIS!

America is becoming a very dangerous place. As of this day, it does not seem to be as dangerous as other locations are. Could it be that God is showing special favor on our country? We are familiar with the phrase "God bless America." I saw a bumper sticker with the phrase "America bless God" written on it. This is exactly what America needs to do.

Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States said, "When there is a lack of honor in government, the morals of the whole people are poisoned.

... There is no such thing as a no-man's land between honesty and dishonesty. Our strength lies in spiritual

concepts. It lies in public sensitiveness to evil...

Our greatest danger is not from invasion by foreign armies. Our dangers are that we may commit suicide from within by complaisance with evil, or by public tolerance of scandalous behavior..."

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

I read an article that the governors of Missouri, Arkansas, New Mexico, Louisiana and Florida all called their legislatures back into special session to take up everything from uncompleted budgets, abortion legislation, Medicaid reform and job incentive programs. Governor Abbott of Texas also called a special session. Very early in the year, the governors of Wisconsin and Kentucky also forced special sessions.

Comment

I understand that the legislatures of states only meet for only a short time each year. Perhaps they should extend their sessions until they resolve the issues.

HOMEWORK OVER WORK

I heard on the news that these days more teens are choosing homework over work during their summer vacations. One reason is that many are scared of the future and wish to secure a real good job or profession when they graduate.

Another reason is the labor market is crowded and their school studies demand more of their time.

SERVICE TO GAYS

I read that most religious groups oppose denying services to gays. At the time of this writing, the Supreme Court is mulling whether to take the case of a Colorado baker who refuses on religious grounds to make cakes for same-sex couples.

PREGNANCY AND POT

I read that women are turning to pot for painful pregnancy. They say that pot gives them relief. However, doctors debate the effect pot has on the fetus.

RISING TAXES

According to a newspaper article, some states are raising taxes to fund infrastructure. It said that the list of needs has grown as federal funds have declined.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

A headline in a morning newspaper said that the American dream is collapsing for young adults. It said that a study shows that rising income inequality has eroded the ability of American children to grow up to earn more than their parents.



Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Will you please name a few words which appear in the King James Version of the Bible that are obsolete and give their modern meaning?

ANSWER: Because of the constant change taking place in the languages, some of the words we read in the King James Version of the Bible are obsolete, and given no current meaning: or have changed their meaning completely since they were written. The King James Version was written over 300 years ago. The following words may help us to better understand what the writers meant when they made this wonderful translation:

AWAY WITH: “endure, or put up with.” “...The new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with...” Isaiah 1:13.

BESOM: “a broom.” “...I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts” Isaiah 14:23.

BOWELS: “compassion, sympathy.” “...Any bowels and mercies” Philippians 2:1.

Note – When written, this word was considered to be the seat of a person’s affections, thus it signifies mercy or compassion.

BY AND BY: “Immediately, or as soon as possible.” “...Give me by and by...the head of John the Baptist.” Mark 6:25.

CAREFUL: “Do not worry, or “be not anxious.” Philippians 4:6 says: “Be careful for nothing...” The

hostility of heathendom prompted many to be anxious.

CARRIAGE: “one’s baggage, or anything carried.” “And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage...” I Samuel 17:22.

Note - This word in the Bible is never used to mean a vehicle. This is a most interesting change in the meaning since the 17th century.

CONVERSATION: “manner of life, deportment.” “...Let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ...” Philippians 1:27.

EAR, EARING: “(verb) to plough.” “The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender...” Isaiah 30:24.

Note – This word is now totally obsolete.

EDIFY: “to build up.” “...That which is good to the use of edifying...” Ephesians 4:29.

GIN: “a snare or trap.” “The gin shall take him by the heel...” Job 18:9.

HIS: meaning “Its.” The word “its” does not occur in the King James Version of the Bible. In the Anglo-Saxon tongue, the word “his” was the common possessive term used for “it.” In the older languages, the words “he” or “she” were used in describing a noun with no gender. This was true of the old Greek and even in the current French language. Thus we have the words “He” and “Him” used to signify God’s Holy Spirit. Any concordance will reveal the word “spirit” to mean “breath.”

QUESTION: How critical is it that we have true beliefs?

ANSWER: If we believe or trust in error, if we believe a lie or any teaching that is not true, it will sooner or later disappoint us.

What makes the difference between error and truth? It is the source and foundation of that belief. Is it another man's opinion, or does it have the authority found in God's Word? For example, if we believe we will go to heaven when we die, when the Bible says "*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth*" (Matthew 5:5) and "*The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever*" (Psalm 37:29), we are believing a lie. Neither we or anyone else on earth can make it happen. Even if fifty million people believe it and are looking forward to seeing their loved ones in heaven, if the Word of God does not support it, they are believing a lie and will be disappointed.

Have we heard that if we are truly diligent in obeying God, our business will prosper, our children will grow up to be good citizens, and we will be happy and successful? Again, if this is not the true teaching of the Word of God, we are believing a lie, and are sure to be disappointed. Jesus said, "...*In the world ye shall have tribulation...*" (John 16:33).

Having correct beliefs becomes even more critical when we realize that we will act according to our beliefs. Having the wrong beliefs may result in our losing out on our eternal inheritance.

Aren't the religious teachers at fault, and not the people that they lead? What did Jesus say? "...*If the blind lead the blind...*" the blind leaders will fall into the ditch? No, "*both*" end in the ditch (Matthew 15:14).

God holds us responsible for what we believe. He commanded us to, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (II Timothy 2:15). He also commanded us to, "*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (I Thessalonians 5:21).

Do not take what appeals to you, or what is comfortable, or what is in line with your own thoughts.

QUESTION: Why do Jews face east when praying?

ANSWER: In Jerusalem, the Jews always turned their faces toward the "holy hill" of the temple while praying.

See Daniel 6:10 and II Chronicles 6:34. The Samaritans, on the contrary, faced Mt. Gerizim. In the court of the temple, the Jews in prayer faced the temple itself (see I Kings 8:38) to the Holy of Holies (see Psalm 5:7). Daniel, while praying in exile, opened his window toward Jerusalem (see Daniel 6:10). Modern Jews in Europe and America customarily face the east in prayer. It was a custom among the early Christians to face the east, but that has long been discontinued. Mohammedans face in the direction of Mecca.

**Jesus said,
"Therefore all things whatsoever ye
would that men should do to you,
do ye even so to them..."
(Matthew 7:12)**

If we live by this rule of Jesus, we cannot take unfair advantage of anyone. What if we sell a used car that we know has problems? Do we say nothing, and hope the new owner pays us and drives away before the problems recur? Is that obeying Jesus' rule?

If we are selling fruit, do we carefully arrange the basket so that the best fruit is on top? And do we ever give less than good measure?

If we are buying, do we press the seller to a lower price without considering what is fair value?

If we are employers, do we pay our employees the bare minimum they will accept? Or do we continually ask our employees for extra work without offering additional pay?

These are secular matters. However, our obligations to our fellowmen are obligations to God! How can we be honest before God if we cannot be honest with our fellowmen?

Let us consider our own hearts and character before God. In doing so, it is safest if we judge ourselves with rigor (strictness) and have leniency for others. Why is this true? It is because we are closest to ourselves, and we know ourselves best. We are also responsible for ourselves, and our own eternal life is at stake.

--Bond Tennant



Jamaica

The Lord's Supper being celebrated by our brothers and sisters in Jamaica.





The unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine--the emblems of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus.

LESSON I

THE RAIN COMES

Scripture Reading: Genesis 7:17-24.

Golden Text: Genesis 7:24.

“And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.”

1. What happened to the ark when it began to rain? Genesis 7:17-18.
2. What happened to all the hills? Genesis 7:19.
3. How high above the hills did the waters go? Genesis 7:20.

NOTE: A cubit is about 18 inches. So 15 times 18 inches is 270 inches or 22 ½ feet.

4. What happened to all the people and animals that were on the earth? Genesis 7:21-22.
5. Who were the only ones that lived? Genesis 7:23.
6. How long did the waters stay on the earth? Genesis 7:24.

LESSON II

THE WATER GOES DOWN

Scripture Reading: Genesis 8:6-14.

Golden Text: Genesis 8:6.

“And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.”

1. What did Noah do at the end of forty days? Genesis 8:6.
2. What did he do with the raven? Genesis 8:7.
3. Why did he turn the dove loose? Genesis 8:8.

4. What did the dove do and why? Genesis 8:9.
5. How long did Noah wait before he sent out the dove a second time, and what did the dove do this time? Genesis 8:10-11.
6. What did the dove do the third time? Genesis 8:12.
7. What did Noah do when he found that the earth was dry? Genesis 8:13.

LESSON III

AFTER THE FLOOD

Scripture Reading: Genesis 8:15-22; 9:1, 8-17.

Golden Text: Genesis 8:21 (middle part).

“...and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake....”

1. What did Noah do after the flood had dried up? Genesis 8:18-19.
2. What did Noah do after everything was out of the ark? Genesis 8:20.
3. What promise did God give to them? Genesis 8:21-22.
4. What did God tell Noah and his sons to do? Genesis 9:1.
5. What did God say would be a sign between Him and man? Genesis 9:11-15.
6. How long did Noah live after the flood? Genesis 9:28.
7. How old was Noah when he died? Genesis 9:29.

LESSON IV

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Scripture Reading: Genesis 11:1-9.

Golden Text: Genesis 11:1.

“And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.”

1. How many different languages did the people speak? Genesis 11:1.
2. Where did the people travel to at this time? Genesis 11:2.
3. What did the people make in Genesis 11:3?
4. What did the people want to build with the bricks? Genesis 11:4.
5. What did God think of the tower? Genesis 11:5-6.
6. What was done to punish the people? Genesis 11:7-9.

NOTE: Another name for Babel is confusion.

Answers: “Simon”

1. No. The Old Testament name was Simeon.
2. Simon Peter (Matthew 4:18).
3. Simon the Tanner (at Joppa) (Acts 10:5-6, 17-23).
4. Simon the Leper (Matthew 26:6).
5. Simon the Syrenian (Matthew 27:32).
6. Simon Magus, or Simon of Samaria (Acts 8:9)
7. Simon Zelotes (Mark 3:18).
8. Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:36,40).
9. Simon, father of Judas Iscariot (John 6:71).
10. Peter (Matthew 16:17).

Write the letters A, E, I, O, U in the proper places to find something Paul did.

P _ _ L W _ S _ M _ SS _ _ N _ RY.

H _ WR _ T _ L _ TT _ RS.

TH _ Y _ R _ _ N TH _ B _ BL _.

GOD ALWAYS UNDERSTANDS

One day Phyllis came home from school quite sad and looking lonely.

"What's the trouble, Phyllis?" her mother asked.

It was too much for her to bear any longer. She burst into tears. When she had wept for a time, her mother succeeded in quieting her.

"Now tell me, Phyllis, what is it that has made your heart heavy" she begged.

"Oh, Mother," said Phyllis, "I suppose I am a baby, but some of the girls have been horrid to me today. I did nothing to make them feel so. I only worked at my lesson during recess in order to finish it. They were scolded because they did not get it done, and now they blame me because I stayed at it to get it finished. Mother, do you think I did wrong?"

"Why, no, my child, I don't think so. I'm sorry that the girls misunderstood you. Perhaps the fault was in part the long assignment. You were more faithful to duty, and they were more demanding of justice. But I hardly think they should have felt angry at you," Mother offered.

"Well, it makes me feel better to think that you understand, Mother, and I'm glad that God always understands us. He knows our reasons for doing things, and if we are anxious to do right, He helps us."

"That's a beautiful thought, Phyllis," said Mother. "Im sure it will help you to forgive the girls for their unkind spirit. Jesus was often misunderstood by friends. He, too, had a sympathizing mother, but it meant much to Him to be able to take His problems to God, the heavenly Father, who always understood perfectly His way of living. It always takes time and patience to understand people who act differently, for one must inquire into their motives or reasons and put the best meaning to their actions."

"Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." - Psalm 106:1.



**A LITTLE LEAF
A MAKE-BELIEVE STORY**

One day in fall when the Autumn Wind was blowing the leaves high in the air, he came to a little leaf who would not budge.

"Come, come, little Miss Leaf," he sang, "all the others are gone, and you must go, too."

"No, no!" cried little Miss Leaf. "I want to stay right here on the tree. I have lived here all my life, and here I will stay."

All day long she had watched her brothers and sisters dropping away from their sturdy home, one by one, and she made up her mind that she would not move. She loved her home on the tree, and she was unhappy at the thought of being any place else. So she clung tight to the bough and refused to follow the other leaves.

At first, the wind was gentle. He came with no more than a little puff. "Come," he whispered softly. Little Miss Leaf shook her head. "No, no" she said.

So the wind tried harder and sang a little song to her. But no matter what he said, he could not persuade her to fall from the tree.

At last he grew very angry. Puffing out his cheeks like a big balloon, he blew a strong cold blast upon the bough. Poor little Miss Leaf could hold on no longer.

Down, down, down she fell - turning, twisting, flying through the air so fast she could hardly catch her breath! "Oh, dear, oh, dear!" wailed little Miss leaf. "Wherever am I going?"

Just then she landed softly on something cool and smooth, and a gentle voice said, "Good-day, little Miss leaf. Don't be afraid."

"Who are you?" asked little Miss Leaf. "And where am I?" she said still so out of breath she could hardly talk. "I am the River," came the answer. "And you are floating along on my surface."

"Is it safe?" Little Miss leaf was still quite worried. "Indeed it is," replied the River. "I will carry you with me

until we reach the ocean. I don't suppose you saw much of the world from the shelter of the tree."

"No-no," admitted little Miss Leaf.

"Well, you shall see it now," promised the River, "and I will explain as we glide along."

His voice was so kind and gentle that little Miss leaf settled back comfortably to enjoy the ride.

The way wound through field and town, sometimes bending one way or the other, sometimes going straight ahead; and always the River pointed out the places of interest.

"There is the schoolhouse to the right," he said as they passed through a country village.

"So that's the school.," thought little Miss leaf. She had often heard the children talk about it as they rested in the shade of her tree.

"And there is the church a little farther ahead," the River went on.

"I used to hear the bells every Sabbath morning," said little Miss Leaf, "and from my bough I could see it against the sky. I always thought I would like to see the church!" They flowed past the village and out through the fields once more. She closed her eyes, and when she opened them, something dark hung over their heads.

"What is it?" cried little Miss leaf. "Where are we now?"

"Don't be alarmed," laughed the River. "We are under a large bridge. We will soon be out."

"But what is all the noise?" asked little Miss leaf.

"It is made by trucks and cars and busses carrying the people across from one of my banks to the other.

They came to a railroad bridge and saw a train snorting along with feathery smoke coming out of its engine and a whistle shrieking a warning to everybody in its way.

"What is that ugly monster?" Little Miss leaf shivered as they passed under it.

So the River told her all about trains.

They went on slowly through the countryside until they came to the next bend, where the River turned toward the sea.

"I must leave you here," he said. "You wouldn't like the great ocean waves." And very gently he lifted little Miss leaf up and set her down on a mossy bank.

"Thank you, thank you for a most exciting time," called little Miss Leaf.

A BIBLE ORCHESTRA

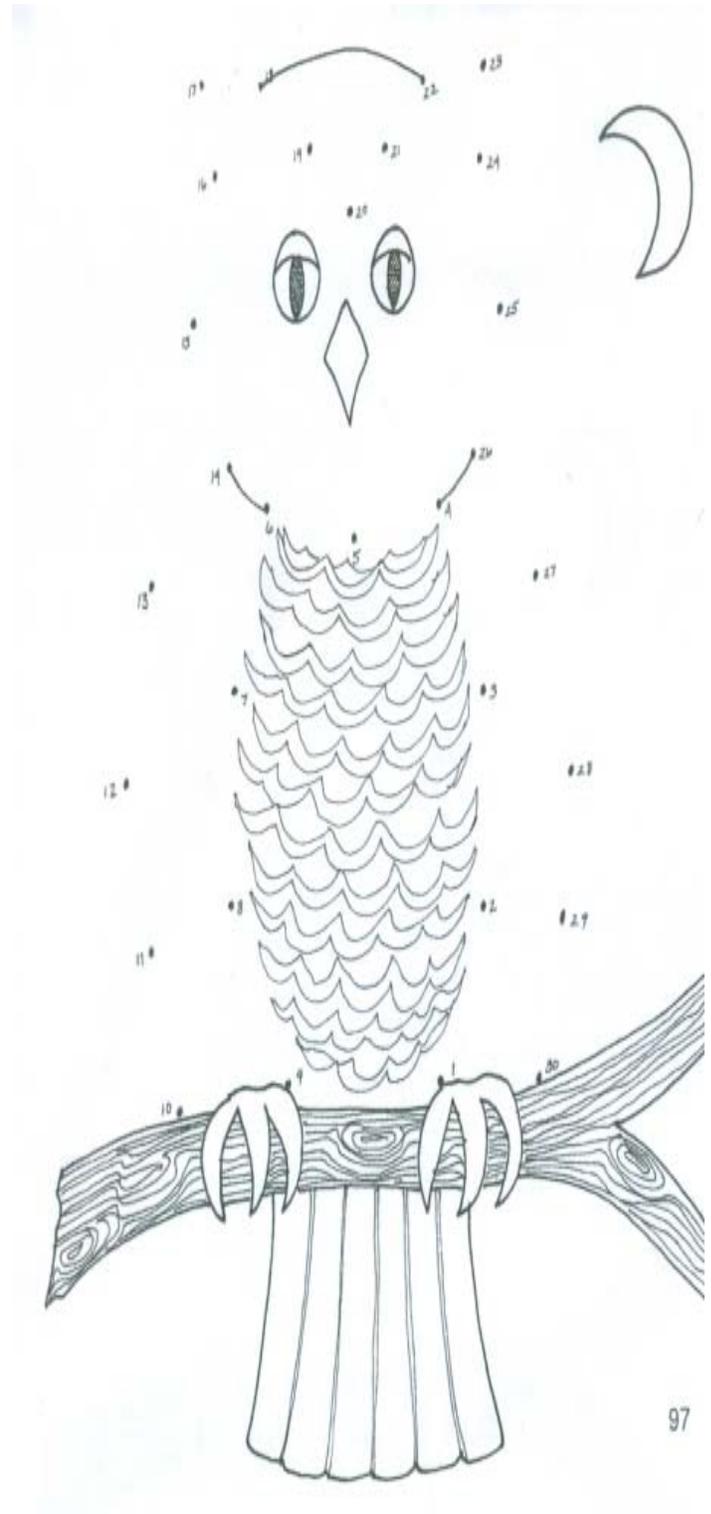
Suppose you were making up an orchestra and could use only the musical instruments mentioned in the Bible. How many could you find? How do you think they would sound together? Look up these references and make a list.

1. Job 21:12
2. Amos 5:23
3. Hosea 5:8
4. Daniel 3:5
5. I Samuel 16:23
6. Nehemiah 12:27
7. Exodus 28:33
8. Isaiah 18:3
9. Revelation 18:22
10. Judges 11:34
11. I Samuel 18:6
12. Psalm 75:4

“SIMONS” IN THE BIBLE

1. Is there any Simon mentioned in the Old Testament?
2. Which Simon was one of the first apostles?
3. Which Simon became host to Peter at the time he received the call from Cornelius?
4. Which Simon had a dread disease?
5. Which Simon carried Jesus’ cross?
6. Which Simon was a sorcerer?
7. Which other Simon was one of the Twelve?
8. At which Simon’s house did the woman who was a sinner anoint Jesus’ feet?
9. Which Simon was related to the treasurer of the apostles?
10. Who was “Simon Bar-jona”?

**"A WISE SON MAKETH A GLAD FATHER..."
PROVERBS 15:20**



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PURIFICATION

(Psalm 46 - 49) by Pat Evans

*Following God is the key to our future,
We won't survive without His grace and His help;
Soon the world will not exist as we know it,
By just His voice, the earth will begin to melt.*

*He'll remove the deserts and the mountains
Out onto the midst of the deepest sea;
The waters will become rough and troubled,
Through the earth man will try to flee.*

*Man trusts in his wealth and his riches,
In his mind he thinks it's all going to last;
But like the fool and the brute who will perish,
All he's gathered will become a thing of the past.*

*God is building an eternal city,
With a foundation made of pure gold;
But what man has built from nature
Will just crumble and continue to get old.*

*Their way will be their own folly,
And worldly knowledge will rule the day;
They'll rely on science to solve problems,
And posterity will approve all they say.*

*Yet Scripture tells a much different story,
Only Jesus has power over the grave;
As you know you can't take anything with you,
Nothing you own will ever help you be saved.*

*He shall choose our inheritance for us,
After all, He gave us our first breath;
For God is our God for ever,
He will guide us even unto death.*

*God's Holy Spirit has to be in us,
And we must live by the words of the Lord
So we can stand on the sea of glass with Him,
While He purifies the rest of the world.*

